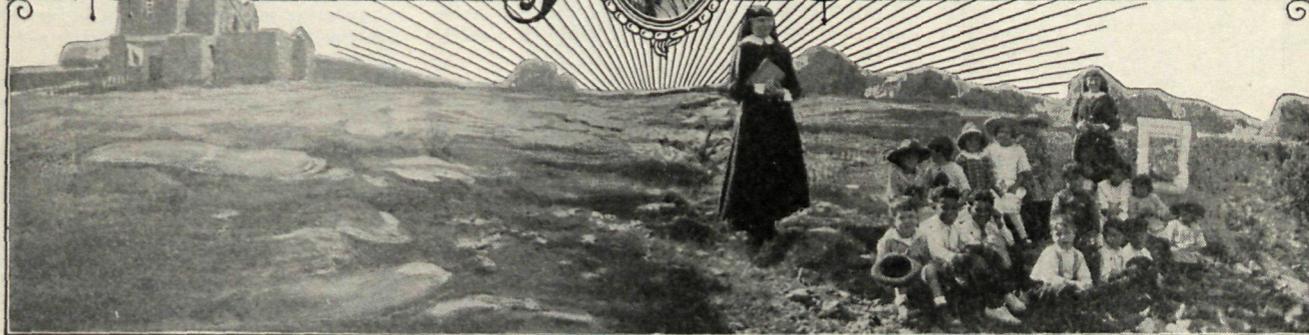


# The Missionary Catechist



Volume III

Victory-Noll, Huntington, Indiana, June, 1927

Number 7

## IS IT WORTH THE PRICE?

**I**S it worth the price to educate Mexican boys and girls in Protestant mission schools for leadership of their race? Vernon M. McCombs, Superintendent of the Latin-American Missions of the Methodist-Episcopal Church, asserts positively that it is worth the price and that the one thousand dollars which every graduate Mexican costs the Protestant Mission boards is not too high a price to pay for the soul of a Mexican.

Writing in "World Neighbors," a Protestant missionary magazine, on "Mexicans Above the Border," this proselytizing Methodist leader states that there are 750,000 illiterate Mexicans above the border, and that it is the aim of the Methodist Mission Board to reach and win them by educating them for vocational and administrative leadership of their people.

### An Ambitious Program.

Stressing the aims of these Methodist mission schools, this energetic director states: "We are doing a piece of work which is not only highly patriotic and imperative, but our mission schools are putting into the awakened life of 18,000,000 Mexicans, 2,000,000 of whom live above the border, an infusion of world ideas, such as the social creed of the churches, prohibition, and a practical spiritual theology. Visualize the product of the five formative years that a Mexican is a student in our mission schools and there can possibly be no greater project that lies before the evangelizing church than this demonstration here above the border."

A rather ambitious program! you will say. Yes, and this is how they are succeeding. The minister goes on to tell us that there are 3,300 Mexican youths now registered in thirty-eight Protestant mission schools. In New Mexico alone fourteen day schools and six boarding schools are conducted under their auspices. Practically all these schools are crowded to the

limit, with hundreds turned away, and they meet every vocational need of both sexes.

Those who are acquainted with conditions in the Southwest will readily testify to the truth of the statement that not only is the Methodist Home Mission Board concerned with primary education, but it has established and is maintaining thoroughly-equipped training schools where Mexican boys are trained to become skilled artisans, printers, mechanics, cabinet-makers, carpenters, and even farmers, while the girls are taught domestic science, stenography, nursing, and other useful and gainful occupations so that they may, after graduation, take their places as leaders among their people.

### Results.

Mr. McCombs voices the sentiments of the members of his Mission Board when he asserts that it is worth while to expend two hundred dollars a year for five years for the education of each one of these Mexican students, and, not content with the progress already made, he states that the Mission Board is "ready to follow up present gains and proceed towards larger programs. "Every graduate," he says, "finds a good

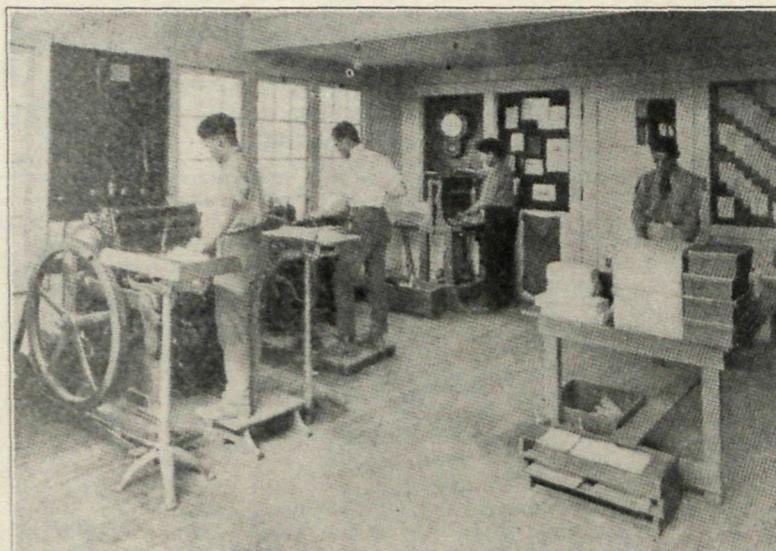
position without difficulty, and, with rare exceptions, they are a credit to the institution and a delight to their patrons. Every year additions are made to both buildings and equipment, and today we have the second generation of native Protestant New Mexicans attending both agricultural and trade schools, the latest of which was opened at Mesilla Park, New Mexico, only a short time ago." Quoting the Superintendent of Schools in El Paso and the Superintendent of Public Instruction of Texas in commendation of this system of Protestant missions schools, he further writes: "Your (Protestant) schools are invaluable. They develop character and awaken leadership in the Mexicans. Well-equipped church schools will certainly be necessary for the purpose of education of Mexican leadership, and in the nature of things you can give place to the Bible and Christian counsels."

### Raising Up Young Mexican Preachers.

Quick to take advantage of the possibilities in educating Mexican boys for their ministry, these Methodist leaders unfold carefully-laid plans for the training of young Mexican preachers. "There is a kind of mission school," they say, "which has been the secret of Methodism's marvelous contribution in pioneer and primitive situations. It is the training of native preachers in mission seminaries with faculties including graduate native ministers." Although somewhat handicapped by a very meagre background of education and with but a slight knowledge of the English language, these young Mexican students in a short time are able to make rapid progress in their academic courses. Several of these young native ministers have already entered the University of Southern California as special scholarship men of the Board of Home Missions.

Mexican girls and boys, they tells us, are very bright—exceptional in fact. In the city of El Paso, Texas, the two

(Continued on page 5)



Mexican Catholics learning a trade at Protestant-Mission School

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## NELLIE LEARNS A LESSON



"Good evening, Nellie," cheerily called Father McCarron, the zealous young curate at St. Catherine's Church as he entered the Sacristy and greeted Nellie Bowen, the President of the Altar Society.

"Good evening, Father," replied Nellie rather quietly.

"Why such a sad expression? What seems to be the trouble this evening? You seem more than ordinarily quiet," the young Priest said. "Something gone wrong with the laundried altar cloths?"

"O no, Father. You know Mrs. Brown is one of our best members and always does this work perfectly. No," she said reassuringly, "I am not troubled about any of the Tabernacle work, but just a little more thoughtful than usual. I can't help thinking of something you said in your sermon on vocations last night. You know that it was the first sermon we have had on vocations as long as I can remember, Father, and I often wondered why this all-important matter was never explained in the way that you explained it. From the little I have read or heard about it, I got the impression that those who were called by Our Lord to a higher state of life in the cloister or as a missionary had to be perfect—so much was demanded of them. It seemed to me that only those who were very holy could ever hope to enter a convent or become a missionary but in your sermon you changed my ideas."

"In what way did I change them? I hope you don't think I have been preaching heresy, Nellie," the young curate answered smilingly.

"O, no, not that Father, I always understood that when Our Lord extended an invitation to His children to be perfect, to deny themselves and follow Him, it was a very special, or personal call. It was His way of selecting certain persons and, without consulting them, to set them apart from all others to lead a perfect life. But in your sermon you made it quite clear to me that Our Lord's invitation to follow Him and become perfect is extended to all Christians."

"Yes, that is quite true, Nellie. Our Divine Lord certainly does call all Christians to holiness of perfection, for you know there are not two Gospels but one, and according to the clear terms of this Gospel each one is to reach a certain degree of holiness according to his state of life."

"Does not Our Divine Lord expect all those whom He calls to a holy life to separate themselves from the world? Doesn't He call them miraculously just as He called St. Paul and the other Apostles?"

"No, if your conclusion were true, there could be no saints or holy persons living in the world. Now while it is true that Almighty God does extend a special and personal invitation to certain chosen souls to separate themselves from home and friends in order to serve Him in the capacity of a Missionary, a Priest, or a Nun, still it is true that all persons are called to live a holy life, whether in the world or in the cloister. Although God does at times extend a special and personal invitation to certain souls, we can safely say that the vast majority of those who are called upon

to follow Our Lord in a higher state of life receive no such extraordinary calls. Almighty God as a rule acts in an ordinary, not an extraordinary way in dealing with His Children."

"I am certainly delighted to know this, Father. I have often wondered just who are called and who are not. I thought that the best part of your sermon yesterday was the explanation you gave of the idea of "Service" in which you proved very clearly that Our Dear Savior calls upon us to love and serve Him in the person of others, especially the poor."

"Yes, Nellie, that is true. You may be sure that if we have a good intention and



PRAYER FOR MISSIONARIES.

*We pray Thee, O God, to take under Thy loving care the Missionaries who are working for Thee in the Mission-Fields of our country. Grant them safety of body, peace of soul, and such success as Thou knowest to be best for them. May they never weary in well-doing; and when Thou dost call them to rest from their labours, be Thyself their great reward for all eternity. We ask this in the Name of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

the necessary fitness, such as a good moral character, a fair education, good health, proper age, and freedom from binding obligations, there is no reason at all why we should not correspond to the grace He gives us to serve Him in this capacity. There is no reason why we should not realize that earnest and lasting desire to become holy by giving up our own will and our own way of living an individual life in the world and of consecrating ourselves to a higher state of life in a community where we will not only be able to sanctify our own souls, but also to save the souls of others.

"Now, Nellie, take your own case. Here you have been working faithfully for years in the Sanctuary, serving Our Divine Lord by adorning and beautifying His Holy Tabernacle, and your work has surely brought

you much real happiness and many blessings. But have you ever thought of the thousands of Tabernacles upon the lowly altars in our neglected mission places where there are no loving hands to adorn the dwelling place of Our Eucharistic Lord, where so often too, because of poverty of the mission there is not even an extra Altar cloth to be had; where vestments are worn by Missionaries that would not be considered fit for the poorest Church in this part of the country; where the poor Missionary must often say Mass without Altar boys because there is no one to train them, where Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament cannot be given because there is no one to play the organ or to sing the beautiful hymns of the Church, and finally, where the extent of his mission makes it impossible for the Missionary to prepare and train the children for the reception of their First Holy Communion?"

"O, Father," cried Nellie, "I never thought it possible that there could be such conditions in our country. I have often read about the foreign missions, but I must confess that I did not even know that we had any poor missions in this country until you mentioned it last night in your sermon."

"Well," answered the good Priest, "since you now have the correct idea about vocations, and since you know where service will count most for the glory of God and the sanctification of the souls of the poor, there is nothing to prevent you from asking for the grace to make a decision to serve Our Blessed Lord in a higher state of life.

"My advice to you, Nellie, is to begin a Novena to the Sacred Heart and Our Blessed Mother praying for the grace both to know and to follow the call of service. After you have made this Novena, sit down and write a letter stating as clearly as you can your ideas about your vocation to the Reverend Spiritual Director of the Society of Missionary Catechists at Victory-Noll, Huntington, Indiana. I am sure he will be pleased to answer your inquiries."

Holman, New Mexico

May 15, 1927.

My dear Spiritual Father:

Your Holman Missionary Catechists went to Chacon last Sunday. This is our newest out-mission. A description of the North Pole would certainly fit it. We were lost in a field of snow—snow, snow, everywhere.

The wind blew the roof from our house, but that did not depress us.

If we had a few blankets for Chacon, two single beds and floor covering, we would think we have had all "the comforts of home." During the winter the soap boxes we used as chairs at Carmen were burned as fire wood. A large table has furnished us with chairs. Although crude, they are serviceable.

The freight and carriage charges are so high that it would be more advisable to send us a cash donation than the things we need. We could have a table and the other articles we need made here from the rough lumber.

A zealous soul has already given us a stove. I am sure God will raise up good benefactors to help us extend our work in this mission.

Your Spiritual Daughter in O. B. L. V.,

CATECHIST JULIA DOYLE.

**PLEDGE YOURSELF TO GIVE \$1 A MONTH TOWARD THE SUPPORT OF A MISSIONARY CATECHIST**

# IN HIS STEPS

As the members of Sister Charitina's Spiritual Instruction class took their seats, each found at her desk a copy of the little "Treasury of Leaflets," containing various prayers and aspirations. It was always the custom of the good Sister to give the members of her class spiritual gifts, thus encouraging them to aim at the highest perfection.

"In looking over some pamphlets in my desk," Sister remarked as she began her instruction, "I found these leaflets. Fortunately, I had a sufficient number for you. I was anxious to give them to you since we are now on Prayer.

"In our classes we have already learned that prayer, in which we commune with our good God, is as necessary for the soul as grace itself. We know that without grace there is no salvation. We know, too, that without prayer no grace can be obtained by one who has reached the use of reason. Almighty God has indeed given us the sacraments as well as prayer as a necessary means of grace, but the sacraments are not always to be had. Prayer, on the contrary, is always possible for everyone having the use of reason. So we may truthfully say that no person can hope for ordinary graces except through prayer.

"All Christians are saved through prayer. Our Blessed Lord Himself has taught us the great necessity of prayer. The Gospel tells us that He spent whole nights in prayer, and if we read them carefully we will find that just before Our Dear Savior began any of His great works He generally spent the previous night in prayer. He devoted to prayer the whole night before the day on which He promised to institute the Holy Eucharist. You remember, too, that when He was about to select the Apostles He spent the night previous in prayer. Finally, you will recall the terrible night of agony which He spent in the Garden of Olives before the day of His crucifixion. So necessary did He consider prayer that in many cases when He was asked to work a miracle He urged the people to pray with confidence.

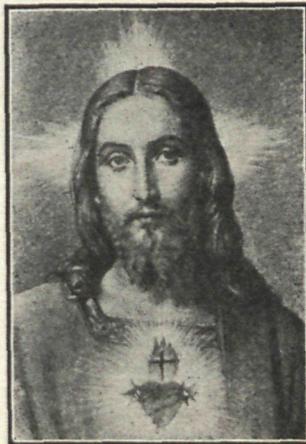
"If prayer is necessary for the ordinary Christian in order to keep him faithful in observing God's commandments, it is even more necessary for the devout soul who is striving to observe faithfully the counsels of perfection.

"We realize, then, children, how necessary prayer is for us if we would overcome those temptations that threaten our spiritual life. We must realize it is a very thin line which separates us from sin, and the only hope we have of persevering in the way of salvation and sanctity is prayer.

"It is precisely because the ordinary Christian is not faithful to prayer that we have so few really devout souls, true Saints, in our country today. Souls are worldly because God is not loved. God is not loved because He is not known. He is not known because Christians do not call to mind His adorable perfections in prayer.

"Strange as it may seem, even among those who do pray, few there are who really reap the fruits of their prayers. Spiritual writers generally give three reasons for our failure in prayer: first, our prayers are faulty; second, we pray in a wrong manner; third, we pray for the wrong things.

"The Saints tell us that in order to succeed, our prayers must possess the follow-



## DEAR HEART OF MY SAVIOUR

*Dear Heart of my Saviour, so meek  
and so sweet,*

*Oh bless me Thy child as I kneel at  
Thy feet.*

*My heart is aweary of struggling  
alone,*

*Oh come to my rescue, My Saviour,  
my own.*

*Sweet Heart of my Jesus, Oh be Thou  
my love,*

*Thou King of our poor hearts, Oh  
lift them above,*

*Dear Jesus, Oh grant us the grace  
we implore,*

*To love Thee, to love Thee, each  
day more and more.*

*Oh Heart ever loving, Oh Heart ever  
kind,*

*So patient, so gentle, all sweetness  
combined.*

*My soul has grown lonely: it longs  
for Thy face,*

*The whole world is empty, apart  
from Thy grace.*

*Oh sweet Heart of Jesus, be ever my  
love,*

*Thou King of the Angels, our  
hearts lift above,*

*Dear Heart, Thou wilt grant us, the  
grace we implore,*

*To love Thee, to love Thee, each  
day more and more!*

ing qualities: they must be earnest and humble; they must be offered up with child-like faith, trust, confidence, resignation, courage and perseverance.

"We must be earnest in our prayers. There must be a real, sincere desire on our part that Our Divine Lord hearken to our petitions and grant us, according to His Holy Will, those things for which we pray. To pray in this manner means to pray zealously, for it is zeal that gives live and efficacy to our prayer. We must throw our whole soul into our prayer.

"Our prayer must likewise be humble, for humility, the foundation of all virtue, is especially necessary in prayer. In order that Our Divine Lord may deign to hear our prayers we must, first of all, recognize that we are nothing and He is everything. We must acknowledge our utter weakness and our utter dependence upon Him.

"Our prayers must be offered with child-like trust, faith and confidence. By prayer we profess our belief in God's power and the love He bears for each one of us. Everything invites us to place our entire trust and confidence in His word. He commands us to pray and will certainly heed our prayer and grant our petitions according to His Divine Will when we come to Him with childlike trust and confidence.

"Our prayer must be based on the conformity of our will to the Will of God. We must always offer ourselves whole-heartedly to Our Divine Lord so that He may do as it pleases Him with regard to our request—grant it, defer it, or perhaps even refuse it as He deems best for the good of our souls. This is true Christian resignation.

"Then, we must be courageous in our prayers. We must never be tempted to leave off praying because our prayers are not answered at once. We must never yield to the temptation to discouragement or weakness when we have no desire or feeling for prayer. Sometimes Our Divine Lord seemingly delays answering our prayers to put our good will to the test. Under such circumstances we are not losing, but gaining merits; we are disposing ourselves to receive those favors which He will certainly, in His own good time, see fit to grant us.

"If our prayers are invested with these qualities, we shall be justified in expecting results and benefits from them. Prayers based on such conditions will infallibly obtain for us the grace of God. Other means may fail, but such prayers will never fail.

"Wonderful indeed are the spiritual fruits we obtain through prayer, for it is only through prayer that the Apostles were able to convert entire nations, that the Church gained glorious victories over Her enemies, and that Saints have been able to perform the greatest miracles."

Denver, Colorado,  
May 11, 1927.

Reverend dear Father:

Many thanks for your good letter of May 7th, which was very much appreciated. I am very grateful for your suggestion that any donations we may be able to send you from time to time be applied on the Souls in Purgatory Burse in memory of my dear sister. I am also grateful for the Holy Mass which you so kindly offered for her. This is a new incentive for me to put aside, from time to time, sums of money for your good work.

I am pleased to enclose another \$5.00 for the Souls in Purgatory Burse. With this donation goes a warmth of good wishes to you, dear Reverend Father, and to your Catechists, the faithful laborers in the vineyard.

With sincere appreciation, I remain,  
Gratefully yours, M.

JOIN VICTORY-NOLL MISSION CIRCLE.

## Your Catechist Friend

We all realize that friendships are necessary for our happiness in this life. In every truly Christian heart there is a wistful longing to be united in the strong bonds of friendship with one whose interest, affection and support will prove a power for good in his life.

Our holy religion teaches us the value of affectionate friendship, provided such friendship does not interfere with the general charity we owe to all. In both the Old and New Testaments we have many beautiful examples of tender and devoted friendships. In the Old Testament, the friendship of David and Jonathan was "stronger than death." In the New Testament we see the radiance of the tenderest friendship which Our Divine Savior manifested not only for His apostles, but for Lazarus and Mary, for publicans and sinners.

The great theologian of the Church, St. Thomas Aquinas, teaches that "each of us in this world requires a friend towards whom we may exercise good offices, and who in turn shall be our support in this salutary practice."

Now in accordance with this teaching of the Church, would it not be a great advantage to establish such a bond of friendship between yourself and a devoted Missionary Catechist whom you will support in her Christlike work among the poor?

In the title of this article we style her "Your Catechist Friend." Why? Because from the moment you begin to contribute toward her support and maintenance she belongs, after a manner, to yourself, since she communicates to you in the bonds of Christian friendship whatever she may have of spiritual goods, graces, and the fruits of her works of mercy in behalf of the poor. Surely such a friendship is worth cultivating because you realize that in your many pressing spiritual and temporal necessities you need the prayers of holy souls who will pray for you when you are unable, on account of pressure of work, of business or of other occupations, to pray for yourself.

Friendships such as these are not passing but endure throughout the days of your life. Friendships such as these are not built upon the shifting sands of self-interest, but upon the solid foundation of Christian charity. In the last analysis, friendships such as these are the only kind that count, because your acts are motivated by charity, and have charity as their end.

Why not, then, establish a truly lasting friendship between yourself and a Missionary Catechist by contributing towards her monthly support? Even though you cannot give \$25.00, the amount required each month for the support of a Catechist, you can manifest your friendship by giving regularly each month a donation, no matter how small.

Would it not be a wonderful thing if we could count upon one thousand friends who would each pay \$1.00 a month toward the support of a Catechist? This would mean the support of approximately forty zealous, self-sacrificing Catechists devoting themselves to the service of Jesus Christ in the person of His poor. Each one of these Catechists could take care of at least 300 children. This would mean that twelve

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Rev. J. J. Sigstein, Spiritual Director of  
The Society of Missionary Catechists  
Editor

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Huntington, Indiana.

## A Beginning and---A Continuation?

Surely the devoted friends of our Missionary Catechists will not fail to help them continue the work they have begun among the poor Mexican laborers and their families at Indiana Harbor, Ind. The Catechists began work in this "Steel City" with its population of more than five thousand Mexicans only three short months ago. In their first Catechism classes they had only thirty children. Today there are one hundred and seventy-five children attending religious instruction twice a week. If the Catechists are able to secure a permanent home in this city they will easily have five hundred children under their care within a short time.

Every Sunday there is an attendance of two thousand Mexicans at the four Masses in the church recently built by their zealous pastor, Father Zavatta.

This mission field in our very midst is rich in possibilities for great good, but everything depends upon the good will of the friends of the Catechists. At the present time the Catechists are working under difficulties since they must attend this mission from Gary, a distance of seven miles from Indiana Harbor. They are praying fervently that some generous benefactor may provide them with a home there so that they may live in the midst of their poor people.

New Mexico, May 8, 1927.

Dear Catechist Meister:

I received a letter from Father Sigstein telling me that you are so pleased to hear that I am going to enter the Victory Preparatory Training School at Las Vegas to prepare myself to become a Missionary Catechist of Our Blessed Lady of Victory.

I received the application and health blanks and will fill them in and return them. In his letter Father says that I shall be very happy at Las Vegas if I am called to this holy work.

I did not ask you in my letter, dear Catechist, about getting support. I want to explain to you that my dear father and mother will let me go to become a Catechist, but they cannot furnish any money nor any of the clothes and things I need when I enter. I thought that since they are too poor to give me the things I need before I enter, I would work to get them. As soon as I get them, I will be with you.

I am not discouraged because my dear father and mother have told me they are too poor to buy me these things. I know this is true. You know, too, dear Catechist, and you know I want to be a Missionary Catechist. I hope and pray that I shall be one.

Praying Our Blessed Mother to shower upon you many graces during this beautiful month of May, I remain,

Very sincerely,  
L.

Do you know that there are 3,300 Mexican Catholic children attending 38 Protestant schools?

Protestant missionary societies are concentrating their forces in New Mexico. Of the 38 Protestant mission schools in the Southwest, 20 are located in various parts of New Mexico. Five of these schools are located in the City of Albuquerque alone.

### TRIBUTE TO NATIVES OF NEW MEXICO

In his recently published work, "Through the Years," Earl Allison, a Protestant writer, pays this tribute to the natives of New Mexico:

"There are no more hospitable, big-hearted people in the world, than the Spanish-Americans of New Mexico. Their adobe homes, always spotlessly clean, are not only wide open to their friends, but even to absolute strangers and wayfarers. Their courtesy is supreme."

A Spanish-American baby is one of the beautiful things of God's creation. Its soft, dewy, black eyes, under already long, dark lashes; its mass of black hair, beginning to curl; its little mouth, like a miniature rosebud, and its velvety, ruddy skin, so smooth and tender, make a picture that must surely be the pride of the Master-Artist.

From time to time we receive communications from charitably inclined persons who state that they are not able to pay \$300 a year or \$25.00 a month toward the support of a Catechist, and ask if we will be willing to accept small amounts to be applied on our incomplete burses. We wish to assure our friends that we shall gladly accept any amount at any time for the support of our devoted Catechists in the missions.

June, the month of the Sacred Heart, is a very appropriate time for honoring the Sacred Heart by helping build up the Sacred Heart Burse.

During the month of June we also celebrate the great feast of the Blessed Sacrament, Corpus Christi. We would be so pleased if some of our friends would begin a second Burse in honor of the Blessed Sacrament, the first having been completed by OUR SUNDAY VISITOR.

thousand poor, neglected children, who might otherwise be lost, would be provided with religious instruction, a Christian training, and in many cases with the very necessities of life.

**PLEDGE YOURSELF TO GIVE \$1 A MONTH TOWARD THE SUPPORT OF A MISSIONARY CATECHIST**

## IS IT WORTH THE PRICE?

(Continued from page 1)

highest honors in the public high schools were carried off by Mexican students last year. Half the people utilizing the splendid library system of El Paso are Mexicans, who read the best books and rejoice in every opportunity of reading good literature in the Spanish language.

### What Has the Church Done to Meet This Situation?

So far the Catholic Church in the Southwest has been able to do little or nothing to meet and overcome this deplorable condition. Fifty years ago the first Archbishop of Santa Fe, New Mexico, the Most Rev. J. B. Lamy, seemed to have sensed the danger threatening the Faith of his people for his first-care was to establish a system of schools in the newly-created archdiocese to meet the needs of a poor and illiterate people. Even in his day the Methodists had become active in establishing their missions in New Mexico. On account of the poverty of his people and the lack of Priests and Religious teachers, this zealous Archbishop and his successors were unable to do much more than to establish a few schools for the primary and secondary education of the native boys and girls in New Mexico.

What is true of New Mexico is practically true of the entire Southwest, for today we have not even a single well-equipped, up-to-date trade school to compete with the elaborate system of trade schools established by Protestant missionary boards.

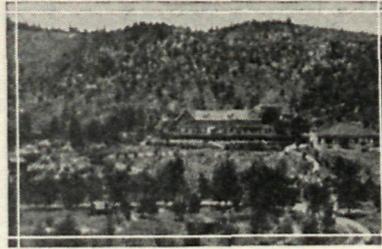
It will not do for us to be satisfied to merely denounce the activities of our Protestant friends in educating away from Holy Church the Spanish-speaking natives of the Southwest. We must acknowledge that they have zeal worthy of a better cause. They have a highly-organized missionary system with powerfully financed mission societies and zealous workers reaching even into the smallest and most remote mission sections of New Mexico and the other states of the Southwest. In these mission sections they do not consider the payment of \$500.00 a month for the maintenance of a small mission school an extraordinary expenditure.

### What About the Future?

We must be frank in admitting that the intelligent Mexicans who should be leading their own people to higher educational and economic standards are actually misleading them because they themselves have been misled by enemies of the Catholic Church.

Surely no one can fix the blame for failure to educate the native Catholic for leadership among his own people upon our zealous missionaries who are struggling to keep alive the Faith of the Spanish-speaking natives of the Southwest. With scarcely enough to eke out an existence for themselves, these holy men of God find it impossible to assist the needy members of their flock with the ordinary necessities of life.

Some years ago the Most Rev. Archbishop of Santa Fe, together with



Montezuma Baptist Seminary at Las Vegas, New Mexico.

some of the leading Priests of his Archdiocese, planned the establishment of a Catholic trade school to provide manual training for the poor boys of New Mexico. Today these zealous men are no nearer the realization of their cherished project than they were in the beginning because they lack the necessary financial backing, and for them there remains no hope of building a Catholic trade school to counteract the pernicious influence of the many Protestant mission schools flourishing in their very midst.

Would it not be a pity if, through our inactivity, our lack of missionary zeal, these descendants of the old Spanish pioneers—the natives of the Southwest—should be robbed of the precious heritage of their Catholic Faith, and that the seed sown by the enemy should thrive in a mission field purpled by the blood of nearly one hundred holy Franciscan missionaries—true martyrs of the Faith?

It is the constant and fervent prayer of the Missionary Catechists that they may awaken in the hearts of our Catholic people in the prosperous communities of the East a real missionary spirit, that they may succeed in converting them to the necessity of doing something to save the Faith of these Catholic people, and, finally, that they may succeed in convincing them that while it is a good Catholic work to build material edifices of marble and granite, nevertheless it is of the utmost importance that we build spiritual edifices by saving immortal souls, each one of which cost the life blood of Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of mankind.

Jesus, Meek and Humble of Heart, make our hearts like unto Thine.

## Reading Something Worth While

Rev. A. J. Blaufuss

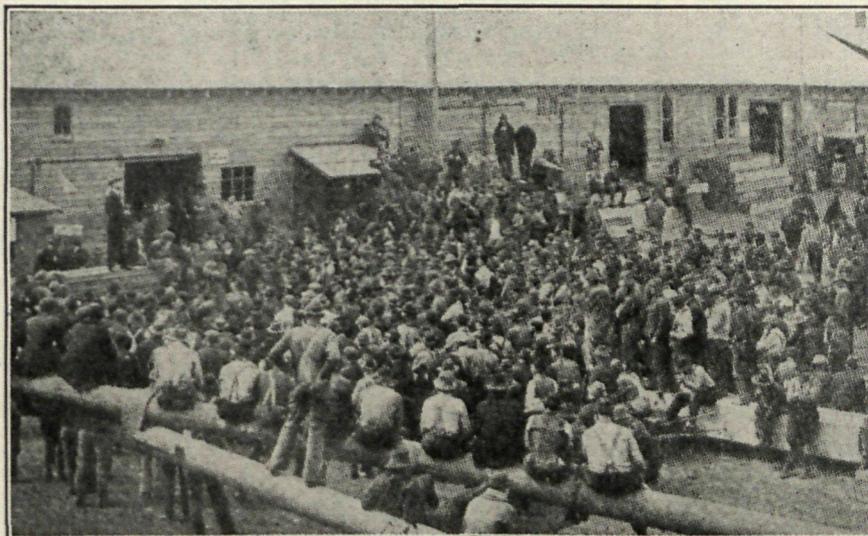
"THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RELIGIOUS LIFE," by Father Cotel, S. J., translated by Father Bouscaren, S. J.; Benziger Brothers, Chicago, Ill., \$1.75.

Here is a book by Father Cotel, S. J., translated into English by Father Bouscaren, S. J., entitled "Principles of the Religious Life" or "An Explanation of the Catechism of the Vows," intended chiefly for religious rather than seculars. Vows are the big resolutions of the religious. The pronouncing of such vows entails onerous duties and lifelong sacrifices, but it merits heavenly rewards and eternal consolations. Some, who face the issue of deciding their religious vocation, may ask themselves: "Is not the price, I must pay, too high?" Others, there are, unfortunately, who, having crossed the Red Sea of decision, hanker after the earthly flesh pots they are called upon to renounce. Nowadays, many Catholics as well as non-Catholics, talk, write and preach about the Religious life with the assurance of "Sir Know-it-all," when in reality it is to them the algebric symbol, "X" an unknown quantity.

Here is the book they all need. The theology of the vows as given here is understandable. Only a few paragraphs are hazy, a fact recognized by the translator who has appended, where necessary, explanatory notes.

We were pleased with the large number of petitions received from our friends for remembrance in the solemn novena to Our Blessed Lady of Victory which closed on May 24th. During the last week in May letters have come from grateful recipients of Our Blessed Mother's favors. Our Catechists are happy to record the granting of many petitions for spiritual and temporal favors: the conversion of relatives, recovery from illness, successful operations, good positions, and other favors.

We would kindly ask our friends to send in their petitions early for the solemn novena to the Sacred Heart which begins on June 16th.



Preaching Protestant Doctrine to Mexican Catholics

Words cannot picture the beauty and charm of New Mexico in the Springtime. Under the alchemy of the New Mexico sky the landscape become a revelation. The jagged, craggy, almost barren mountain sides are transformed into a beautiful panorama of green and brown and grey, which harmonize with the myriads of colored tints in the mesas and valley below. Northern New Mexico, especially, lies in the rough, almost as it came from the hands of its Creator.

Nowhere in the world can scenery be found as picturesque as in this land of sunshine of silence.

JOIN VICTORY-NOLL MISSION CIRCLE.

# The Associate Catechists of Mary

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

As George W. Eagan so wisely puts it, "We cannot run this old world. We cannot change a law of the universe, nor control the planets as they roll on in their orbits to the end of time. The glory of the sun and the grandeur of the stars are beyond our ken or comprehension. We cannot add to the fragrance of the rose nor detract from the beauty of the inmost tints of the lilac blossom. With nature and nature's God, we poor, weak creatures can little interfere, nor are we of much moment or consideration.

"But to the lives of our fellow men we are all in all. How much love, joy, and sunshine, peace, happiness and glory, we could bring to the hearts of those about us if we would but try." What courage and inspiration could we not infuse into the heart of the lonely pilgrim whose path crosses ours just for a day! To how many poor souls living in neglected mission regions might we not bring the very light of Faith! To how many little ones, untaught in the truths of religion, might we not bring Catechetical instruction! To how many sick might we not provide the nursing care and medicine that would bring back to their worn faces the flush of health!

If we would once in a while look up at the stars, the brilliant eternal lamps of night, and on and on past them into the infinite, illimitable regions beyond, if we would go out once in a while into the cool, calm night and lose our cares and worries in the contemplation of the loving Creator who made all things that we might enjoy them, our minds and hearts might be cleansed of all the accumulated rubbish of years and we might be inspired to serve God in the destitute poor who are so worthy of our help.

"Suppose we try".

## LAST MONTH'S ACTIVITIES

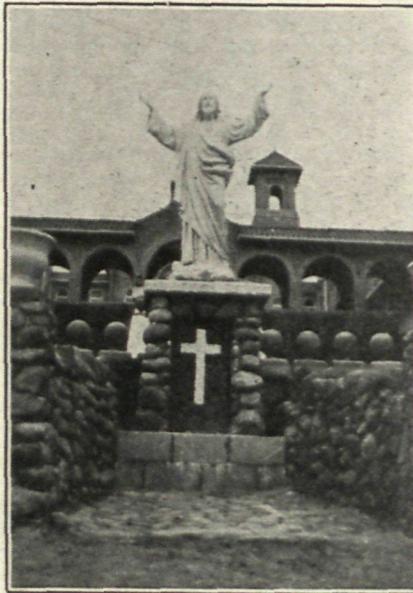
Of all A. C. M. activities of the past month, those of the four South Side bands of Chicago, and of the Little Flower Mission Circle of Keokuk, Iowa, merit particular praise.

The Chicago bands combined forces and gave a most successful card party, successful both socially and financially. The receipts of this single party will enable them to entirely support a Catechist in the missions for six months!

My heartfelt gratitude, as Catechist Supervisor of the A. C. M., goes out to the Promoters of these bands, Mrs. J. S. Scheuer, Mrs. Annie Hansen, Mrs. T. Kennedy, and Mrs. W. T. Wainright, as well as to their faithful corps of workers. God bless them and send us more like them!

The Little Flower Mission Circle of Keokuk won our hearts with its gift for a mission typewriter. Letters indeed there are to be written by the Catechists in the field, letters thanking their kind benefactors, letters making known their achievements, and, hardest of all, letters pleading for food, clothing and medicine for the needy under their care. To be faced with the task of laboriously penning answers to a huge stack of correspondence after a long missionary day demands a deal of "grit". Do you wonder we appreciate the typewriter?

*Victory-Noll Mission Circle is the Home Band of the Associate Catechists of Mary. Its members are men and women who cooperate with the Society of Missionary Catechists by regularly contributing toward the support of a Missionary Catechist, or by furnishing food, clothing, medicine or other articles incidental to the missionary activities of the Society. Nominal membership dues are but \$1.00 a year. Address your membership application to the Catechist Supervisor, Associate Catechists of Mary, Victory-Noll, Huntington, Ind.*



I, an Associate Catechist of Mary, desire to dedicate myself anew to the service of the missions. Both with my friends and by myself, I want to do my part in keeping burning the light of Faith in the hearts of Catholics living in neglected home missions, and in providing food, clothing, and nursing care for the needy poor, so that before another June some poor children will have made their First Communion, and the pressing needs of some poor families will have been relieved because of my missionary efforts.

**STOP, READ, and REMEMBER!** Don't entirely forget the Catechists during the summer months; their work goes on under scorching suns as well as under cooler skies; they need you all seasons of the years.

Why wait until you are a millionaire to begin your charities? Begin now; your chances of future affluence will grow with God's blessing on your work.

Address all communications to:  
Catechist Supervisor,  
Associate Catechists of Mary,  
Box 109, Huntington, Ind.

## THINK THIS OVER!

In a recent number we discussed the activities of Protestant proselytizing agencies in the Southwest. This month, as a specific instance, we quote Catechist Monnot's account of the attempts of a Seventh Day Adventist to "convert" Catholic Holman.

"One morning the little Mexican boy who brought milk to our Mission Center told me he had heard a good sermon the night before. Knowing the Padre had not visited the village, I questioned him closely. He told me that a Seventh Day Adventist was showing moving pictures and preaching to the people. After admonishing him and securing his promise not to listen to him again, I set out to get the facts of the case. It was not difficult. The pseudo moving picture operator had come to the village some two weeks previous, had leased a house for a month and had already twice shown his pictures. It was comparatively easy for him to entice our people to attend: the nearest theatre is at Las Vegas, forty miles away. Each time he had preached a sermon. Something had to be done at once; the Faith of our people was in danger!

"We hurriedly planned a social for the next meeting date to which we invited all our people. Thanks to Jesus and Mary, they all came to the Church instead of going to his "moving picture palace". Before the evening was over, they had all promised not to listen to him again.

"A few days prior to the expiration of his lease, this so-called 'missionary' left Holman.

"Where did he go?" Into other villages where there are no Catechists to protect the Faith of these poor mission people. They have kept the Faith for centuries despite the fact that they have received little or no religious instruction."

Who shall be the blame if they lose it now through the activities of Protestant proselytizing missionaries?

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered every Saturday in honor of Our Blessed Lady of Victory for the intentions of the Associate Catechists of Mary.

On the Feast of Our Lady of Victory, as you will read on another page, three Junior Catechists were professed. In the language of the business world, they made a contract with Our Lord by which they bound themselves by the three vows of Poverty, Obedience and Chastity to consecrate their every moment, waking or sleeping, to Him and His poor without thought of earthly recompense. Henceforth theirs is to be a life of absolute self-denial, of unrelenting self-renunciation.

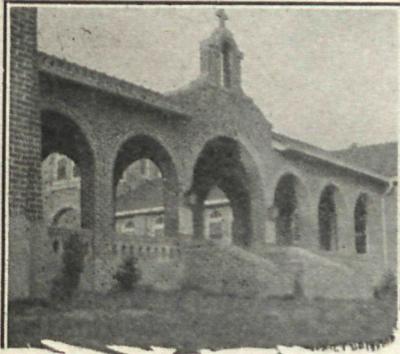
Their love for the mission poor cannot be surpassed their sacrifice is complete. Ours?

Our youngest Missionary Helper, pleasantly surprised us by giving an entertainment a few weeks ago to help support a Catechist. We're proud of your missionary spirit, Miss Anna Ehm!

During a recent visit to Victory-Noll, Mrs. Teresa Akenbruck of Fort Wayne, advocated a membership pin for the Associate Catechists of Mary. What do you think of the idea?

**PLEDGE YOURSELF TO GIVE \$1 A MONTH TOWARD THE SUPPORT OF A MISSIONARY CATECHIST**

## Victory-Noll Notes



Our Blessed Lady of Victory Chapel was the scene of impressive ceremonies on the morning of May 24th when the Rt. Rev. John F. Noll, Bishop of Fort Wayne, presided at the Profession of three Missionary Catechists and the Investiture of a large class of Juniors, Probationers, and Consecrates.

During the ceremonies Catechist Sophie Renier, our former Head-Catechist, renewed her vows. The Catechists making their profession were Catechists Eleanor Cogan, of Dayton, Ohio, Genevieve Whitehead of Fort Wayne, Indiana and Clara Rathnaw of Detroit, Mich.

Catechists Agipeta Archuleta of Mora, New Mexico, Maximiliana Martinez of Holman New Mexico, Julia Murphy, of Indianapolis, Ind., Emma Dietz of Evansville, Ind., Eleanor Clements of Okeechobee, Fla., Eleanor Garcia of Kersey, Colo., and Mary Whitfield of Dubuque, Iowa, having completed their year's probationship, were admitted into the Juniorate of the Society. As Junior Catechists they were presented with the indulgenced crucifix which they will ever carry with them to the sick-poor and the dying, whom they will visit in their homes.

Catechists Francis Alloway of Chicago, Marguerite Tracy of Chicago, and Mary Dickebohm, of Lafayette, Ind., were received as Probationers.

Consecrating themselves entirely and forever to the service of Jesus and Mary in the person of Their poor, five candidates were invested with the white veil and Mary-blue uniform of the Consecrate. They are Catechists Frances Meyer of St. Bernard, Ohio, Ann Nintman of Riverside, California, Dorothy Trapp of Peru, Ind., Dorothy Wilke of Chicago, Ill., and Mabel Denzig of Elkhart, Ind.

In his sermon the Rt. Rev. Bishop, after congratulating the Professed and Invested Catechists and their assembled parents and relatives, dwelt upon the magnitude of the work entrusted to the Society of Missionary Catechists and the great need of more numerous workers in the field.

"Only two weeks ago," the Bishop said, "every Western Bishop who attended the recent session of the American Board of Catholic Missions, of which I am a member, asked me what chance they had to obtain Catechists for their dioceses. I could give them the hope that we would come as soon as our workers are more numerous."

(Continued on Page Eight)

## TELLING THE STORY

Ocate Mission Center,  
June, 1925.

Few people of the East realize the weather conditions which the natives of New Mexico have to contend with, especially in the early months of Spring. The weather during February and March is very changeable, and, although there are few days when the sun does not appear in the heavens, one is apt to run into a snow or sleet storm at any time during this season of the year. Even during early summer it is not an uncommon occurrence to have sandstorms here in the mountains.

These sandstorms, however, do not prevent mothers from bringing their little ones to Catechism classes. We had a large attendance of little children at Las Manuellos. After Mass we had a procession about the Church and chanted the Litany of the Saints in order to obtain rain, so much needed in this part of the country. The next day we had a heavy rain.



We are kept busy visiting the homes of the sick poor. At one of our farthest missions we visited the sick in five homes. We are sometimes even requested to make sick calls in the homes of native Protestants. Last Wednesday we visited a Protestant home where a little girl nine years old was very sick. We administered medicine and prayed for the little one. Today we found her somewhat better.

It is always a source of consolation to us when we can perform this great corporal work of mercy of visiting and administering to the needs of the sick poor. It is a consolation, too, for us to know that we can be of assistance to them since they have no means of obtaining medical attention.

We are including the intentions of our benefactors in our annual novena to the Holy Ghost.

JOIN VICTORY-NOLL MISSION CIRCLE.

## Victory-Mount Echoes

Mirages are common in New Mexico. Yon dull gray rocks appear suddenly animated with life. A closer view and the disillusionment is complete. They are a large herd of sheep in charge of an ancient shepherd and a dog who understands well the business of keeping them en masse. The rocky caverns echo with the pitiful cries of the baby lambs and the dull reassuring bleating of the old ewes. It is the lambing season.

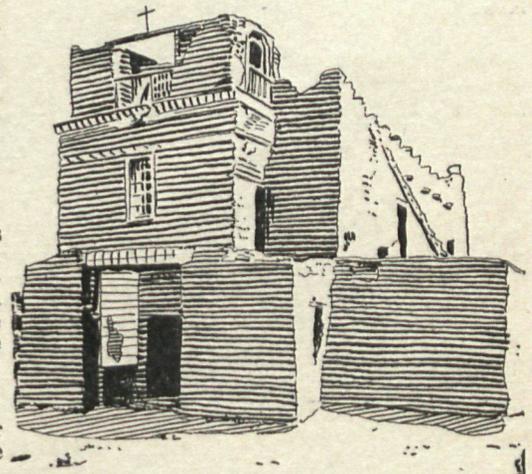
\* \* \*

Even the dull brow, treeless messas are responding to the magic enchantment of June sunshine. Wild phlox and the yerba negrita have tinted their sloping sides in beautiful pastel shades, while clumps of bright, yellow flowers are found growing alongside the swishing waters of the irrigation ditches.

\* \* \*

Last month the children of Vigiles received First Holy Communion. It was the most solemn affair the modest new chapel of this Mission had ever witnessed. A processional was played and all of the school-children who had made their First Communion entered first walking two by two. After genuflecting together they continued to stand facing each other forming a rank of honor through which the First Communicants passed to their places. Our special choir, consisting of Catechists Martinez, Wilhelm, Gratton, and Vigil, sang the Rosary Mass, and also hymns in Latin, Spanish, and English. All went well until one and then the other of the pedals of the wobbly organ broke. In vain did our organist wish for the portable organ at home. The remainder of the Mass was of necessity sung without organ accompaniment. Do not think this an unusual accident. It is just one of the ordinary occurrences at a Mass in the Missions. Sometimes a mud wasp will crawl down the side of an adobe-wall and sting some unsuspecting person, which means a rush for our medical kit and the rendering of first-aid. Again some poor old lady must needs faint from the oppressive heat and poor ventilation. It is all a part of the program. We go to Mass "expecting something to happen," and take it as a matter of course. But to return to our subject. Our Mass servers felt quite

(Continued on Page Eight)



### Victory-Noll Notes

(Continued from page 7)

Speaking of the Mexican problem, both in the Southwest and in Lake County, Ind., the Bishop congratulated the Society on its achievements in Gary and Indiana Harbor, Ind., and pointed out the pressing need for providing children of Mexican parentage with a sound religious training.

The Profession and Investiture ceremonies were preceded by a four-day retreat given by Rev. Walter Polk, C. SS. R., of the Immaculate Conception Seminary at Oconomowoc, Wis.

The following clergy were present at the ceremonies: Rev. F. J. Jansen of Elkhart, Ind., Rev. R. J. Pratt of Kokomo, Ind., Rev. E. J. Luke, of Chicago, Ill; Rev. C. V. Fischer of Lagro, Ind., Rev. Joseph Wonderly of Peru, Ind., and Rev. Joseph Hammes of Crown Point, Ind.

A recent visitor at VictoryN-oll was the Rt. Rev. John B. MacGinley of Monterey-Fresno, Calif. In the near future he is hoping to obtain the assistance of the Catechists.

Catechist Catherine Olberding, former Catechist-Directress of the Junior Training Institute at Gary, Ind., was recently elected Head Catechist of the Society. She is now spending a few weeks with us at Victory-Noll and has told us many interesting things about the work at Indiana Harbor where the Catechists have been instructing First Communion and Confirmation classes since the inauguration of their work there in January.

Sunday, May 30th, was significant in the annals of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, at Indiana Harbor as the day on which its first class of First Communicants received Holy Communion. This class was composed of thirty-eight children, all of Mexican parentage.

The following evening, the Rt. Rev. John F. Noll, Bishop of Fort Wayne, administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to a class of forty-five persons, including several adults.

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PLEDGE YOURSELF TO GIVE \$1 A MONTH TOWARD THE SUPPORT OF A MISSIONARY CATECHIST

### ON BOARD THE STEAMSHIP CREOLE.

May 11, 1927.

My dear Father Sigstein:

I am now on the Mississippi River. It is sad to see vast inundations all along the way. I am on my way to Rome and when occasion presents itself, I shall not fail to recommend your missionary work among the poor Mexicans in the Southwest.

Our Mexicans certainly have the Faith, but they need instruction and more instruction. We have so few Priests to break the bread of God's Word to them. Your Catechists will fill a real need.

With blessings, I remain

Yours in Xto.,

✠ARTHUR DROESSARTS,  
Archbishop of San Antonio, Texas.

A priest was giving catechism instruction to a class of little boys. Turning to the boys he said, "Is God the Father everywhere?"

"Yes," rang out all their voices.

"But if God the Father is everywhere, why don't you say, "Our Father Who art everywhere?"

There was silence. The boys looked at each other and then at the priest, but no one spoke.

At last one boy timidly held up his hand.

"Well, Bobby," said the priest, "If God is everywhere and not in Heaven only, why do you say "Our Father Who art in Heaven?"

"Coz it's His headquarters.

### Victory-Mount Echoes

(Continued from page 7)

as important as they looked in their cream-colored cassocks. This was the first time they had worn anything like this, and only the second time they had served. All went well even if the Priest did have to wash his fingers in both wine and water.

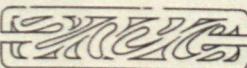
\* \* \*

Not long ago we cared for a very sick baby in one of our Missions. Thanks to Jesus and Mary, the little one recovered and the parents give us credit for snatching the child from the jaws of death. This family had been very careless in the practice of their religion, but the children are now coming regularly to religious instruction. It is consoling to see fruits of our labors in instances of this kind.

\* \* \*

We were happy to have with us for a short time our sister-Catechists who are to open our new Mission at Los Cerrillos. One of the outlying Missions from this Center is that of Madrid, a large mining town. Abundant opportunities for doing real Missionary work are afforded in this new Center.

The interest on your life subscription will enable us to send The Missionary Catechist to persons too poor to subscribe.



# McGreevy's



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