

# The Missionary Catechist



Volume IV

Victory-Noll, Huntington, Indiana, January, 1928

Number 2

## Trained Lay Catechists for New Mexico

By Catechist Blanche Richardson

**T**HE need for native leaders among the Spanish-speaking peoples of the Border Country has long been recognized. The Protestants, ever foremost in efficient Missionary organization, sensed this need fifty years ago. Over a score of well equipped trade schools, under the supervision of the different denominations, is the practical result. We have not kept pace with them. As a consequence, we must face the following unpleasant Truth. The average educated New Mexican of today, with a trade or profession, is a Protestant.

What has been done in face of the present existing crisis?

THE SOCIETY OF MISSIONARY CATECHISTS was founded for the precise purpose of helping Our Needy, Neglected Spanish-Americans as well as all needy poor of the missions to a better understanding, appreciation and practice of their Holy Religion. It was organized to lend spiritual assistance to thousands of Catholics, who are the prey of Protestant propaganda. For six years, the Missionary Catechists have taken over certain large areas in New Mexico, solidly instructing the natives in the fundamentals of our Holy Religion. Notwithstanding this, the field in which they labor is immense. The Southwest easily comprises a million square miles. It would take many years and thousands of Missionary Catechists to cover this extensive country.

In order to extend their influence over a larger territory, in the present crisis of the Catholic Church in the Southwest, these religious workers have recently undertaken the work of forming leaders among the native

New-Mexicans. One of the latest works to be undertaken, under the auspices of the SOCIETY OF MISSIONARY CATECHISTS is the training of public school teachers and others in New Mexico as competent lay catechists. These Spanish-speaking men and women will be enrolled as members of the CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE. Since this Confraternity is canonically aggregated with the Archconfraternity of Christian Doctrine in Rome these young men and women will enjoy its spirit-

sible to give these instructions in person, they will be given by mail.

The Confraternity will be introduced into a parish, only with the expressed approval and at the invitation of the resident Missionary. It is the purpose of the Confraternity to furnish the Missionary priest with true auxiliaries in the way of specially-trained lay Catechists. Before entering upon their duties, each lay Catechist will be given a thorough course of instructions in the best method of teaching Christian Doctrine to

the poor un instructed children. These instructions will comprise an outline of the virtues which should characterize a lay catechist, the nature of his duties, and how to fulfill them. Finally all teachers will be provided with a Handbook of Model Catechism Lessons, in order to assist them in their work. From time to time, the Missionary Catechists will visit the members of the Confraternity, in order to direct their work and to assist them with helpful suggestions. It is the desire of the Missionary Catechists to keep these Catechism teachers constantly provided with holy pictures, medals, etc., for the distribution among the children whom they will catechize. All Latin-Americans are especially

noted for their love and veneration for the sacramentals of the Church, and the Mexicans are by no means an exception. It is believed, through this practice, that the attendance of children at catechism classes will always be good, and the teachers themselves encouraged thereby in their work for the souls of the poor little ones.

The Confraternity will be a valuable adjunct to the work of the MISSIONARY  
(Continued on Page 5)



The Lay Catechist at Work

ual benefits and have a share in the numerous plenary and partial indulgences. The members will devote at least two hours every week to the work of giving religious instruction and Christian training to the poor, un instructed Mexican children living in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. The Missionary Catechists will give a series of Catechetical instructions to the Confraternity members, thus enabling them to become successful lay catechists. Where it is impos-

Have You Joined "The 2500 Club?"

# When The Americans Came

By Constance Edgerton

“WHY not? Don't I support her?”  
“She supports me—and you also,” said Carola.

From the doorstep Manuela saw them—saw him strike Carola with his quirt, many times about the head and shoulders. “I will teach you who supports you!” he said and jumped on his horse as Manuela came towards them.

That night her baby was born.

A month later Carola sat in the doorway looking out across the distance. The baby was asleep in the basket Manuela had woven for it.

“Will we live here always?” asked Carola.

No., They were moving on. They would take their clothing with them, and go as far back as the Trail. There they would meet sheep men looking for herders. Would Carola remember she was Manuela's granddaughter? It were better so.

\* \* \*

Abroad on the night wind was the call of a coyote. In the mysterious, shadowy depths of the starlit desert two figures were discernible. Below them was the campfire.

One figure stood while the other walked deliberately into the fitful glare of the fire, near which two men lay. “What is it, mother?” spoke one as he arose and came to her.

In Spanish she replied that she wanted work as a herder. She had with her her granddaughter. She did not make mention of Loretto who was sleeping on the bundle of clothes.

Yes, they were looking for herders. These sheep belonged to Felipe Estevan, and were to be wintered in the feeding canyons to the west.

When the dawn clouds tinged the sand-hills they ate a hearty breakfast and trailed after the sheep. The hills were brick, red, ochre, purple. Ahead of them the light fell in pink lashes on the bunch grass. They met no one. They heard nothing but the blaa-blaa of the sheep.

It was the longest day Carola Harding ever lived. She saw ahead a hut in a broad, sheltered valley. It was home. She stumbled in and stretched herself on the floor, Loretto in her arms. She was asleep when Manuela left in the morning.

She awoke to a choppy sea of desert sand and stood in the doorway drinking in its beauty. She wondered what mamma was doing at this hour. Did papa miss her? Her heart was bleached white with suffering. If she could see him! Loretto whimpered and she turned to her.

All day she tried to work. Manuela would return at sunset and she would be hungry. “I can at least boil some beans,” she said. But to gather bits of wood and keep the fire bright was an all day task. At nightfall she had but a scant surplus of wood.

Manuela ate hungrily and lay down to sleep. She was gone in the morning before Carola awoke.

Thus were their days—uniform to monotony, lonely, work-filled.

Winter wore away. The camp tender had been twice to them with supplies. He was an American boy come west for adventure. On his last trip he told Carola he was going home—to Ohio. They would have a



new camptender. His visit was approaching. Carola did not wish to encounter him. She saw a cloud of dust far out across the desert. She took Loretto in her arms and hid behind a nearby rock.

From her hiding place she could see him. He dismounted and entered the cabin. His call reached her and she knew the voice! It was Felipe Estevan. He was in great haste for although he could see the sheep in the valley, he mounted and rode back across the desert.

After a time she went into the cabin and inventoried what he had left. Flour, sugar, beans, tobacco. Tobacco! He thought his herder was a man. They were safe until the next visit.

That night she told Manuela. “If he had seen me I would have died,” she finished.

That was wrong, Manuela told her in Spanish. Felipe was her friend and would have helped her. He no doubt would have brought word of her parents. Did she not want to hear of them?

“Yes, Manuela, I do,” she said. “Next time we expect him will you allow me to herd the sheep and you stay home to meet him?”

But when he came again Manuela was ill in bed. If Felipe knew her he gave no sign. Was her husband out with the sheep? He was. Did they need anything besides what he had been bringing? They did not. He left one hundred and fifty dollars—ten months' wages—and departed.

Carola was disappointed at Manuela's report. How did Phil appear? As usual, Manuela told her. No change? None. And he was still bringing tobacco? He was.

“I will be married two years next month and we have heard nothing from my home in that time,” said Carola. “I wonder how Grandfather is.”

“He is dead,” said Manuela.

“Dead?” she echoed.

Then Manuela told her. It was from the herder Rosalio Marquez, whom she met on the far side of the canyon, she had received the word. He dropped dead on the veranda the morning they were leaving their home.

“Were they forced out?” asked the girl.

Yes. For three years Kane and Mayhew had been trying to obtain the ranch—

even sending their agent, Forrester Harding, to live at the ranch to see what he could find out for them. The Martinez men put up a stubborn fight. Donna Teresa, little Louis and the women servants had gone to Rancho del Espiritu Santo, where it was quiet. Finally by force the Americans took possession. Don Vincent dropped dead on the veranda as they were leaving. Heart failure, the doctor said.

The Americans had allowed them to hold the funeral from the ranch. He slept in the family plot.

Silence fell between them. Loretto slept in her basket. She scented oil of the sagebrush and the aroma of the pines reached them through the doors and windows. The moon rose behind the eastern hills. Moonlight in the desert!

“Manuela, do you hear of him—my husband?” at length Carola asked.

“He works for a cattle company there.” She pointed to the south.

Scarce fifty miles away in the ranch house of Felipe Estevan sat Don Ramon, Donna Teresa and old Jose.

“Phil will soon be here,” said Donna Teresa. “He may bring us some good news.”

“No, No,” mumbled Jose, “they are dead, Dead.”

“We hope not, Jose. Soon we must find them. We are searching constantly.”

Donna's hair was white and her face bore the marks of suffering. After almost two years she did not understand how her daughter could marry and not tell her mamma about it. And marrying why had she remained silent?

The morning they awoke to Carola's departure they thought nothing of it because Manuela was also missing. She would have arisen in the night to ride up the river with Carola. Often they had galloped thus in the moonlight. It was three days later before the family realized she was gone with Forrester Harding. Then Jose returned and said they were to have been married two days back at Santa Cruz.

Don Vincent and Don Ramon went to Santa Cruz. They saw the record of her marriage. Then all trace of her vanished.

(To Be Continued)

**\$1.00 Monthly for a Year—Supports 100 Catechists**

# VICTORY NOLL NOTES



**D**EAR Friends, how we wish you could have been with us Christmas! It did not seem any time at all from "lights out" until the bell rang which announced to us that we had just twenty-five minutes before Midnight Mass. The soft sweet strains of the Christmas Carols, echoing through our long corridors, invited all to hasten to adore the Infant King. And at the hour of midnight the organ, growing in volume, intoned the solemn, stately notes of the "Kyrie" and we joined our prayers with those of the Priest with hearts full of love and thanksgiving for all God's goodness to us.

We are all more or less accustomed to the beauty of our dear little Chapel, but on this holy night we were all inspired anew by its simple grandeur. The graceful tapering candles and vigil lights gleamed from their setting of artistically arranged flowers. And the Crib! With its life-like figures, its dark pine background, and its many-colored lights, made us easily span the two thousand years and imagine ourselves kneeling before that First Crib in silent adoration with Mary, Joseph, and the lowly shepherds.

Mass ended and following the beautiful Spanish custom, all the Catechists knelt in veneration before the Infant Savior.

Now, what do you think we did next? Well, we proved that grown-ups, even Catechists, are only children at heart as we gleefully and expectantly responded to the bells which summoned us to the Community Room. We felt as though we were really at Santa's Headquarters as there we found a tastefully decorated room in its center an immense tree ablaze with lights and tinsel and surrounded by heaps of packages of all sizes and shapes. Needless to say, all, from the youngest to the oldest, were made happy by gifts from home and friends.

As it is always a source of greatest happiness for the Catechists to help make others happy, we gave, as in former years, of our gifts to the poor children in the Missions. Who can doubt but that the needy little ones and their poverty-stricken parents will be made happy by the "Post-Nativity" gifts from the Catechists of Victory-Noll?

\* \* \*

During Advent we were gratified with the numerous requests from our Readers for remembrance of their Intentions in our Solemn Christmas Novena. We were made happy at the close of the Novena to receive so many letters stating that the Infant Jesus had been pleased to grant these heartfelt petitions of our friends.

Please list your Intentions and send them in before the first of the month so that they may be included in our Perpetual Novena to Our Blessed Lady of Victory as well as in our special Novenas.

## WERE THEY ANSWERED? Christmas Letters From the Vigiles Children

Dear Infant Jesus:

I was sick in bed about fifteen days and I missed school about twenty days, but I hope to be in school at Christmas time. My choice is an aeroplane and that is all for this time.

Thanks, THOMAS LOPEZ.

Dear Infant Jesus:

I am writing You these few lines to tell You what I wish for Christmas. I would like to have a Prayer Book, or anything that You give me.

I am, LUCITA LESPERANCE.

Dear Infant Jesus:

I would like to have a rifle, an aeroplane, a bucket of beans, and three eggs. That is all.

ADELINO MONTANO.

Dearest Infant Jesus:

I like to have an automobile, a twenty-two rifle, a crucifix and prayer book and a mouse cat.

DIONICIO MARTINEZ.

Los Cerrillos, New Mexico,

Dear Spiritual Father:

There was no school today, so Catechist L. and P. and myself visited the poor section workers living at Ortiz. All the families living there seem to be comfortably housed. Their homes are very neat and clean.

The parents of the children promised to send them to Cerrillos on Saturday, so that they can attend Mass on Sunday.

CATECHIST E. L.

## VICTORY-MOUNT ECHOES

**A**JOLLY homecoming was had at Victory-Mount on the Feast of St. John the Evangelist. Christmas parties by the dozens of course detained our Missionaries, until after this Joyous Festival, but they seized the first opportunity which followed to dress up in their "Sunday best" and come to Las Vegas. Just what happened in the various Mission Centers, on those mysterious days when Santa Claus stalked forth, with a huge pack on his back, will always remain somewhat jumbled in our minds. Every one spoke of her party, at once.

One thing is certain. The Holman Catechists introduced something different this year, by way of variation. Their Christmas tree party was preceded by a little Christmas play, in which their children presented the scene of Our Dear Savior's Birth in Bethlehem. Each child took his part well. Little Ramon Garcia played "Silent Night, Holy Night" on the violin as a prelude to the play. The costumes looked very well. A closer examination after the play prove them to be curtain draperies, scarfs, etc., taken from boxes of discarded clothing sent to the Missions. What shall we say of the downy wings of the angels? They consisted of real feathers. Upon inquiry, we found out that the Catechists had killed all their white chickens in order to provide the angels with these beautiful wings!

With the bright colors in the loom of life, there are also sombre shades. The mournful strains of the Passing Bell from the little nearby Mission Church brought us the first news of poor old Senora B's death. She had been a patient sufferer for many months during a lingering, painful disease. We went over the next morning to pay our respects. After reciting the Rosary for the repose of her soul, we inquired when the funeral Mass would be read. Her sister looked at us sorrowfully. There would be no Mass. Senora B. was very poor. We looked again at that peaceful face, laid out in a cheap coffin, lined with paper, and laid on two chairs facing each other. An inspiration came to us. Yes, we are sure that some of our good readers will furnish the necessary stipend that a Mass may yet be read for this poor soul.



Santa at San Antonio

Have You Joined "The 2500 Club?"

## The Missionary Catechist for 1928

During the past year we received many letters from interested readers who were pleased with our little magazine. Every editor certainly feels that it is more encouraging to receive from his subscribers "bouquets" rather than "brickbats." However, we believe that no one—least of all the publishers of a magazine—should be satisfied with present progress. We should constantly aim at something higher and better. So we feel that, with Mary's help, we are going to make THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST for 1928 a better mission magazine than it was in 1927. Our aim is to make it the best home mission magazine published in our country. This we can hope to do only with the cordial and constant co-operation of our faithful friends and subscribers.

We feel quite certain that our readers will be pleased with every copy of THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST for 1928. During the year our little monthly messenger will bring to your home fascinating stories, striking pictures and letters with a deeply personal touch from that most interesting portion of our country,—the great Southwest. This is a mission field replete with romance, tragedy and humor.

From the pages of the coming issues of THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST you will learn much of the early Christian history of our country,—a history of which every Catholic may justly be proud. Among the novel and interesting features for 1928 will be the story of the organization of vast and new missionary dioceses in the Southwest; historical aspects of the missions, and incidents—both tragic and comic—in the life and work of the Missionary Catechists.

Several new departments of our magazine will, we feel certain, prove attractive to our readers. One of these,—the Archconfraternity of Christian Doctrine of our Society and its purpose in training, for the spiritual leadership of their people, native sons and daughters of New Mexico,—will be set forth by the Catechist in charge of this new activity of the Society of Missionary Catechists.

Another new feature will be the column devoted to the Confraternity of Mary, Queen of Hearts. TRUE DEVOTION to Our Most Dear and Blessed Mother will be fully explained in this column. All true lovers of Mary will be happy to learn of the characteristics of this TRUE DEVOTION to their Most Holy Mother.

In union of prayer with our loyal friends and faithful subscribers, we hope before the close of the year of 1928 to have a list of fifty thousand subscribers to THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST. This will not be a difficult task if every subscriber will get at least two new subscribers for us during the year.

Mississippi.

Reverend and dear Father:

Some time ago I began a Novena to St. Jude. I promised him the enclosed \$5.00 if he granted my request. A few days after ending the Novena, I was made happy for my prayers were answered and I got even a little more. I promised this gift for the Missionary Catechists, so you may use it in any way you see fit.

Yours truly,

"T."

### 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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## Brevities

Although we are late in going to press, we nevertheless hope it is not too late to extend to each and everyone of our friends our best wishes for a Blessed and Happy New Year. We assure them that they will have a daily remembrance in the prayers of our Catechists and the poor children under their care.

You will be happy to know that your Christmas Gift to the Catechists was applied on "The Infant Jesus" Burse.

We now have \$1500.00 for THE INFANT JESUS BURSE—just one-quarter of the amount required to complete this burse.

The month of January is dedicated by Holy Church to the Infant Jesus, and the Holy Family.

We would be supremely happy if we could honor Our Dear Infant Saviour by completing His Burse during January.

On December 12th, the Spanish-speaking people of North and South America celebrated the beautiful feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. On that day there were fully two million Mexican people at the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico. It was the second time during the course of four centuries that there were no Priests present at this shrine to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and lead devotions for the people on this Feast.

In the Offertory of the Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Church has this significant prayer:—

"I have selected and sanctified this place, in order that My Name may be kept there, and my eyes be upon it, and my heart be fixed there all days."

After reciting this prayer, who can doubt that the Blessed Mother of God will exercise Her power to save the faith of the Mexican people from the scourge of the infamous Calles and his diabolically inspired followers?

The average Catholic has not much extra time during the day for prayers and devotions. By supporting a Catechist he can pray by "proxy." The poor children, whom he feeds and clothes, will offer their grateful prayers for his intentions every day.

It is a great consolation to the friends of our mission poor to know that the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in honor of Our Blessed Lady of Victory is offered every Saturday for their spiritual and temporal needs.

Benefactors supporting the Souls in Purgatory Burse in memory of their dear departed are happy to know that their dear ones share in the priceless benefits of the Holy Sacrifice.

We were made happy during the month of December by the receipt of a number of annuity contracts. The laity, as well as the clergy, have been quick to see the advantages of these absolutely sound investments whereby their savings, invested with the Society of Missionary Catechists, bring them a high rate of interest semi-annually, and after death are directly applied to the material and spiritual relief of God's poor.

### "DA MIHI ANIMAS"—"GIVE ME SOULS"

With His Baby Arms outstretched as if to embrace the whole world, the Infant Jesus lying on His pallet of straw again mutely sends forth His plaintive plea "Da Mihi Animas"—"Give Me Souls".

Child of Mary, have you heard His call to service? Have you listened or have you closed your heart to His Voice?

In the scattered Mission places of our country there are thousands of souls languishing for lack of Christian instruction; there are thousands of Catholics whose salvation may depend upon your answer to His invitation.

Will you not place your heart within His Tiny Outstretched Hands and tell Him that you belong entirely and forever to Him? Will you not pledge your life in His Service as a Missionary Catechist of Our Blessed Lady of Victory? Will you not promise Him that you will go forth as a true Missionary to co-operate with Him in the salvation of His neglected little ones?

Fort Louis, Wash.

Reverend and dear Father:

I am enclosing herewith check of \$5.00 as a donation for this month.

In support of the plan suggested on page (4) of the November issue of "The Missionary Catechist" (2500 Catholics pledging themselves to give \$1.00 a month for a year to support a Catechist), I hereby pledge \$5.00 per month during the year. I shall remit monthly by check, unless some other method is preferable.

Hoping that there may be others who will respond to this plan, I remain

Yours sincerely

LIEUTENANT C. A. R.

Dear Catechists,

Enclosed find check for your work in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Please ask Her to pray for me for several very important favors.

Yours respectfully,

T. N.

**\$1.00 Monthly for a Year—Supports 100 Catechists**

# Covering the Field of Charity

What  
does a  
Mis-  
sionary  
Catechist  
Do?



How  
Can  
You  
Help  
Her?

**L**IKE her Divine Master she "goes about everywhere doing good." Her life is devoted to the practice of the Seven Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

She "feeds the hungry" little ones in the missions;

She "clothes the naked," giving clothes, shoes and stockings to the destitute and needy children who often cross the snow-covered mountain passes in their bare feet and without underclothes, to receive religious instruction;

She "visits the sick," in their homes, nursing them with the tenderness of a mother, when they are without medical attention or aid of any kind;

She "instructs the ignorant," teaching Catechism to young and old;

She "converts sinners," bringing back the negligent and erring ones of the flock to the Church and the Sacraments.

### PRAYER.

We pray Thee, O God, to take under Thy loving care the Missionary Catechists 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 labors, be Thyself their great reward for all eternity. We ask this in the Name of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Nihil Obstat

✠ JOHN F. NOLL, D.D.  
Bishop of Fort Wayne.

1—By Praying Jesus and Mary to bless her labors for the salvation of Their destitute "mission" poor.

2—By Subscribing for "The Missionary Catechist," published at the extremely low price of fifty cents a year. The life subscription rate is ten dollars.

3—By Sending cash donations for the purchase of medical supplies for the sick, or relief for the needs of the destitute and suffering.

4—By Joining the Associate Catechists of Mary, and pledging yourself to contribute towards the support of a Missionary Catechist in the Field. It costs only \$30 a month to support a Catechist.

5—By Investing in our "Annuity Plan," thus not only establishing a permanent life income, but also assuring yourself, that after death, the principal will be used for the benefit of God's poor.

Laguna, New Mexico.

I am making the memento for the continued success of your Missionary Catechists a daily one, and I assure you that not a few of the Franciscan Padres are praying for the same cause. They pray especially for the continuance of the wonderful spirit they have seen manifested in the members of your Society in your Missionary Field. With the continuance of that same spirit and God giving the increase without doubt the Society will be the one hope of saving the Faith to the poor of the Southwest.

Respectfully yours in Christ,  
REV. FELIX, O. F. M.

"All for Jesus Through Mary."

Victory-Mount, Las Vegas, N. Mex.

Dear Father:

I was happy (after my illness), to be able to attend the retreat conference. For a little while yesterday I had the great happiness of waiting on our poor people.

I made up a package of clothing for a little thirteen-year-old boy. He asked for clothes for his little brothers and sisters. After giving him a coat and gloves, and replacing his tattered summer cap with a warm wool cap, I noticed his torn shoes. I immediately brought a pair of good shoes for him. He turned his back to me, and tried to hide his feet while changing shoes. I saw, however, that his almost frozen feet were stockingless. I wish you could have seen the changed happy face of this poor little boy after we had provided him with warm clothing.

If only our good people in the East, who make it possible for us to help God's poor, could see their happiness, and hear their repeated expressions of gratitude, they would feel that they had already received here upon earth the reward of their charity. I remain, your devoted Spiritual Daughter in our Blessed Lady of Victory,

CATECHIST M. C.

### TRAINED LAY CATECHISTS FOR NEW MEXICO.

(Continued from Page 1)

CATECHISTS in the Southwest. It is a well-known fact that Protestantism has made alarming progress in the Border Country during the past few years. It is believed that the influence of the Society of Missionary Catechists, in preserving the Catholic Faith in the Southwest, will be immeasurably increased, through the zealous activities of these trained lay workers.

The Arch-Confraternity of Christian Doctrine has received the unqualified approval and special blessing of His Grace, the Most Reverend A. T. Daeger, O.F.M., Archbishop of Santa Fe.

We are confident that the readers of THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST will follow this new phase of the missionary activities of the Catechists with interest and will pray earnestly for its success.

Have You Joined "The 2500 Club?"

## The Associate Catechists of Mary

**G**OD bless all our faithful Promoters and members of the Associate Catechists of Mary with His choicest New Year's blessings!

Like the three holy kings, our generous members came to the crib of the dear Infant Jesus and laid there the three offerings of their generous hearts: the gold of their heartfelt prayers for poor Missionaries in the Southwest; the frankincense of their charity towards the destitute and suffering little ones of these Missions; and the myrrh of their sacrifices in behalf of the Catechist whom they have adopted as their own.

Surely no one can doubt that the recording angel in Heaven was happy to note the numerous packages containing Christmas gifts of warm clothing, underclothing, shoes, stockings, and hundreds of toys and boxes of candy which were so generously given to cheer the hearts of the poor little children in the Missions during the blessed Christmas time. Just think of it! 46 packages and boxes were sent to our poor lonely Missionary priests. These personal gift boxes for these holy, poverty-stricken priests contained just what they most needed: food for a substantial Christmas dinner, clothing and even underclothing, kerchiefs, overcoats and sweaters. We are certain that the good members of the Associate Catechists of Mary derived much Christmas joy by making these needy, deserving priests of God happy on Christmas day.

The various bands of the Associate Catechists of Mary are composed of a body of the most generous, self-sacrificing souls that could be found in any organization. Faithful, but few in numbers! If we only had more like them!

Dear Juniors:

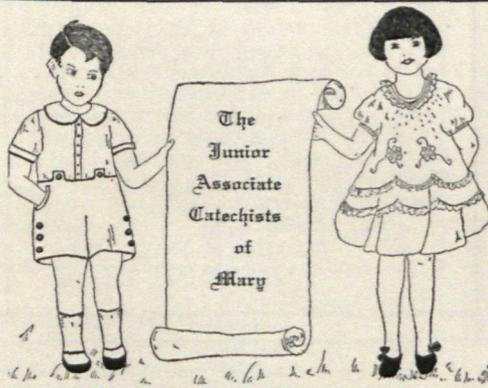
A happy New Year! I am sure you all had a very merry Christmas because you all helped so much to make the poor little children in the Missions happy. All the Catechists were happy, too, when they saw the mite boxes and the many packages of toys and candy you sent for their dear little ones.

Now that the New Year has come, I am sure you are just brimful of good resolutions to do even more than you have already done for your little Mexican brothers and sisters. Did you ever think about them being your brothers and sisters? Well, you see, you are God's children, and they are God's children, too, so you all belong to the same family. And that makes you brothers and sisters, doesn't it?

I want to tell you a nice story about a little girl. I don't know her name, so I'll call her Mary, because I am sure she must be very dear to our Mother Mary's heart. Well, the good ladies were selling things at a raffle so they could send the money to the Catechists. Mary didn't have very much to give, so what do you think she did? She gave her own dolly to be sold! It was only a poor old doll, very much the worse for wear. One leg was broken and its face was cracked, but it was all that Mary had in the world. So, of course, it was very dear to her, and yet she made the sacrifice, and gave it up. Don't you think she must love Jesus very much to do that? I'm just sure the little Infant Jesus must have told His dear Mother to whisper to some kind lady to buy a new doll for Mary. And the kind lady



Help us to start the New Year right! Will Promoters please send us at their earliest convenience a complete list of members with paid-up dues? We are anxious to include each member in our Masses and daily Perpetual Novena to Our Blessed Lady of Victory. We also wish to send each member THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST every month. We are sending out blank membership lists. May we ask our Promoters to kindly fill out this list and return to us by January 15th, so that we may complete our records for the February issue?



did buy her one, a great big pretty one, and Mary got it Christmas morning.

Now I think you are just as unselfish as that little girl, and if you are, there will be some wonderful pages this year in the book of the angel in Heaven who writes down all we do. Maybe some of you don't have many pennies or nickels to put in your mite-boxes, but you know how much sacrifices please our Dear Lord. He can take one penny that somebody wanted very much to spend for candy, but gave to Him instead, and make that penny do as much good as a whole dollar that somebody else gave without making any sacrifice at all.

Now I have some good news for you. There are two little girls in Lafayette, Ind., whose names are Agnes Gates and Marie Reifenrath. Agnes is a cousin of one of our Catechists, and Marie is her little friend. They are going to belong to the Home Band

Dear Catechist Supervisor:

Your letter was received this morning, and immediately we made plans to forward two boxes of clothing, as you directed. The Christmas box will be forwarded later in the week by express to the same address.

We are fortunate in arousing a great deal of enthusiasm among the Daughters of Isabella in Springfield. We have a little over five hundred members and if we can keep up the enthusiasm, I believe we can be of some little help in your work.

The Social Service Committee, of which I am Chairman, is just beginning to function, and we are going to try to form some plan after Christmas by which we can undertake to support a Catechist. Of course this is not a promise, but we believe it can be done. I do not quite understand about the membership in the Associate Catechists of Mary. If we wanted to get a band so that the entire membership would share in the spiritual benefits, how would you suggest that we arrange that—in the event we do not undertake the \$25.00 a month to support the Catechist? I understand if we do that, the entire band will share in spiritual benefits.

If you have an opportunity, you might write us about the First Communion outfits—securing of materials, if we buy it from you or otherwise, and other information so we can get an idea of how much of a financial undertaking it is before we proceed.

I seem to be asking a lot of questions, but I want to keep the ball rolling while our Committee is bubbling over with enthusiasm.

Thanking you in the name of our Circle and assuring you of my most sincere interest in your success and a remembrance in my prayers, I am,

C. A. H.

of Junior Associate Catechists of Mary. And Miss Alberta Dion, from Muskegon, Mich., is going to organize a band for her little brothers and sisters and their little friends. Isn't that fine? I know that you will be so happy to hear that we are getting new members that we need so badly for our Junior Associate Catechists of Mary, and I know that you all join me in giving them a warm welcome. I can't tell you how much I will appreciate it if you will all say a Hail Mary with me every day that we may get hundreds of new Juniors this year.

Won't you get your little friends to organize Bands of Junior Auxiliary Catechists? We would like to have pictures of our Junior AM's. So send your picture even though it is only a snap-shot.

O Jesus, God and Man,  
I wish the whole world knew Thee!  
I will do always all I can  
To bring some people to Thee.  
For little Mexicans I'll pray,  
And Catechists that teach them,  
And put my pennies safe away  
To help Thee, Lord, to reach them.

THE JUNIOR AUXILIARY CATECHIST  
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So Inconsiderate.—Voice over wire.—  
"Madame, your husband has been run over by a truck!"

"Good Heavens! On the afternoon of my bridge party!"—Collier's.

First She: "Have you heard today's gossip?"

Second: "No, I haven't."

First: "Then I guess there isn't any."

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## ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI AND THE CATECHISTS.

By Rev. Fulgence Meyer, O. F. M.

IT was my great privilege and happiness to preach a Retreat to the Missionary Catechists at Victory-Noll in preparation for the beautiful Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Soon after I came to know this body of self-sacrificing young women, I could not help being struck with the close resemblance that exists between the beginnings of their Society and those of the Order of Friars founded by St. Francis of Assisi.

In founding his Order St. Francis struck out into new lines of religious life and missionary work. He broke away from the confinement of monastic institutions, and accorded his brethren a great deal of liberty of movement, so they could go rather freely about the world to preach the Gospel and save souls as the spirit moved them. He did not bind them to cloistral enclosures and permanency. They were to be ready to go where they were most needed and spread the knowledge of Christ and win souls for Him. The day was ripe for just such an institution. The results achieved fully warrant the belief that the plan of St. Francis was an inspiration from on High.

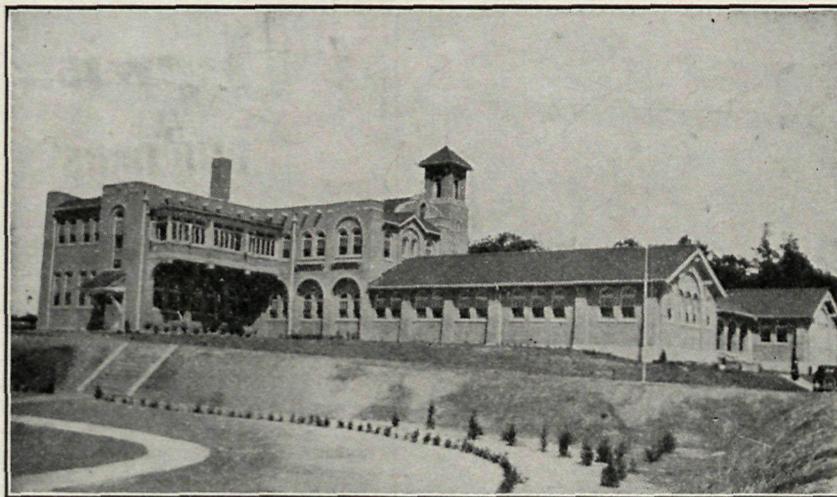
The Missionary Catechists are also disengaged from that cloistral enclosure to which religious women, living in community, are bound as a rule. It is precisely this exemption from cloistral enclosure that enables the Catechists to go to missionary districts and reach those neglected souls so much in need of religious care and instruction. These souls they could not reach and save, were they not accorded a measure of liberty and a certain unconventionality of religious movement and endeavor. The sequel will no doubt show in this case, too, that the time and the occasion were ripe for so new a procedure on the part of religious women, and that the project was inspired by God for the redemption of the poorest of the poor. These poor are the chosen beneficiaries of the Catechists, even as they were the favorites and pets of St. Francis and his brethren.

And just as St. Francis, imitating Our Saviour, bade the brethren to go out upon their missionary work two by two, for their personal safety and increased power, so the Catechists are enjoined by their holy rule never to venture out without a Catechist companion.

And, too, just as the poor Friars went about their missionary labors cheerful and happy, chanting the praises of the Lord and thanking Him for His Mercies, even under the greatest hardships and privations, so, too, the poor Missionary Catechists go about their work of evangelizing the destitute and forsaken with an air of cheeriness and happiness, bespeaking sincere gratitude to God Who has chosen them to toil and to endure all for His holy cause.

In the choice of the religious garb for himself and his Friars St. Francis was original also. He retained the dress of the peasants of the day. In a similar manner the Catechists have practically retained the modest but serviceable and appealing dress of nurses or social welfare workers in the world.

In a vision St. Francis was given the promise by Our Lord that his Order would gradually cover the world and last unto the end of time. There is every reason to hope that Jesus will vouchsafe the same favors of relative ubiquity and constancy to the Order of Missionary Catechists.



Victory-Noll, the Catechists' Training Institute

Soon after he had founded his Order St. Francis had the happiness to know that five of his brothers had gladly given their lives for Christ and His Gospel. And the mere aspect of the sacred remains of these glorious martyrs engendered the vocation to become a son of St. Francis in St. Anthony, one of the greatest saints and missionaries. While the Missionary Catechists may not now have the opportunity of being martyred for Christ in their fields of evangelization, the spirit of martyrdom is not wanting in them. And God, Who rewards the will and blesses the good intention, will not fail to shower down upon the Society those copious blessings in the way of promising recruits and successful work for His glory, which are consequent upon martyrdom suffered in reality.

## ASSOCIATE CATECHISTS OF MARY.

(Continued from Page 6)

The above letter evidences the sentiments of a truly charitable soul. Such a soul not only prays that "God's Kingdom may come" into the hearts of all persons, but makes this prayer very real and effective by her works of charity. The example she gives by these works of charity will do more to promote "God's Kingdom"—God's love in our hearts—than mere words or idle sentiments.

Needless to say, we are always happy to answer questions about organizing and conducting bands of the Associate Catechists of Mary. On organizing a band, each Promoter pledges herself to endeavor to raise, if possible, twenty-five dollars a month. But even though she does not succeed in raising this amount, every member of her band still shares in all the spiritual benefits of the Society.

Material for First Communion outfits, etc., is not purchased from the Society, but wherever the Promoters or members see fit. Even the white dresses of the members may be made over for little girls who would otherwise come to the Holy Table with a little dress of calico or gingham.

Mr. Wm. Roeder, director of the Joyce-Kilmer Dramatic Guild of Chicago, has been giving talks to children in various Parochial schools on the work our Catechists are doing among the poor children in the Southwest. It is Mr. Roeder's intention to get all the Parochial school children he possibly can so interested in the Missions that they will all want to become enthusiastic Junior Associate Catechists. Mr. Roeder, as President

of the Mid-West Catholic Theatre Movement, is sponsoring the production of the wonderful vocation picture, "In the Service of the Queen."

Promoters anxious to instill a Missionary spirit into the hearts of their members which will be productive of stimulating Missionary activities, will do well to book a showing of this photo-play. If you will write us, we will gladly furnish you with full information as to bookings for this film.

Mrs. Klein, generous-hearted Promoter of the Victory-Circle at Huntington, and her zealous members gave an agreeable surprise to the Catechists at Victory-Noll by sending, on Christmas eve, a wash-basket filled—not with wash—but with the choicest assortment of fruits. This very practical gift was delivered by Mrs. Kline and Mrs. Harry Mundus, the new Secretary of the Victory-Circle.

Mrs. Mundus recently succeeded Miss Stella O'Brien as Secretary of the Victory-Circle at Huntington. Miss O'Brien reluctantly resigned on account of ill health. The Catechists, as well as the poor of the Missions, will miss Miss O'Brien very much. As directress of the Order of St. Veronica of Our Sunday Visitor, Miss O'Brien was instrumental in doing untold good for the very poor Missions by supplying them with altar linens.

The Catechists at Victory-Noll truly appreciate Miss O'Brien's services in instructing them in the art of making vestments, and altar linens. She will have a large share in their prayers. May we ask our good members to breathe a little prayer for the recovery of Miss O'Brien's health?

Address all A. C. M. communications to: Catechist Supervisor, Associate Catechists of Mary, Victory-Noll, Huntington, Ind.

Portland, Maine.

Find enclosed check for \$5.00 for the poor in New Mexico. You may use this wherever there is the most need for food and clothing for the poor for Christmas. It will gladden someone's heart on this the greatest of all feasts.

Lately I have been able to get work only part time, but I hope that with God's help things will soon be better.

Sending you and the Catechists my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, I remain,

Sincerely yours,  
C. J. F.

Have You Joined "The 2500 Club?"

New York.

Dear Reverend Father:

On July 23, you wrote me as follows: "Our Catechists will remember you and your intentions in their prayers, especially that your good husband may find suitable work."

The enclosed contribution for three months support of a Missionary Catechist, in accordance with my promise, is evidence enough of the efficacy of the prayers of the Catechists.

My request was answered through the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

I am thinking how dear Mary must be to God and how powerful Her prayers are, since my husband's case seemed hopeless. He has really won out against almost insurmountable obstacles.

Living eight miles away from the nearest Church and with no means of getting there, I thought to remember Mary's goodness to us on Her great Feast Day,—"The Immaculate Conception,"—in order to fulfill my promise to Her dearly cherished Catechists.

That the Christ Child may reward you and the Catechists abundantly is the prayer of

Your devoted friend and well-wisher, ,  
MRS. F. G. S.



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Victory-Noll, Huntington, Indiana.

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