

The Missionary Catechist



Volume III

Victory-Noll, Huntington, Indiana, August, 1927

Number 9

“Showing Forth The Charity Of Christ”

Address Delivered by the Reverend Spiritual Director of the Society at the National Convention of the Daughters of Isabella, Fort Wayne, July 15, 1927.

DURING the past six years I have been called upon to address many Catholic organizations, but I believe I can truly say that there is no organization which can appreciate more fully the importance of the missionary and charitable labors of our Catechists than the Daughters of Isabella. The reason why I believe that your splendid organization can so readily appreciate the value of this work is that you have as one of the principle objects of your order the great Catholic virtue—Charity. Our work, by its very nature, makes a strong appeal to every truly Catholic and charitable heart because it is a work of true charity since our Society was founded to labor exclusively among God's poor.

Hard to Visualize Missionary Conditions In Catholic Southwest.

It is difficult for our good Catholic people in the East to visualize missionary conditions in our Catholic Southwest. Accustomed as we are to magnificent churches, splendidly-equipped parochial schools, well-appointed rectories and convents, we can scarcely conceive of any part of our country where Catholics are lacking in those things considered by us as necessary parts of Divine worship. Whenever mission fields are mentioned our minds turn to Oriental countries, to Asia, Africa, or some uncivilized part of the world. To the average Catholic living east of the Mississippi River a Missionary is one living in some far-off, neglected region. Never does it occur to him that there is a vast, neglected and unsuspected mission field in our own land—even at our very doors.

A Vast Mission Field.

In the states of Colorado, California, New Mexico, Arizona and Texas—commonly called the Southwestern states—it is no unusual thing for a Missionary to have under his jurisdiction as high as twenty or thirty missions covering a territory 5,000 square miles in extent. In such a vast parish the Catholic people cannot hope to have the consolation of attending the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass oftener than once or twice a year. Many of them are deprived of the consolation of dying fortified by the Sacraments of the Church. Their children,



lacking religious instructors, grow up in ignorance of even the elementary truths of our holy Faith. Under ordinary conditions it requires 6,000 of these poor people to support a single Priest. Powerfully financed Protestant Missionary Societies, taking advantage of this situation, are robbing thousands of Catholic children of the priceless heritage of their Faith.

Protestant Activities.

It may come as a revelation to you when I tell you that our Protestant friends have built and are today conducting in the Southwest thirty-eight mission trade schools, high schools, colleges, and even seminaries where they are educating hundreds of Mexican boys for the Protestant ministry. At the present time there are thirty-three hundred Mexican boys and girls registered in these mission schools. In New Mexico alone various Protestant Missionary Societies are conducting fourteen day schools and six boarding colleges. Practically all these schools are crowded; all of them have large waiting lists—yet, in the whole state of New Mexico there is not a single Catholic trade school.

These Protestant proselytizing organizations do not consider that \$1,000.00 spent

for the education of each one of these native children is money wasted.

In addition to the regular staff of teachers sent to these mission schools, large numbers of medical missionaries—graduate nurses from eastern Protestant hospitals—are sent out to the cities and towns of New Mexico and the Southwest and there make house to house visits, nursing the sick poor. Here they find ample scope for their medical and social service activities, for, be it remembered, that there are no Catholic relief agencies to which appeal can be made by the poor.

Suffering from malnutrition, and lacking clothing and other necessities of life, is it any wonder that fifty per cent of the children born in the Southwest die before reaching their first year of age?

The Catechists.

Eight years ago the Society of Missionary Catechists was founded to remedy these deplorable conditions. Our Catechists are trained not only to become religious teachers, but medical missionaries as well. Confining themselves to work of a non-institutional character, the Missionary Catechists devote themselves to the task of imparting religious instruction to needy, neglected children. As trained nurses they effectually combat the activities of non-Catholic Missionaries by visiting and caring for the sick poor in their humble homes. As social service workers they systematically remedy social conditions by dispensing food, medicine and clothing to the poor; teaching the children cooking, sewing and singing, and instructing mothers how to care for their newborn, sickly babies. Finally, in the Mission Chapels under their care, they look after the Tabernacle, train Altar boys and conduct public services during the absence of the Missionary.

Their Preparation.

To fit the Catechists for their life work they are given a two-year course of spiritual and highly specialized training for their various activities. Upon completion of this training course they pronounce simple vows for one year and are then sent in bands of two or more to the poor, neglected

(Continued on page 8)

Read about the work of the Missionary Catechists on the second page of Our Sunday Visitor every week.

A NEW MEXICO DAVID

I doubt very much if Lucario Montoya had ever heard of that wonderful fight of long ago between the shepherd David and Goliath of Gath. Certainly he had never read of those things, for a book would have been the most incomprehensible of mysteries to Lucario. But in the great wonderful volume of *Out-of-Doors* he was an apt scholar.

In all out-door sports, that were known then and there, he was an expert. With bow and arrows Lucario won many a pony and gay blanket in matches with the Navajos and Utes. With the reata he was equally skilful.

Above all he could throw the knife. Ever since boyhood Lucario had practised throwing his knife, and now from forty feet away he could drive it quivering two inches deep into a foot circle of wood.

Lucario was a shepherd, and tended one of the flocks of Don Fugio when the Indians were sufficiently quiet to admit of any sallying forth from the little walled town. Though known for his athletic accomplishments, he was neither tall nor muscular, but an ordinary lad of seventeen, who might weigh one hundred and twenty pounds, but miking up in wiriness, skill, and agility what he lacked in brute strength.

It was in 1840—while New Mexico was still a colony of Old Mexico. There were hardly any Americans in the colony—perhaps a dozen in all. Of the descendants of the hardy Spanish pioneers there were many thousands. But they were heavily outnumbered by the Indians, of whom there were many powerful tribes. The Pueblos were excellent neighbors, but the Apaches, the Navajos, the Utes, the Piutes, and Comanches were incessantly warring upon the settlers. Lucario's father, mother, grandfather, great-grandfather, five uncles, and two older brothers, had all been killed by the Indians, and his was by no means an unparalleled case of bereavement.

This year the Utes had been doing their cruellest work in western New Mexico. It had been unbearable, and the chief men throughout New Mexico had met and sent out against the Indians a thousand volunteers. Lucario's only surviving uncle was second in command; and Lucario to his great delight, was allowed to join the expedition.

The force marched far northward, and two days later, camped in the plains, having sighted a large force of Utes in the timber ahead. The New Mexicans, who were outnumbered four to one, entrenched themselves as best they might, to await the attack. The Utes came skimming about the camp on their fleet horses, with taunting gestures, but taking good care to keep beyond the range of the flintlocks.

One gigantic savage, mounted upon a large, snow-white mustang, made himself particularly conspicuous. He was plainly a chief. He was fully seven feet tall. His horsemanship was wonderful.

"What a strong, fine man!" they cried, as he swept past them like the wind, shooting arrows at them from under the horse's neck with astonishing force and accuracy.

"Who dares come out into the plain and fight me alone?" he cried, suddenly wheeling his horse. "If you have any great warrior, let him come. If I kill him, you shall go back to your homes and follow us no more. But if he kills me, then my peo-

ple will return to the country of the Utes, and end the war."

There were brave men in plenty among the New Mexicans, but before any one else had stirred, Lucario ran to his uncle.

"Uncle," he said, "I am young, and the last of the family. Let me go out to this boastful barbaro! If I die, there are none to mourn; but if I kill him, with the help of San Esteban, then we are relieved from war, and you shall feel proud of your brother's son."

Don Jose, brave himself, admired bravery and loathed cowardice.

"Go, then," he said gruffly, "but look that thou kill him! Come back without his head and I will kill thee!"

"And if thou bring back his head," said Colonel Chaves, "I will make thee a captain this very day."

Lucario waited to hear no more but ran to where his pet pony Alazan was picketed. Coiling his long reata of braided horsehair, he hung it upon his saddle-bow. He loosened the heavy knife in its sheath, tested the arrows in his quiver; and, leaping lightly to the saddle, rode slowly out into the plain with a quiet "good-by, my friends."

When the Utes saw how small was the horse, and what a slender stripling its rider, they set up yells of derisive laughter. The giant chief was particularly merry, and rode down toward Lucario slowly, showing his large white teeth, and calling, "Are there no men among you, that you send out a child to me for a mouthful?"

Lucario understood the taunt perfectly. "Truly, I am but a small mouthful," he called back, "but perhaps a bitter one! We shall see."

When he was within fifty yards, he sent a sudden arrow whistling at his huge foe. The motion was so cat-like and unexpected that the Ute had scarce time to "duck" to the side of his horse, and the arrow pierced his ear.

With a grunt the Indian drew his own heavy bow, giving the string a tug that would have sent its shaft through a buffalo. But Lucario was watching, and when the arrow came, it passed a foot above the saddle, and found nothing there.

His second arrow merely grazed the Ute's horse; the Indian now saw that he had no ordinary marksman to deal with. In a few minutes each had spent all his arrows, and neither was more than scratched.

The Utes had all ridden out from the timber, and were watching the curious fight with intense interest. On the other side were the New Mexicans, who had mounted to get a better view.

Lucario swung erect into the saddle. "With the reata!" he shouted, uncoiling his own rope. The Ute understood, and did likewise. Then they went galloping around each other, wheeling, charging, dodging,

swinging the long nooses around their heads, and watching their chance. The horses understood this game as well as their riders and played as important a part in it.

Lucario soon found that it took all his quickness of eye and all his agility to keep that deadly noose from settling down over his own neck. At last the Indian let the reata fly suddenly as he was passing, at the same instant wheeling his horse inward to gain the necessary distance. The move was too quick for Lucario, but Alazan had seen it and made a mighty sidewise bound and the noose fell empty to the ground. Then, Lucario, as his intelligent horse wheeled back, dropped his own rope deftly over the head of the Indian. Giving a quick turn of the rope around the saddle-horn, the boy touched the spurs to Alazan.

For an instant it looked as though he "had" the Indian. But the vast strength of the Ute saved him. Snatching the taut rope with his brawny arms, he gave it a turn around his saddle-horn, lifted the noose over his head, and cut it with his knife.

His face was no longer smiling. He forgot his challenge to a fair combat, and now thought only of killing this saucy boy.

He began circling again around Lucario, all the time stealthily edging nearer to his people. Suddenly one of them dashed out from the line and tossed him a long, sharp lance. He caught it deftly, and came charging down upon Lucario like a thunderbolt.

For an instant the boy was dumbfounded by this treachery. His arrows gone, his reata useless—should he fly? No! He knew that his stern uncle had meant every word; he would rather see him dead than in flight.

Ah! His knife! He whipped it from his sheath and held it down beside him, putting Alazan to a gentle canter toward the Ute. They were not more than fifteen yards apart—in an instant the shock must come. And then, his big eyes shining like coals, Lucario rose suddenly in his stirrups with a flashing, overhead motion of his right arm, and dug the rowels into Alazan's flanks, twisting his head sharply to the left.

The Ute giant swayed in his saddle and lurched heavily to the ground, while his scared horse went on down the valley like the wind. The New Mexicans dashed forward, and snatching the fainting Lucario from his saddle, carried him into camp. The Ute had hurled his heavy lance at the same instant, and it had passed through Lucario's arm, making a ghastly hole. But when they went to the fallen giant, he was quite dead. The boy's knife had smitten him squarely between the eyes.

According to the compact, the Utes were already galloping away and it was many months before they made another foray into that portion of New Mexico.

From "A New Mexico David,"

By Charles F. Lummis,

Publ. by Scribner Bros.



"On the other side were the Mexicans"

Anaheim, Calif., July 13, '27.

Dear Reverend Father:
Enclosed find twenty-five dollars for your wonderful missionary work.

Please have a novena offered for me to Our Blessed Lady for my intention. As soon as my prayers are answered you will hear from me again with another offering. Please pray for me.

Sincerely,
M. E. W.

Help Catechists educate Mexicans in the Faith before they are educated away from it by Protestant missionaries.

VICTORY-NOLL NOTES

On the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, July 16, eight new Candidates were received into our Society—the four aspirants from Victory Mount Preparatory Training School—the Misses Margaret Aragon, Anna Gutierrez, Monica Ulibarri, of Dilia, New Mexico, and Bertina Esp. nosa, of Ocate, New Mexico; and the Misses Eva Alberding of Decatur, Ind.; Julia Wathen of Evanville, Ind.; Loretto Bergerie of New Iberia, La.

The Daughters of Isabella held their National Convention in Fort Wayne July 13 to 16. The meeting was auspiciously opened with Solemn High Mass celebrated at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Two of our Catechists were present on this occasion.

Our Spiritual Director, Reverend J. J. Sigstein, addressed the assembled delegates in the Community Building on Friday morning.

Victory-Noll's door was wide open to the visitors during the week. Sunday preceding the Convention, the National Officers were entertained by the Catechists. A large number of the Daughters attended the Reception of the new Candidates on July 16.

For the past month we have had the pleasure of having with us Sr. M. Loretta and Sr. M. Petrina of Longwood Academy, Chicago. Sister Loretta has conducted a very interesting course in Pedagogy during this time. The Catechists have derived much practical benefit from the work. Said Sister Loretta when leaving: "The Noll scores another victory. Before I came I didn't think much of your Society, but I've certainly had to change my mind."

On August 6, the Catechists will begin the beautiful Novena in honor of Our Blessed Mother's Glorious Assumption into Heaven.

In order to give all possible honor to Our Most Dear and Blessed Lady of Victory and to obtain through Her powerful intercession the grant of heavenly favors for our devoted friends as well as for ourselves, we have asked the Poor Clare Sisters to unite with us in this Novena, and to include these intentions especially in their perpetual adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will also be offered daily for all the intentions of those making this Novena.

There can be no doubt that Our Most Holy Mother will be pleased with the prayers offered by Her devoted Catechists and the poor children under their care for the spiritual and temporal welfare of their generous benefactors.

We should be pleased to include your intentions in this Novena. Kindly send us your name and a list of your petitions.



A "REAL" CATECHISM CLASS—TAUGHT BY CATECHISTS AT MADRID, NEW MEXICO.

It would be the height of my ambition to have a strong auto to use over these rough mountain roads that we might reach these people in order to strengthen their Faith and give religious instruction to their children until such time as God will be pleased to send more Priests to them.

We must by all means reach the little children in our omissions. Who is there who does not love a little child? I believe it is the lovers of helpless childhood who have most generously co-operated with us in the past; it is to them I appeal in this necessity.

Sincerely in O. B. L. V.,

CATECHIST JULIA DOYLE.

Los Cerrillos, New Mexico, July 5, 1927
My dear Spiritual Sisters:

We have been having a rather exciting time here the past week. Wednesday Father Oliver drove over at 6:30 a. m. and we went to San Pedro, eighteen miles through the mountains. There aren't any sharper curves in New Mexico, so we don't have to worry about any other road. Father Camillus said first Mass at 8:30 and Father Oliver sang High Mass at 10:00. We had the portable organ and three singers besides ourselves. The people were so happy. It was the first time they ever had any one to play the organ and sing High Mass.

I must tell you about a visit we made to a family by the name of Jackovich. The mother came to answer our knock and asked us to sit down on the only two chairs in a large room, barely furnished. Three of her daughters are in my class at Cerrillos. We talked about them first, then we asked the mother if she went to church. She said that she hadn't been to the Sacraments for over a year and she didn't care much whether she went to Heaven or Hell when she died, but she did want her children to be good. Her husband left her seventeen months ago. She has eight children, and no money excepting what she and the oldest boy can earn. Two weeks ago she put three of the youngest children in the orphanage at Albuquerque.

Sunday my little tots in Cerrillos sang at the 8:00 o'clock Mass for the first time. They did beautifully—"Thanks to Jesus and Mary." Father Oliver was delighted. He told us about one of our little girls who is about as big as a minute. She is seven years old and made her Holy Communion the first part of May in Gallup, having been instructed by the Sisters there. She went to Confession two weeks ago and when she had finished she said: "Thank you, Jesus, for taking away my sins." Yesterday morning, after Mass, she crawled over in the pew and put her arms around me and said: "Catechist, are we going to sing at the next Mass?" I had to tell that it was Monday and there was going to be no next Mass. She is certainly a little angel.

Lovingly in O. B. L. V.,

CATECHIST JOSEPHINE PENNING.

MISSION ECHOES

Franciscan Fathers

Pena Blanca, N. M., July 23, 1927.

Reverend dear Father:

The Catechists are doing great work at Cerrillos and Madrid. For the Mass in honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel we had thirty-two confessions at Madrid, and over sixty at Cerillos. On Sunday, July 17th, there were about thirty-five. Their very presence among us, their pious, reverent attitude, is an inspiration to every one. I myself never felt more like a Priest, never felt more zealous in the great work for souls than at the present time.

Very sincerely and gratefully yours,

FATHER OLIVER, O. F. M.

Holman, New Mexico.

My dear Friends:

In God's own time we hope to garner a rich harvest of souls in these missions. The preparation of this harvest is causing us many anxious moments and much prayer.

Unlike missionaries in Africa, we do not have to make expeditions into wild jungles to find soil upon which to sow the good seed, but we do have to make journeys from one mission to another. The people out here have the Faith, but our "separated brethren" are doing their utmost to make inroads. Their workers have schools and automobiles and every other means for efficient work.

We are doing our utmost to save those people to the Faith—but we are greatly handicapped by our limited means. The only means of conveyance we have is an old horse and buggy. The other day the buggy broke down and we had to fix it with strands of hair from the horse's tail!

We have not come out here to live a "soft" life; we live as the natives do, in an adobe house with but a few simple furnishings, but we must have the means to work efficiently.

Read about the work of the Missionary Catechists on the second page of Our Sunday Visitor every week.

SAVIORS OF THEIR PEOPLE.

Last October the Society of Missionary Catechists celebrated the first Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King, by formally opening its Victory Preparatory Training School at Las Vegas, New Mexico. It was an auspicious occasion in the annals of the Society. It is in this Institute that native Spanish-speaking young ladies from New Mexico and other states of the Southwest receive that course of preliminary training designed to fit them for entrance in Victory-Noll, where they complete the religious training necessary to fit them as Missionary Catechists,—leaders of their people and saviors of their race.

Happily the Society is now enjoying the first fruits of this Providential foundation. Last month the first four native Spanish-speaking subjects, who completed their training course in this school, were received at Victory-Noll. In two years they will be equipped to enter upon their sublime ministry.

Now, from the very beginning the Society of Missionary Catechists has realized what a wonderful help native subjects would be in its great religious work. Coming from the ranks of the people, knowing their customs and speaking their language, pious, zealous, self-sacrificing Spanish young ladies are eminently fitted to work hand in hand with their American sister-Catechists for the salvation of their people.

There can be no doubt, but that many excellent subjects will be found among these good young ladies in the missions. Already we have received Spanish-speaking subjects from those missions in which our Catechists have labored. We need many more—hundreds, thousands more—and we need the means to maintain them while they are in training and to support them while they are at work in the field. For fifteen dollars a month we can support one of these dear little Aspirants in our Preparatory Training School at Las Vegas.

This is a work of vital importance for the future of the Church in our country. Every needy mission section in the Southwest will have just as many native Spanish-speaking Catechists as our generous friends will support. You can do a great work for the salvation of souls and one that will bring you a great reward by supporting an Aspirant during her training period at Victory-Mount. Why not make this work your own?

Bishop's House, Indianapolis, Ind.
July 7, 1927.

Dear Father Sigstein:

In answer to your letter, permit me to say that I deeply appreciate the necessary and noble work of the Society of Missionary Catechists.

That the Society may grow and prosper is the prayer of

Your humble servant,

✠ JOSEPH CHARTRAND,
Bishop of Indianapolis.

Dear Reverend Father:

Enclosed please find a check for two dollars and fifty cents for a new subscription and the remainder for the renewal of my own subscription.

I prize this little magazine. May God bless the labors of these wonderful women, the Missionary Catechists.

Sincerely,

A. J. W.

The Missionary Catechist

Huntington, Indiana

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

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**These 6 things have made Our
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S. P., Wis., July 13, 1927.

Reverend dear Father:

I am renewing subscription to The Missionary Catechist for another year for the Rita Club of Chicago.

Kindly give my best wishes to Catechist Margaret Campbell. I would not have the enjoyment of reading this dear little magazine if it were not for her.

May I ask you, dear Father, to say an aspiration to the Sacred Heart that I may have the happiness of seeing one of my daughters a Missionary Catechist of Our Blessed Lady of Victory?

With best wishes for your noble work, and praying God to bless you abundantly, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

MRS. J.

July 22, 1927.

The Missionary Catechist:

When little Cecile was born January 6th, this year, I promised \$5.00 for the work of the Missionary Catechists, as their work is much needed. Although a great deal is done here, a great deal more is needed in many, many places in the west as the Protestants are very active. Wishing you much success,

I remain,

MRS. R.

BETTER THAN A ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION.

Now-a-days millionaire and billionaire philanthropists are putting millions of dollars into institutions for research work for the discovery and cure of the physical ills of mankind. There is no denying that these are naturally good works. They will undoubtedly redound to the natural good of the donors. But every Catholic knows that the least spiritual work is of infinitely more value in the sight of God than the greatest physical good. The soul is of infinitely more value than the body.

Now, the Society of Missionary Catechists depends upon the contributions of generous Catholics to build up its foundations, called Burses, for the support and maintenance of its members. Every dollar contributed towards the founding of a Burse means the promotion of God's glory and the salvation of the souls of the neglected poor.

What greater merit could come to a good Catholic family having no son or daughter in the Priesthood or Sisterhood, than to adopt a Missionary Catechist? Even though, according to the designs of Providence, this happiness has been denied to you, it can be realized so easily by adopting a Catechist as your own.

All the merits of her prayers and good works, as well as the prayers of the children whom she saves to God and the Church, will be applied by her for your spiritual and temporal welfare.

"He who helps to save the soul of another, will save his own soul."

The month of August is dedicated by Holy Church to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Surely nothing would be more pleasing to this Heart of Love than a Catechist laboring in its honor to save the poor neglected children of the Missions.

We are anxious to start during this month a Burse in Honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Any amount, no matter how small, will be gratefully accepted and applied to this new Burse.

Address all communications and donations to:

Society of Missionary Catechists,
Victory-Noll, Huntington, Indiana,
P. O. Box 109.

Burlington, Ia., July 11, 1927.

To the Society of Missionary Catechists:

I am very much interested in the Missionary Catechist. Seeing the noble work that is done by this Society, I wish to have a Life subscription so that I may always read and know what the Catechists are doing. I am sorry not to be blessed with means so that I could make a great donation. I always remember the success of the Society in my prayers and Communion. May God bless your noble work.

Respectfully,

F. S.

Racine, Wis., June 24, 1927.

The Missionary Catechist:

The enclosed offering is for Catechist Doyle. I have lost her address, so kindly forward to her. I earned this money by scrubbing. I am a widow and have few funds.

Please pray for me.

Sincerely,

J. M.

Help Catechists educate Mexicans in the Faith before they are educated away from it by Protestant missionaries.

IN HIS STEPS

"IN our last class, children, we discussed the necessity of living continually in the Presence of God. I have been thinking since then of a very apt comparison spiritual writers make between the earth and its atmosphere and that of the soul living in the Presence of God. You know our earthly planet in its rotation around the sun passes through many thousands of miles of space at a terrific rate of speed, yet we do not notice any movement. Why? Because the earth carries its own atmosphere with it as it whirls around the sun. Just so in the life of the soul. We are carrying our own atmosphere with us, and, wrapped in this spiritual atmosphere, we pass from one duty to another seemingly unconscious of any change. This spiritual atmosphere is none other than the Presence of God.

"A lively sense of the Presence of God is a very efficacious means for keeping us holy. According to the Saints its exercise is the foundation of true holiness. 'If you wish to find a short and complete method of Christian Perfection,' writes St. Basil, 'one which contains in itself all other means and is most efficacious for overcoming every temptation and difficulty, exercise yourself in the Presence of God.'

"The devout soul who makes frequent acts of God's holy Presence will surely recognize that Our Lord is in the very center of her soul; that He sees and knows all her thoughts and desires,—even the most secret movements of her heart—and that He is watching with approval and encouraging her by His Holy Spirit to be faithful in overcoming those obstacles that stand in the way of her perfection.

"Have you ever noticed a bashful, diffident person going into a crowded room? If you watch such a person you will see that as soon as he enters the room he instinctively seeks out some person he knows. So the devout soul moving in the company of others in the world seeks Our Lord by making fervent acts of His Holy Presence. There are very many advantages to be gained by acts of the Presence of God.

"As a natural complement of the Presence of God we have a pure or supernatural intention in all that we do, keeping Our Lord before us and offering all to Him in the spirit of love and with a sincere desire of pleasing Him alone. We sanctify even the most ordinary actions, such as eating, sleeping, walking, by referring all to Him. Walking in His Presence we withdraw our minds and hearts from earthly things to fix them upon God and heavenly things. We learn to seek and love Our Lord with an undivided love, and then to love Him in all His creatures. In the words of a saint, 'We love in acting, and act in loving.'

"By continually exercising ourselves in fervent acts of the Presence of God, our understanding will think only of Him, our memory will recall Him, our will will tend toward Him and love Him alone. In short, it is by this means that the Saints became so perfectly united to God that their souls became one with His. The gentle St. Francis de Sales could then truly say, 'My mind is the Mind of Jesus, my will is the Will of Jesus, my heart is the Heart of Jesus.' 'In this,' says St. Thomas a Kempis, 'consists the true love of Christ, to keep Him ever in our minds and never suffer His image to fade from our imagination.'

"From the Saints we learn that there are four ways of practicing the Presence of God.

"The first is to picture or represent Our Lord as present in the very center of our soul. We may make various representations of Our Lord in our minds and hearts, and then make acts of love, hope, faith. Some devout souls love to picture Our Lord as present in their souls in His agony in the Garden, in His death upon the Cross.



Others love to recall Him as a poor little infant in the manger, or as a baby in the arms of His Blessed Mother.

"Another means of practicing the Presence of God is to make lively acts of Faith, recalling God's Almighty Power, His Infinite Mercy, His Boundless Goodness.

"The third means is to see Our Lord in all created things. Every time we look at the sun, the moon, the stars in the heavens, we may make a lively act of God's Presence. Whenever we look upon trees, plants and beautiful flowers we may consider Our Lord in His Infinite Goodness and bounty creating all these things for us, and then we can say with all the fervor of our souls, 'All these things Thou hast created for us,

O Lord, and Thou art present in them all.' Such pious affections will serve to set our hearts on fire with the love of God and with gratitude for all the good things He bestows upon us.

"Finally, a very helpful means for cultivating God's Presence—to realize that He is in our very souls—is to retire within ourselves and unite ourselves to Him by acts of love. We make within our souls, as it were, a sanctuary, and there retire to adore our good God by acts of love, thanksgiving and adoration. This is precisely what the great St. Catherine of Sienna did. When her parents deprived her of a little oratory she had built in her room, she made an act of interior obedience, offering up herself to her Divine Master in the spirit of perfect detachment. 'As soon as I was deprived of this material oratory,' she says, 'I immediately built a spiritual oratory within my own soul and then my Divine Master appeared to me, and I lived in His Holy Presence.'

"Devout souls, following the example of the Saints, can render the Presence of God very real and very personal by the aid of the natural powers of their soul and by the assistance of God's all-powerful grace. By offering up frequent and fervent aspirations, acts of love and pure intention, their hearts will be inflamed with love of God and their souls will be filled with His Holy Spirit. Frequently placing themselves in God's holy Presence, acting from the pure intention of loving Him and pleasing Him alone, they learn in a short time not only to begin every action in His Presence, but to renew their fervent acts in the Divine Presence during the progress of their various works during the day. To grow in this practice means to grow in holiness.

"If we are faithful in exercising the Presence of God by making frequent acts of love in His Holy Presence, we shall make all created things serve to lift us up to a closer union with Our Lord. In imitation of St. Catherine we shall make of our soul a sanctuary," concluded Sister Charitina, "where Our Divine Lord will love to dwell as on a throne of grace."

ASSUMPTION MORNING.

"Hark! She is called; the parting hour is come;

Take thy farewell, poor world,
Heaven must go home.

A piece of heavenly earth, purer and brighter

Than the chaste stars whose choice lamps come to light her,

While thro' the crystal orbs, clearer than they,

She climbs and makes a far more Milky Way."

—Richard Crashaw.

"There is no better proof of real love of Christ than the true missionary spirit which manifests itself by generosity and sacrifices to spread the Gospel of light and build up the Church among those who are far removed from parish or mission centres of truth and grace."

Rt. Rev. Regis Canevin.

Rev. dear Father:

Enclosed is a check which I wish you to apply for the support of a Catechist.

Some time ago I promised to give one per cent of my gross receipts to charity, and as I do not know of a more worthy cause to support than assisting the Catechists, I am sending you this part of my income.

The checks sent you during the last few months were in thanksgiving for special favors I have received.

With best wishes that God may bless you and the splendid work in which you are engaged, I remain,

Yours respectfully,

A. J.

Read about the work of the Missionary Catechists on the second page of Our Sunday Visitor every week.

The Associate Catechists of Mary

DEAR Lord, through all the years let me do my part in bringing grace into the hearts of other men; let me rejoice that I can give some comfort to those who are weaker, and some happiness to those who are less fortunate; let friendship mark my comradeship with life.

Dear Lord, through all the years let me do Your Will; let me bring a little happiness into the hearts of your lowly ones; let me rejoice that I may lighten the burden of some who are weary, and lessen the need of some who are destitute: let charity mark my path in life.

Promoters! August is an ideal month to plan your winter's program. A well-planned program will lead, step by step, to the accomplishment of the greatest results. The inspiration of the moment often proves ineffective and unsuccessful; a carefully-planned program paves the way toward definite accomplishment. Well-thought-out plans tend to bring that necessary variety in club activities that every member craves. As the ship that follows its course is the one that reaches the harbor, so the circle that initiates a definite program and carries it out, is the one which achieves the best results.

"The glory of life is to love—not to be loved;
To give—not to get; to serve—not to be served."—Hugh Black.

"IF YOU COULD KNOW"

I think if you could know
The suffering and the need
Of our poor mission folk,
You would be filled with zeal
To help the mission cause.

I think if you could see
Their burden and their pain,
Their sorrow and their grief,
You would not delay
To help the mission cause.

I think if you would try
To form a mission band,
You would soon find
Hearts zealous and glad
To help the mission cause.

THANK YOU!

Dear Catechist Supervisor:

"This month I am sending you a package of holy cards, rosaries and other religious articles for your "mission" children. I found many of them when I was rumaging through my school-day things. The remembrance of how happy they made me then induced me to buy the rest for the poor children under your care."

Holy pictures, medals, rosaries, and Sacred Heart Badges never go amiss when they are sent to the Catechists in the field!

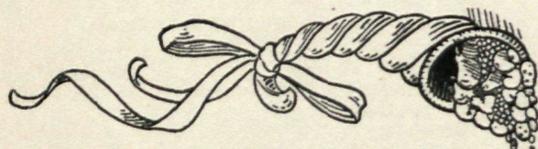
Dear Catechist:
Enclosed you will find one dollar to be applied toward the support of God's Missionary Catechists. I am trying to build a little business and I promised one-tenth of every sale. St. Anthony and the Little Flower are my business partners. I hope through their help to send many a dollar to help your noble cause. Please pray for me.

RETREAT NOTICE.

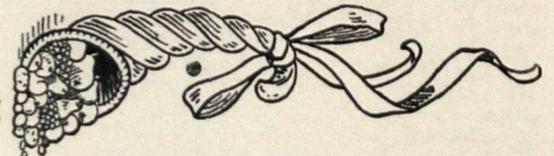
The Annual Retreat of the Associate Catechists of Mary will be held under the auspices of the Society of Missionary Helpers at the Academy of Our Lady, 95th and Throop Streets, Chicago, Illinois, over Labor Day. The exercises of the Retreat will open Saturday, September 3rd, at 5:00 p. m., and will close Tuesday morning, September 6th, at 6:45 a. m. Father Eugene Gehl, one of our most popular Retreat Masters, will preach this Retreat.

We would urge all those desirous of making the Retreat to send their name at once to: Sister M. Leo, Academy of Our Lady, 95th and Throop Streets, Chicago. Telephone: Beverly 0315.

Deceased persons may be enrolled in Victory-Noll Mission Circle.
Address all A. C. M. communications to: Catechist Supervisor, Associate Catechists of Mary, Victory-Noll, Huntington, Indiana.



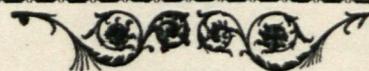
Introducing The Junior Auxiliary



"Good day, Associate Catechists of Mary! I have a message for all your little children, your friends' children, and all your children friends. My message is the same one that Jesus taught the little ones when He walked upon the earth; it is the same one that the Church has preached through all the ages; it is the message of the missionaries of all time—the message that everyone, even children, may help the missions and share in the wondrous spiritual benefits of those who help spread the kingdom of Christ in the hearts of men.

"In the heart of every child God has planted the desire to go forth to do great things for Him. Watered and tenderly cared for, that desire buds forth into noble ambitions and projects. Encouragement in charitable activities fosters the spirit of love of God and man—in which, according to the Word of Our Lord Himself, all Goodness consists. It inculcates into the hearts of our children friends a noble sympathy and love for those who are less fortunate, and brings to a full fruition their God-given instinct to serve those who are in need. The Junior Associate Catechists of Mary provides teachers and parents with a worthy channel in

The Junior A. C. M. Promise
I WILL:
Pray for the Missions.
Help the Missions.
Be true to the ideals and endeavors of the Junior Associate Catechists of Mary.



which to direct the eager, enthusiastic charity of childhood and youth.

"Of course every one has his own ideas about clubs. My idea of a club is a gathering together of people who like each other and wish to be friends, and who want to be friends, and who want to do something together. A Junior A. C. M. Club is a club of boys or of girls, or girls and boys, who are glad to be together and work together for the mission cause.

"A Club wouldn't be a club without a motto, that's certain. The motto that will bind our Junior Club together is 'All for Jesus Through Mary.' That is the motto of the Missionary Catechists whom we are going to help, and we have chosen it for our motto, too.

"Of course each club will have a name—and it would never do not to have a Patron Saint.

"And so, boys and girls everywhere, We invite you, one and all To answer to the mission call: Be Junior A. C. M.s' this fall."

THE JUNIOR AUXILIARY
CATECHIST,
Victory-Noll,
Huntington, Indiana.

Help Catechists educate Mexicans in the Faith before they are educated away from it by Protestant missionaries.

Missionary Catechist--The Solution of the Rural Industrial Problem

The recent conferences on rural subjects throughout the United States have been fruitful of one outstanding result—the emphatic conclusion that the Catholic Church is weakest in the rural districts; that the leakage is there; that the “fallen aways” exist in the country in greater proportion than in the city, and that one of the fundamental causes of it all is the lack of adequate instruction.

The Society of Missionary Catechists was founded with the definite aim of assisting needy Catholics in neglected settlements and mission districts of our country. Yet the results obtained in a rural district of this diocese (Fort Wayne) not only give promise of great success in the Southwest, but indicate in the humble opinion of the writer, a field spiritually profitable for their activities.

Catechists L. and B. arrived at the small parish in true mission style, prepared to endure hardships which fortunately they were not called upon to suffer. They had their lunch, their coffee, and their books. They followed a schedule that had been prepared by the pastor and in their very first class won the hearts of their pupils.

Classes held in the summer time, arranged not to conflict with the needs of the farm, were attended by every boy and girl under the age of 18 in the parish, this without any forcing or any great emphasis from the pastor. After the first day two Protestant children who had never before displayed the slightest interest in the Church joined the classes for instruction and took just as enthusiastic a part in the study of Catechism, Bible History and singing as they did in the various games and amusements which were arranged to fill their short recreation time.

In this necessarily short article it is impossible for the writer to be as explicit as he would like in his praise and appreciation of the Catechists' work. Doubtless there are many other rural pastors who are confronted with the eternal problem of the inadequacy of simple Sunday-school instruction—where schools are a financial impossibility and where children reach maturity without that deep and solid groundwork of knowledge and appreciation which comes from instruction and example seen daily enforced. Many pastors of rural parishes have had the sad experience of seeing their older boys and girls go off to the large cities where there are adequately maintained and beautifully-kept schools and churches, ready to attend to all of their spiritual wants, but unfortunately unattended by the newly-arrived rural immigrant, because he did not gain a sufficient knowledge or appreciation of his Church in his native rural parish. Perhaps a religious vacation school offers the most hopeful solution of this problem.

WHAT BILL ROGERS SAYS OF NEW MEXICO.

Bill Rogers knows New Mexico and the whole Southwest like a book, and the following from him is well worth reading:

“New Mexico is a great state in natural resources; its got just about everything under the ground that was ever piled into one Xmas basket. And the most wonderful thing about it, and Arizona, is that it is giving health and years of longer life to thousands and thousands of people with the dread thing consumption. And my what a cheerful lot they are, what a study in grit and nerve. We sent some great boys to the war, but I tell you we left braver ones at home right out here in these two states. They are facing the enemy every day and licking him. It's wonderful to come from a big prosperous state and brag on your population, bank deposits, and value of crops produced. But when you live in a state that can advertise ‘that you can save lives,’ you are in just about the biggest state in the Union. You have got to build up and save what prosperous states have wrecked and torn down. So when you healthy, well-fed, prosperous ones look out of your drawing room window on the miles and miles of desert waste, and say: ‘My! How can anyone live in this country!’ you want to remember that it's everything in the world—it's life, it's gold—to millions.”—Gallup Herald.

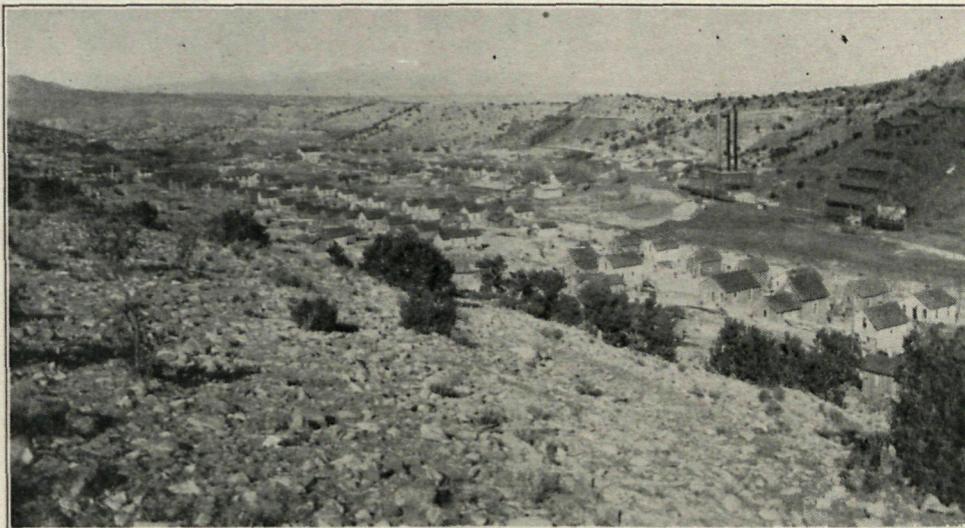
1520 Railway Exchange Building
St. Louis, Mo.

Rev. J. J. Sigstein,
Huntington, Ind.

Dear Father Sigstein:

I notice in January issue of the *The Missionary Catechist* that you or someone has made a strong appeal for financial assistance to be used in the work of aiding our Mexican brethren in the faith. Sometimes we mean well and our intentions are good, but we fail to act at the time and then forget all about it; so acting on the suggestion of “do it now” I am enclosing my check in the amount of \$5.00 to be used as you see fit. With best wishes, I remain,

Very sincerely yours, J. D. D.



A Birdseye View of Madrid, N. M.

Reading Something Worth While

Rev. A. J. Blaufuss

“THINGS CATHOLICS ARE ASKED ABOUT.”—By Martin J. Scott, S. J., P. J. Kenedy & Sons, 44 Barclay St., N. Y. \$1.50.

Father Scott is becoming a household word in the field of popular apologetics. His books are read with a sense of satisfaction. To satisfy, truth must not only flash by its brilliancy, but charm by its beauty. By its strength it must overthrow doubt, error, and falsehood; by its gentle light it must invite erring souls to follow. In the thirty-seven chapters of this volume the Reverend author convinces as well as charms. The Catholic reader will close the book more grateful for the heritage of his Faith and better fitted to give the inquirer a correct answer, whereas the thousands still groping in darkness of doubt will discover therein the way to certainty and truth. We wish this book Godspeed and hope to see it take a place of honor beside “The Faith of Our Fathers,” “Catholic Belief,” and the “Question Box.” An edition in paper cover makes this work desirable for distribution at missions, lectures, and similar occasions.

“TO THEE I COME.”

July 11, 1927.

Dear Catechist Richardson:

Here I am back to my old routine. I'm going to make myself feel satisfied. But after spending those ten days at Victory-Noll I know that I never want to be anything but a Catechist.

Sunday night I couldn't think of anything but of the four months that I would have to wait. Today I feel better about it and I know nothing will come in my way now.

After I got on the car I thought of you. How happy everyone was! And I just didn't want to come home. I certainly felt gloomy for awhile, but cheered up before mother saw me.

She is helping me make plans and promises that she is going to be just as happy as I am. Saturday I will begin to get some of the things I'll need. It will make me feel more sure that I am really going. My mind hasn't been on anything else. I'll have to get it settled down to work though now.

In the office everyone has been talking of the wonderful time they had over the Fourth. I can't tell them that I had the most wonderful time of all. They couldn't understand. But I did and I consider myself blessed.

Just having the Faith should mean that I have everything, but I have sometimes felt that I was terribly abused. Not anymore, though. for henceforth I'm going to be happy.

I thank you again for your kindness during my visit. Perhaps I will see you in October when I come.

Ever,
C.

"Showing Forth the Charity of Christ"

(Continued from page 1)

mission districts assigned them by the Bishop of the diocese. In this mission center they lead a community life, attend the out-missions, gathering the children together and conducting Catechetical classes, instructing the children in the truths of Faith and preparing them for the reception of the Sacraments.

Extent of the Work.

In the northern part of New Mexico the Catechists have twenty missions under their jurisdiction. One can conceive of the greatness of the work from the fact that in one mission center alone there are approximately 1,000 children under the care of the Catechists. In another mission center where the people were extremely destitute, the Catechists dispensed 5,000 articles of clothing within the short period of five months. In addition to this work in the Southwest, there are approximately 10,000 Mexicans and Spaniards under the care of our Junior Catechists in the great Steel Districts of Gary and Indiana Harbor, Indiana.

A Great Need.

The great need of the Church in our country today is individual, personal contact with poor, uninstructed Catholics living in rural mission districts. Not by elaborate card indexing systems, not by costly institutional work, not by the erection of stately Cathedrals or colossal hospitals shall we be able to reach our needy brethren in neglected, rural districts and settlements, for, my friends, it is not in the expenditure of millions or hundreds of million dollars for the erection of material structures that the greatness and glory and power of our Holy Church is to be realized in our country today, but rather in the Christ-like zeal and divine charity and in the spirit of self-sacrifice and self-surrender of the truly devoted children of the Church to save their less fortunate brethren. In this way only can She truly show forth "The Charity of Christ," the spirit of Him Who is so beautifully called the "Father of the Poor," and Whose whole missionary life is concisely summed up in the Gospel in these words: "Jesus went about everywhere doing good."

Send us a list of your intentions and they will be included in the petitions we daily offer at the Altar of Our Blessed Mother.

The New Mexico Agricultural College, located near Mesilla Park, will erect a new building and make repairs on others and add to equipment this season. The funds available for this purpose total \$75,000. The importance of the work of the College is increasing steadily the development of farming and livestock in the state.

SOCIETY OF MISSIONARY CATECHISTS,
Victory-Noll, Huntington, Indiana.

Please enter my name on your subscription list for The Missionary Catechist. I am enclosing
50c for one year's subscription. \$10.00 for a Life subscription.

Name _____ Address _____

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