

# The Missionary Catechist





ON a lofty hill overlooking the scenic Wabash Valley stands VICTORY-NOLL, the site of the Victory Training Institute of the Society of Missionary Catechists. Built on the California Mission style, it is one of the most picturesque, and at the same time, one of the most distinctively American Catholic types of architecture in this country.

The erection of the Victory Training Institute was made possible through the sponsorship of our beloved Bishop, Rt. Rev. J. F. Noll, D. D., and Our Sunday Visitor, and through the beneficent donation of Mr. and Mrs. Peter O'Donnell of California.

Dedicated July 5, 1925, the Victory Training Institute has since been the home of the Missionary Catechists where they receive that spiritual formation and training which prepares them for their active missionary labors among the poorest and most neglected children in the destitute Missions of the Southwest.



# Las Posadas

CATECHIST BLANCHE RICHARDSON



THE busy Christmas season is upon us again! From the close of Thanksgiving to the time when the midnight bells peal out of a wintry sky, bidding us hasten to adore the new-born Christ Child, it is a restless, feverish grind of Christmas shopping. What wonder, then, as we wearily sink into our pew, after the last minute shopping, that we are troubled and grieved to find in ourselves so little of the devotion we had hoped to cherish for Him whom we really love best?

But, if we must admit that we are somewhat careless in our spiritual preparation for the coming of the Savior, not so are the devout souls living in truly Catholic countries. Let us take, for example, those of the Republic of Mexico. To most of us, this is the nearest Catholic nation. For the nine days immediately preceding Christmas, the people flock in great numbers every morning to Holy Mass. Their intention, as may easily be surmised, is to manifest their eagerness and yearning that the Christ Child hasten to be born anew in their hearts. Everyone offers up little sacrifices, in secret, these days; and these little self-denials, uncomplained of sufferings, etc., are jealously guarded and offered to our Eucharistic Savior, in spirit, during the Holy Sacrifice, each day, as so many mystic garments to clothe His Infant Body, which suffered from the inclement weather on that Holy Night of long ago, or else as gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, befitting His Royalty. Indeed, so popular is the custom with these dear folk that the pre-Christmas Masses are often referred to as "Las Missas del Aguinaldo"—(The Christmas Box Masses). What charming simplicity!

There are evening services, too. The Christmas Novena, and the Rosary, are recited every nightfall, in public. Lastly, there is the solemn ceremony of "Las Posadas," which forms the principal part of my article. I shall tell it in detail, since most of our readers have never heard of this quaint custom. It is a sort of public reparation to the Holy Family, for the inhospitableness they met with in Bethlehem, the night Christ was born.

Night is closing in upon a peaceful rural section in the State of Aguascalientes. The little cream-colored church of Concepcion, with its cross-

crowned steeple; a small school house, and a trading store of the same colored stone, stand at the base of one of the many low-lying hills. A moment before the sinking sun had gilded the tops of the hills. The gnarled fruit trees, and against the Western horizon.

leafless grape vines appeared black. Three times during the course of the day the sexton had saluted Mary, the Mother of God, by giving the rope in the belfry three vigorous pulls three times repeated, followed by nine successive ones. While the country folk had paused for a moment in the midst of their work to recall the mystery of the Word made Flesh who dwelt among us. But after the evening Angelus, a slight pause ensues and the bell peals out again. It is the first summon to the evening services. For a short while that blessed quiet, which seems universally to reign at the twilight hour, prevails. Then the loud braying of a burro is heard afar off. Next, the distant rumble of a heavy two-wheeled cart and the wolfish barking of dogs are heard, as the mules, bearing

their human cargo, pass a small ranch-house. These are the first-comers. Others soon follow. The clatter of hoofs, and a cloud of dust, herald the approach of mounted horsemen. Again slow-moving figures are seen coming across the fields. Let us note the dress of our people. The men wear full trousers and long loose "sacos" (coats). The "sacos" are of a coarse weave, while the coat worn by the lord of the hacienda is a handsome garment of white cashmere. His wife, too, is easily distinguished by a scarf of exquisite black silk lace thrown over her head and a dress of lustrous navy taffeta. The acreage about the church is a portion of their vast estate. The other persons we see are those who till the fields, garner the crops and care for the estate.

It is strange to note the ultra-modern attire of some of the women, who mingle with those of modest dress, whose bodices are high, whose sleeves reach to the wrists and whose skirts reach far below the knees. Those whose dress is simple and Christian are those who live on the ranches. The others, who follow the fashions of the present day, are shop girls who work in the nearby cities. They are home for a brief vacation.

The bright-colored shawl thrown about the shoulders of yonder boy of ten years is known as a sarape. His sparkling eyes, teaming with excitement, prove that he is keenly anticipating something. (The evening services end in a social gathering, at which a pinata is broken).

The third bell has sounded. The little church is filled with women and children. The men, loitering at the church door, regretfully toss away their "Cigarros," remove their broad-brimmed, high-crowned sombreros, and entered the small doorway. The men take their places on the Gospel side of the church, while the women sit on the opposite side. It is starlight outside, and long, dusky shadows are filling the church as the sexton lights the candles on the small altar and at intervals about the church.

At length the priest enters the sanctuary, preceded by a tall altar boy, and two smaller boys. After reciting a short prayer, the sonorous voices of the choir sing the first Mystery of the Rosary. The priest then leads in the recitation of the Paters and Aves, which are answered by the body of the

(Continued on Page 4)



No Room at Bethlehem

A HAPPY, HOLY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

## Las Posadas

(Continued from Page 3)

faithful. The second Mystery is again sung, and so on to the conclusion of the fifth decade. At the end of the Rosary, the priest invokes Our Blessed Mother as Daughter of the Eternal Father and a Hail Mary is sung. He next invokes



Anticipating "Las Posadas"

her as Mother of the Divine Son and again the Hail Mary is sung. Lastly, he invokes her as Spouse of the Holy Ghost and a third Hail Mary is sung. The Christmas Novena follows.

It is now time for "Las Posadas." Every one has brought with him a candle which he now lights for the procession. It is interesting to note the kind of matches used. They are of about the same length and thickness as ours, but instead of being fashioned of wood, they are of a matted bundle of fine threads, heavily waxed,—like the tapers which our altar boys use to light the candles for Mass. Moreover, they have a head at each end.

The tall altar boy carries the processional cross, and on either side of him walk the smaller boys carrying lighted candles on candlesticks. Next come four young girls carrying a bier-like structure fashioned of wood, trimmed with lace and flowers, on which are placed an image of St. Joseph, and another of Our Blessed Mother. Both images are about twenty inches in height. Behind these small girls walks the priest, wearing a cope, with book in hand, and after him the entire congregation in two files,—the men on the right, the women on the left, with the little children walking between.

Usually a Litany is recited, or a hymn sung en route to the first "posada" or "inn." Such is the term applied to the different stopping places. Since the school-house is nearest the church, the procession wends its way thither. The lighted candles, in the hands of the congregation, gleam brightly in the cool, thin air. There are six members of the

choir. Three of these enter the school house, and the others remain outside.

A musical dialogue follows. Those outside beg a lodging and are firmly refused by those inside who represent the inhabitants of an inn. The procession then moves to a second "posada" where a similar dialogue takes place. Sometimes a third and fourth "posada" is reached before the identity of the Holy Couple becomes known and then a joyous welcome is given them. The entire congregation now joins in the singing.

The images of Our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph are then triumphantly borne into some one of the nearby dwellings, which has heretofore been agreed upon. The parishioners vie with one another for this honor. The whole congregation also enters and passes immediately into the patio, a sort of inner court, with floor of large flat stones, and no other roof than the star-studded sky. Often there is a fountain of water in the center.

### THE CHRIST CHILD

Over the world, with outspread wings,  
The Spirit of Christmas broods and sings  
Of happy, hopeful, peaceful things  
All for you and me.

Who is it that smiles through  
Christmas morn—  
The Light of the wide creation?  
A dear little Child in a stable born,  
Whose love is the world's salvation.  
Charity, wide and deep and high,  
Love, that reaches from earth to sky,  
Peace, that close to the heart doth lie—

All these gifts are free.

He was poor on earth, but He gives us all  
That can make our life worth the living;  
And happy the Christmas day we call

Then what do we care  
For the things that tear  
And rust and fade and break?  
He shows us the way to live.

Like Him, let us love and give,  
For know we not that love will keep

Till our last good sleep,  
And greet us when we awake?

M. E. Watkins—  
From "The Grail".

The hostess serves the priest with a little cup of hot chocolate and a sandwich or two, to typify the hospitality which she desires to extend to the Holy Family, and then the rest of the evening is given over to games, social chats, etc. The crowning event of the evening is the breaking of the pinata. The pinata is a sack filled with fruits and candies, covered over with gay-colored crepe paper, and suspended in mid-air. A rope or wire, stretched from one corner to the other of the courtyard, holds it in place. The children, and even the grown-ups, take turns in being blindfolded and given a chance to strike at the pinata. When someone succeeds in striking it, the contents are, of course, spilled, and everyone rushes to seize as much as possible of the booty. At rare intervals there are



Escaped with the Booty

two pinatas, but it behooves one to be cautious in such a case. Our people are playful and one sack is often filled with sawdust, or something else which showers down upon the one who happens to break it with the stick.

All return home in good spirits, in anticipation of the next evening's devotion with its usual social ending.

"Las Posadas" awaken in the faithful a deep interior devotion to Jesus Christ, His most holy Mother and St. Joseph, whilst the innocent games engaged in afterward foster greater interest and love for one's neighbor. Does not the combination of the two, then, aid in the fulfillment of the first and greatest commandment, and the second one which is like to it? We believe it does.

## Victory Noll's Transformation

**A**FTER four years of intensive effort in landscaping, the grounds around Victory-Noll are indeed beautiful. Visitors from all parts of the country are attracted by the scenic beauty of the "Noll." Like the setting of a jewel, the landscape harmonizes most perfectly with the Spanish Mission type of the Victory Training Institute. Thus, is being realized the desire expressed by our Rt. Rev. Bishop on the occasion of the dedication of the building four years ago, that Victory-Noll should become one of the most beautiful spots in the Central West.

A visitor to the "Noll" today would scarcely recognize these as the same grounds presented to his view five years ago. Then a succession of hill and hollows and tangly masses of vegetation met his gaze. Today the grounds are beautifully terraced and admirably landscaped. This transformation is due to the genius of Mr. Adolph Janicke, one of the foremost landscape architects in the West, a graduate of the Berlin University, School of Landscape Engineering, and a student of the most famous gardens of England and continental Europe. It has been Mr. Janicke's ambition to make Victory-Noll stand out as one of the highest types of Spanish landscape gardens in this country. To Mr. Janicke, who, from a religious motive, donated his services to this work, the Missionary Catechists owe an undying debt of gratitude.

Miss Stella O'Brien, for years a member of the staff of OUR SUNDAY VISITOR and one of our dearest friends, recently resigned her position and left Indiana in search of a climate more conducive to her health.

Miss O'Brien has ever taken a deep, personal interest in the work of our Society. For the past four years as instructress in Tabernacle Work at Victory-Noll, she has rendered invaluable services in preparing the young Catechists for their missionary labors. She was also instrumental, with Mrs. J. Kline, in organizing the "Our Lady of Victory" band at Huntington.

Our grateful prayers follow Miss O'Brien. We are happily confident that distance will not sever the ties of affectionate friendship which bind us together in the service of the Loving Master Whom she served so loyally in the person of the Mission-poor.

In our Mission-Centers the Christmas Spirit is at work 365 days each year.

That the Infant Jesus, the Child of Mary's love, may fill your heart with Christmas joy and New Year blessings is the heartfelt prayer of the Missionary Catechists.

New Mexico is the fourth largest state in the Union.

The oldest existing church in New Mexico was built in Santa Fe in 1637. It is the second oldest church in the United States.

On account of the poverty of the people few churches or even chapels have been built in recent years in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

The Archdiocese of Santa Fe has a Catholic population of 150,000. It comprises 104,000 square miles of territory. Some parishes are bigger than two New England States combined.

There are only 104 Priests to take care of this vast Mission Territory. There are but 54 Parishes with resident Priests.

Archbishop Daeger could use 500 Missionary Catechists.

By supporting a Catechist at \$25.00 a month, you will enable us to supply his pressing needs.

### OUR NEW GARB

For the past five years "THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST" has appeared with the same cover design and under much the same form. Hereafter, it will appear in a new garb.

Several new departments have been added to the magazine during the past year, so that it has become imperatively necessary that we have more space to properly present items of interest which come within the scope of these departments.

This increase in size and change of form of "THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST" will, of necessity, involve a greater cost in its production. Nevertheless, we shall not increase the present subscription price of \$.50 per year. For we are confident that our magazine in its new form will be accorded such a hearty welcome by our loyal subscribers that they will generously second our endeavors to increase our subscription list,—especially our LIFE SUBSCRIPTION LIST—and thus make possible the continued publication of "THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST" at its present price.

## Spain's Heroic Pioneers

Rev. Wm. Henry Sheran, LL. D.

The story of Spanish pioneers in America would fill many volumes, for Spanish conquest meant Spanish conversion. The Spaniard everywhere fought, conquered and converted. His religious earnestness went hand in hand with his martial bravery and quest of gold. His first step was to subdue the Indian; his second was to convert him to Christianity.

The Anglo-Saxon treatment of the Indian, and in most cases the American treatment of him, can be regarded only as a disgrace to civilization. "Slowly and sadly they climb the distant mountain and read their doom in the setting sun." This sentence is a miniature of the historical record of the Indian under our civilization. He was always driven back, always robbed and then told to go West.

Spain, on the contrary, protected the conquered Indian and by special laws safeguarded him in all his rights and privileges. The Indian was first required to be obedient to his new government. By degrees he was educated to become a peaceable subject and a member of the Household of The Faith.



### The Missionary Catechist

Huntington, Indiana

Published monthly with ecclesiastical approbation by The Missionary Catechist Publishing Co.

Subscription Rate: In U. S., 50c per year for single copies; 10 copies or more to one address, 40c each per year. Life subscription \$10.00. Canada and Foreign, 75c per year. Payable in advance.

Entered as second-class matter December 30, 1924, at the postoffice at Huntington, Indiana, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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

Printed by Our Sunday Visitor Press,  
Huntington, Indiana

TASTE THE JOY OF GIVING

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Dear Spiritual Father: Little did I dream, when I still lived in the world, and specialized as a photographer in children's portraits, that there were children so destitute, so ignorant, so neglected, as these I have found on my visit here to Gary, Ind.

I am sending you some pictures of these poor Mexican children, which are only too true to life.

I have found children living with their parents, in damp basement rooms, having as their only play-ground, the foul, unsanitary alley-ways of the city. Some of these children have never slept in a bed—their only bed a pile of rags; their only food, at times, the refuse from the garbage cans of these garbage-littered alleys.

If only our good charitable Catholic girls could see the conditions under which poor little Rosie, the girl in the picture, lives in her unsanitary basement home, how their hearts would be touched! I am sure that they would consider themselves most happily privileged to labor among these poor people, and to alleviate their deplorable condition.

May our Blessed Mother show her love and compassion for Her lowly little ones and inspire good Catholic young women with a vocation to become Her Missionary Catechists!

Sincerely in O. B. L. V.,

CATECHIST LAURA FRANKEN.



Rosie and her little playmate at the door of their basement home, Gary, Ind.

Catechist Loretta Smith, of our Junior Mission House at Indiana Harbor, addressed the convention of the National Council of Catholic Men recently held at Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Her message dealing with the progress of the "Catechist Movement" and stressing the need of lay-co-operation for our un-instructed Catholics, made a profound impression on the delegates.

POOR KIDDIES

There Will Be No Christmas Party! Will you enjoy your Yuletide festivities if you know that in distant California the Catechists are obliged to tell 1000 or more expectant children that, this year, they hope in vain for even a very simple Christmas entertainment?

Kind friends, we are certain you will not permit us to make such an announcement—BUT—!

Protestant Missioners, especially those competing with us to win the children living in the camps, are widely advertizing their elaborate parties. The Catechists can promise nothing! Up to the present time, very few boxes have found their way to our Center at Dos Palos, and we need oodles of candy, trinkets, toys, holy pictures and other little things which make pretty and inexpensive gifts for the little ones. Our big problem is to attract the children of parents who are indifferent, or even opposed, to the Catholic Faith due to the influence of Protestant proselytism.

Dare we disappoint the kiddies and risk losing them to the Protestants? Oh, where can we find a Santa who will help us fill 1000 or more stockings and gladden many innocent little hearts in distant California?

CATECHIST O. Dos Palos, Cal.

PIONEERS

Grant, N. M.

My Dear Sister Catechists:

Thanks to Jesus and Mary we arrived at our destination at last!

The scenery about San Rafael, our temporary Mission Center, is mountainous and very beautiful. Our house, however, is as dilapidated a hut as I ever expect to see;—and dirty! We shoveled out loads of adobe dust before we considered moving our few belongings into it.

CATECHIST M. SRILL.

IN THE HOME FIELD

Most of the windows in this house are broken and just boarded shut. A stand, wash bowl and pitcher donated by our native people, a couple of chairs and a small table, made by an old Franciscan Brother, and a few beds comprise the entire furnishing of our humble home.

The shipment of kitchen utensils donated by the good ladies of St. Peter's parish has not yet arrived, so we bought four cups, one small kettle, one cheap



Their only playground—

frying-pan and one small paring knife. The latter served as butcher knife,—we bought a slab of bacon—bread knife, butter knife and family table knife. The kettle served as tea-kettle, coffee-pot and general all-around cooking kettle.

And we had company at table! Father Robert stayed with us for three meals. Fortunately, he is an old and tried Missionary and understood very well why our menu for the day read: Breakfast: bacon, bread and coffee. Dinner: bread, bacon and coffee. Supper: coffee, bacon and bread.

All the Catechists are cheerfully making the best of things and praying that the first of next year will find us established in our new home and Mission-Center at Grant. But this will only be possible through many more generous donations which I am confident will not be refused to us who build our hopes and future plans upon the help of Jesus and Mary through the kindness of our friends and benefactors.

IN THE HOME FIELD

LETTERS TO SANTA

Anton Chico, N. M.

Dear Santa:

I need lots of close an tings, but kin I pleez hev a big xmas dinner wid terkey an I-scream an everting like dey say the rich folks hev? Just dis once, Santa, Pleez! I tank you. ALEJANDRO S.

\* \* \*

Now that's just like a boy! And he shall be disappointed.



re-littered alley, Gary, Ind.

We are sorry, Alejandro, but even dear old Santa can't carry a prepared Christmas dinner to far-away New Mexico in his bag with all the toys, candies and clothes most children ask for.

\* \* \*

Dear Santa: Anton Chico, N. M.

I need a prayer book bad. Will you please bring me one, Santy? With a Rosary and some candy and maybe a string of beads. I'll pray the Baby Jesus to help you with the big bag of toys, it must be very heavy.

Good-by, Santy. LUCIA A.

\* \* \*

EVIDENT PROGRESS

We have had a wonderful year at Cerrillos, N. M., thanks to Almighty God and our Blessed Lady of Victory. The people were never so united as they are now. There has actually been no murder or knifing or shooting scrapes for two years, due to the wonderful influence of the Catechists. This formerly was a common occurrence.

FR. OLIVER, O. F. M.



The Catechists have recently extended their field of labor to take in three extensive Missions in New Mexico with centers at Grant, Chaperito and Santa Rosa.

Don't forget these needy, new Missions when you send your Christmas Mission boxes and offerings.

A HOT DIET

What do you think about feeding beans and hot chilli to five-month-old babies? That is what many Mexican mothers were doing here in New Mexico before the Catechists came to instruct them in the proper care of infants.

ENOUGH TO GO AROUND

C. R. T.

"In all your many Missions, Heaps of kids like me abound. Aren't you scared, at Xmas time, There won't be toys to go around?"

I looked into the child's dark eyes Where age-old secrets seemed to sleep; And lived again one Christmas Eve Whose painful memory I keep.

There were not enough to go around; I was gay beyond compare. They left me out—and then explained. I smiled and said I didn't care.

But a pain was born within my breast And grew with passing time. Though Age has bleached by raven hair, It has not healed that heart of mine.

Yes, we have many Missions Where "heaps" of needy "kids" abound. And we are "scared" at Xmas time There won't be toys to go around.

But it depends on you, good friends, Who hear our pleading prayer, How many lonely little ones will have To smile and say, "I didn't care."

THE DANCING ORGAN

Cerrillos, N. M.

Dear Sister Catechists:

I'll never forget the Services at Golden on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi because that day I had the occasion to play on a "dancing" organ. Of course you are smiling. But let me tell you about that instrument. It was a portable affair which seemed to stand firmly enough until I struck the keys. Then it swayed and bobbed up and down in the most aggravating way! This made it difficult for me to keep it full of air and as a result it missed a few notes every once in a while. Catechist D., the acting infirmarian at Cerrillos, sat beside me with a very solemn face and finally asked in a whisper, "Do you suppose the poor thing has asthma?"

CATECHIST B.

BELOVED OF GOD

Tears rolled down the brown cheeks as I related the century-old, but ever-beautiful, tale of Joseph and Mary seeking refuge in a damp, cheerless cave so that the baby Jesus might be born there according to the Divine Will.

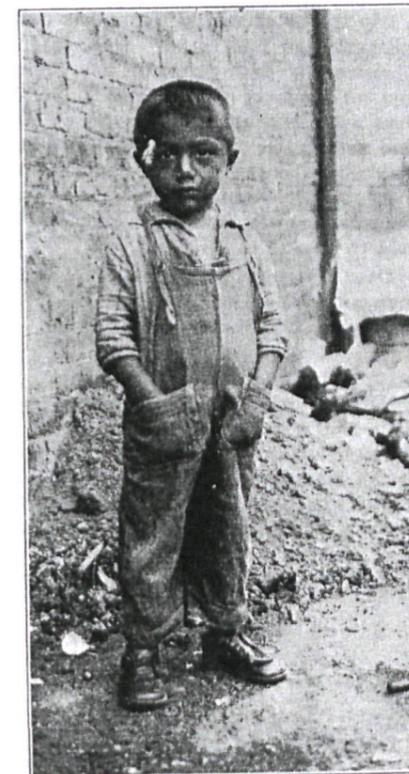
No, it was not my telling the story which moved the class to tears. It was deep sympathy with the Holy Family in all the sufferings and humiliations endured that memorable night.

I conduct the Catechism class in a big barn which serves as the center for this particular settlement. I call it a settlement, but in truth it is an extensive cotton ranch several miles from Lubbock, Texas, on which about a dozen families live. The people are all housed in dilapidated barns. One large family has for its dwelling a tiny, old chicken coop too low to permit a tall person to stand erect.

Cotton picking affords their only means of subsistence and this year the crops were a failure. Imagine the condition of these already desperately poor people!

But to return to the children:—Coming, as they do, from cold, barren barn-homes, it required no effort to impress upon their minds the poverty and loneliness of the Holy Pilgrim sheltered in the stable at Bethlehem. They understood and wept; I, though mindful of the suffering stamped upon lives governed by WANT, blessed the poverty which made them kin to God.

CATECHIST L.



"Will Santa Forget Me Again?"

TASTE THE JOY OF GIVING

SHOW THE TRUE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT



# Mary's Little Helpers

CHRISTMAS EVE—and we find in almost every home a beautiful Christmas tree, dolls, sleds, books, games and toys of every description; candy and all the other good things that Santa usually brings. This is a happy time for all the little girls and boys. Oh, aren't we the lucky children and hasn't our Dear Lord been more than good to us? He has given us a good home, a kind and loving mother and father and on this happy Christmas every heart should be overflowing with happiness. But—are we thinking about anybody else besides ourselves? When we are happy, it is often so hard to remember that there are others who find nothing but sadness and heartaches instead of the joys that should come with Christmas. Now let us imagine we are taking a trip to one of our poor Missions to see what we can find there! Shall we find Christmas trees, toys, candy, new dresses and all kinds of good things? No, indeed not. In nearly every home we shall find sadness, sickness, hunger—poor little children, who are so cold because their homes are cold and cheerless and because their clothes are too thin to keep out the cold.

Dear Little Helpers, let's take Christmas out to these children,—at least, just a tiny speck of it. And it won't be hard for us, if we all do our share. If each Little Helper would send at least one little gift, just think of the many hungry little hearts that will be made happy on Christmas Day. It's not so much the gift as the thought that somebody loves them—that somebody is thinking of them and wanting them to be happy too, even if they are many, many miles away.

Your gift doesn't have to cost a great



deal. Perhaps you even have something at home that you could send. Perhaps you have a dress that you don't like to wear any more. Have Mother fix it up, wash it and send that. Maybe there is a coat, or a pair of shoes, a pair of stockings, a waist, a pair of warm gloves or a little handkerchief. Then there are the toys that you don't play with any more. The little Mission children want to play games just like you do—they like to play baseball and football and all the games that you play. Why not play Santa and furnish some of these things they need? Then, on Christmas morn when you go to visit the Dear Little Infant in the Crib, tell Him that you have given Him a Christmas present by giving to His poor. If you do this, these poor little boys and girls will offer their Christmas present for you. As they kneel before the Crib of the Infant Jesus in their poor little Mission Chapel, they will tell Him how kind you have been to them and ask Him to bless and reward you.

San Bernardino, Cal.

Dear Catechist Supervisor:

I am a little girl eight years old. Mother says—if I fill one of your little mite boxes with pennies I have saved, she will let me send twenty-five cents to buy one of those pretty little M. L. H. pins. Please would you send me one or two of those little mite boxes to fill?

I am a Catechist subscriber.

LAURA JEAN JOHNSON.

Joliet, Ill.

Dear Catechist Supervisor:

I wish to join "Mary's Little Helpers" so that I may become more interested in the missionary work in the Southwest.

I am only twelve years old and am in the eighth grade at the Sacred Heart School of our Parish. The Dominican Sisters teach us and they are very good teachers.

I get your Missionary Catechist Magazine each month and I am very much interested in it as it impresses me very much in my future life.

I hope that my joining this little Association and my prayers will help greatly in the work of the Catechists and Missionaries. I hope you can send me a pin because I will be very eager to wear one.

I hope that the Blessed Virgin will take care of all this good missionary work and help it.

May God bless all of you good people who are doing so much good.

I am with my Jesus, E. W. G.

HAVE YOU TRIED THIS RECIPE?

Take one large box,  
One ham (bacon will do),  
One pound of dried prunes, figs, or any dried fruit,  
One pound of beans, peas, etc.  
One pound of coffee,  
One pound of tea,  
A few articles of clothing (shoes, hose, etc.),  
A sheet, pillow cases, a blanket, or some towels,  
A couple of bars of soap, tooth brushes, etc.,  
A few pounds of nuts and candy to sweeten,  
Pack carefully, wrap well, address plainly and send to one of our Missions.  
Tell your friends about this recipe and have them try it also.



Lafayette, Ind.

Dear Catechist:

I received your letter today and was glad to know that you received my little offering to the Victory-Noll Missions.

I have never been enrolled as one of Mary's Little Helpers, but I would like to be a Little Helper and will do all I can to help you in any way at all.

If you will please write and tell me what I am to do, I will gladly do it.

Very sincerely yours,

R. FITZSIMMONS.

Merry Christmas, Little Helpers—I hope Santa will be good to you and bring you all the good things you ask for, but most of all, my greatest Christmas wish for you is that Our Dear Infant King will kindle in your hearts a great love for Him and His Blessed Mother. And when you kneel before the Crib on Christmas Morn, don't forget to pray for all the Catechists and the poor little boys and girls in the Missions.

The Catechist Supervisor,  
Mary's Little Helpers.

# The Associate Catechists of Mary

**H**AVE you packed your Christmas box yet? And if you haven't, are you getting it ready? And will you try to have it reach its destination in time for Christmas? Time is growing shorter, Christmas is drawing nearer and soon the air will again be ringing with the joyous Glorias. Christmas comes but once a year, therefore, let it be the happiest time of the year. And the way to make it happy is to give and to think of others, for we all know, that to give is infinitely better than to receive. We have been "receiving" all our lives from Our Dear Lord; now, let us show our gratitude and love to the Giver of all gifts by "giving"—and what could be more pleasing and acceptable to Him than "feeding His hungry" and "clothing His destitute little ones of the Missions" as our Christmas gift to Him? You may be sure that He will not be outdone in generosity. You will receive a hundredfold for what you have given, even in this life.

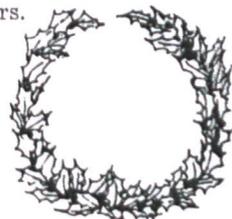
## LISTENING IN ON BAND ACTIVITIES

The annual Catechist Party sponsored by St. Joseph's Band under the direction of Mrs. C. Service was held at Republican Hall, 4740 West Madison St., Chicago, on October 1st. Bridge, Five Hundred and Bunco were the chief diversions of the evening, and as usual the party was well attended, everybody manifesting the zealous missionary spirit. The Tuesday Nite Band and promotor, Mrs. Wm. Flannigan, and The Saturday Night Band and promotor, Mrs. George Singer, were also present.

The amount realized at this party was enough to support a Catechist in the Mission Fields for one year.

Mrs. M. Glesson entertained the members of the Sacred Heart Band at a very successful party. A substantial amount was realized on the doll which was donated by a friend interested in our work.

The Sacred Heart Club sponsored a very successful party last month at the home of Mrs. George Seely, in honor of the fifth anniversary of the club. The amount of good work done in those five years by this progressive club is without a doubt recorded in the Book of Life in gold letters.



One of our greatest Christmas joys is the thought that at Victory-Noll and Victory Mount the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for the loyal promoters and members of Every Band of Associate Catechists of Mary, including the Victory-Noll Home Band. And each day during the holy Christmas season as our Catechists kneel before the Crib of the Infant Jesus, they will remember in a special manner the intentions of all our A. C. M. workers and the members of their dear families.

 Please ship all items intended for the needy missions direct to our mission centers. Address: "Society of Missionary Catechists" at:

- 1 Anton Chico, New Mexico.
- 2 Chaperito, New Mexico.
- 3 Dos Palos, California.
- 4 Grants, New Mexico.
- 5 620 W. Fifteenth St., Gary, Indiana.
- 6 Holman, New Mexico.
- 7 3868 Block Av., Indiana Harbor, Ind.
- 8 Box 30, Montezuma Route, Las Vegas, New Mexico.
- 9 Cerrillos, New Mexico.
- 10 Lubbock, Texas, Box 1658.
- 11 Santa Rosa, New Mexico.
- 12 Catechist Blanche Richardson, Supervisor of Archconfraternity of Christian Doctrine, Victory-Mount, Las Vegas, New Mexico.

Express and freight shipments for Holman, Anton Chico and Chaperito are sent via Las Vegas, New Mexico.



South Bend, Ind.

Dear Catechists:

At a recent meeting of the St. Joseph Mission Society it was the desire of the members present that we continue the support of a Catechist for the coming year.

I am enclosing our check for \$50.00 as our first payment on our pledge. This amount is for the months of September and October.

We are very happy to be able to assist in this great work which you are doing. I hope it may be possible for some of our ladies to visit your institution at Victory-Noll and I am sure it would be a great pleasure for us.

With best wishes to all the Catechists from the St. Joseph Missionary Society, I am,

Very truly, MRS. A. P. PERLEY.

Dear Catechist:

I am enclosing check for \$35.00 for our last four parties. Two weeks ago today Mrs. Hincks gave her party and it was the most successful one we have had. Mrs. Hartman had a very good party today and we decided to have one next week at Mrs. Luetkenhus' house, as we are anxious to have a few extra parties before Christmas.

We distributed the Christmas stockings to the members to be sewed in order to get them ready in time so we can send our boxes early.

With best wishes for continued success, I am,

Sincerely yours,  
NELLIE A. WAINWRIGHT.

Mrs. James Marron and Mrs. J. Byrne, both of Chicago, recently entertained at the home of Mrs. Marron, the proceeds of which were sent to Victory-Noll to be used for the Missions.

Rev. Father McCabe and another priest who had just returned from an extensive trip through the Southwest, gave interesting talks about the conditions as they exist among the Missions under our care.

Visitors at Victory-Noll during the month of October included Mrs. C. Service, Chief Promotor of the A. C. M. in Chicago, and Mrs. J. S. Scheuer.



**AND SEND IT EARLY**

## Through Mary To Jesus

“AND entering into the house, they found the Child with Mary His Mother” (Matt. ii, 11).

Mother and Child! Child and Mother! “Whom God hath joined let no man sunder.” This emphatically is the union between the Immaculate Mother and the Child Divine put forward on the front page of the first of the Gospels. There and everywhere “you shall find the Child with His Mother.” So has it been ever since on earth, and so shall it be until the end on earth and then for ever in the world without end in Heaven.

“Jesus came into the world through the most Blessed Virgin Mary and it is through Mary that He is to reign over the world. Dear clients of Mary, when shall this happy time, this century of Mary come? This time will come when the devotion which I teach shall be known and practiced.”—Blessed de Montfort.

Like our Infant Savior let us place ourselves in entire dependence upon our Heavenly Mother and show our sincerity by joining the Confraternity of Mary, Queen of Our Hearts, which fosters the practice of the True Devotion.



Enclosed find membership fee of \$1.00. I wish to be enrolled as a member of the Confraternity of Mary, Queen of Our Hearts:

Name .....

Address .....

The receipts of the Methodist Board of Missions for the year 1928 were \$2,789,-867.00. In addition to this, they have a balance in their trust fund of \$901,275.00. They spend over \$37,000 for publicity work alone, which shows that Protestant Missionaries are awake to the necessity of reaching the public through the printed as well as the spoken word.

Compare the meagre sum of \$375,-787.00 contributed by Catholics for Home Missions last year with the above and note the difference!

This month 20,000,000 dolls will be on sale for Christmas gift buyers. Wonder how many of these dolls will go to poor little Mexican children?

Our Annuity Plan, in addition to its spiritual benefits, offers you security for the money you invest (at least 6% interest) and the assurance that the principal will be applied according to your intentions for the benefit of God's poor.

Small sums are accepted. Interest is paid semi-annually. For further particulars relative to this plan write:  
REV. SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR,  
Society of Missionary Catechists,  
Huntington, Indiana.

Intentions received at Victory-Noll will be included in the public Stations recited by the Catechists in the Chapel at Victory-Noll every Friday.

## How Can I Help?

The approaching New Year brings to all zealous Catholics this all-important question: HOW CAN I HELP CARRY ON THE WORK OF SAVING SOULS?

“The Missionary Catechist” has an answer to that question for each individual according to his means:

FIRST: Unite with the Catechists in praying JESUS and MARY TO BLESS THEIR MISSIONARY LABORS WITH A FRUITFUL HARVEST OF SOULS during the New Year.

THEN: JOIN THE 2500 CLUB. Its aim: 2,500 persons contributing \$1.00 a month for a year. This will provide for the support of 100 Catechists for one year.

CONTRIBUTE \$25.00, thereby providing for the support of a Catechist for one month in the Mission Field.

ADOPT A MISSIONARY CATECHIST by helping build up a new or an existing Burse.

SEND \$10.00 FOR A LIFE SUBSCRIPTION TO “THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST.”

SUBSCRIBE TO “THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST” for one or more years.

Send in YOUR MITE every NOW and THEN.

## Infant Jesus Burse



During this holy Christmas season, nothing could better prove our love for the Infant God than a generous gift in His honor. Jesus is not satisfied with our adoration alone; He also asks that we make Him practical offerings,—that we

give to the poor who are His particular friends.

No doubt our friends would be glad to show their devotion in a very special way by helping us COMPLETE the Infant Jesus Burse during the month of December.

The Divine Babe will not fail to bless and reward those who honor Him in the person of the poor.

Chicago, Ill.

Dear Editor:

I am enclosing \$1.00 and beg you to place my name on the 2500 Club membership list for support of Missionary Catechists. I think the 2500 Club is a fine idea and hope that many good Catholics will join.

Will send balance later.

Sincerely,

H. S.

Montreal, Canada.

Dear Rev. Father:

Enclosed please find a ten-dollar money order for a Life Subscription to The Missionary Catechist. I have been getting your bright little magazine for a number of years, and I like it very much. May God bless you and the good work you are carrying on!

Yours Respectfully, THOMAS F. S.

## In Memoriam

It is our bounden duty to remember our departed relatives and friends. Besides helping the Souls in Purgatory for sweet Charity's sake, we should have in view the desire of the Sacred Heart to hasten the entrance of these faithful departed into the glory of Heaven. Every day the Catechists offer special prayers for their departed friends. Special Masses will also be offered for the happy repose of our departed benefactors and their dear relatives. Surely our subscribers will welcome the opportunity of having their dear departed included in these Masses and prayers.

During this month the following faithful departed have a daily remembrance: Miss Lida A. Coghlan, Miss Mary Ransford, Mrs. Emma G. Colvin, Mr. Joseph McLaughlin and Mr. Daniel Harrington.

MAY YOUR NEW YEAR BE BLESSED IN EVERY WAY

DIOCESE OF AMARILLO

Amarillo, Texas,  
October, 1929

Dear Reverend Father:

It gives me great pleasure to comply with your request in giving my approval to the Constitution and Rules of the Society of Missionary Catechists of Our Lady of Victory.

As I have stated before, it is a splendid field for the work of the Catechists in this Diocese, as well as in many other places of the great Southwest where we have poor Mexicans.

Since the Catechists have located at Lubbock, Texas, for a little over a year now, I am in a position to judge them by the fruits of their labors. I am thus convinced that the Society can be of great assistance in the work of the Church among the poor Mexicans.

Since the people among whom the Catechists devote themselves are exceedingly poor, it will take a long time before parochial schools can be established, especially in the less populated districts, for the benefit of the Mexican children who, together with their elders, are constantly subject to the proselytizing efforts of the Protestants. For this reason the Catechists will be in demand as pioneer missionaries among these poor people.

Wishing you every success and praying God to bless you, I remain,

Most sincerely in Xto.,

✠ R. A. GERKEN,

Bishop of Amarillo



# Christmas Cheer-O-Gram

To—THE MISSIONARY CATECHISTS,  
Address—VICTORY-NOLL, Huntington, Indiana.

### M E S S A G E

I Cheerfully contribute \$.....to encourage and sustain the  
MISSIONARY CATECHISTS in their self-sacrificing labors among the poor, the  
sick and the uninstructed little ones of the Missions.

.....  
.....



**WANTED:**

**Loyal Friends**

**Devoted to the Cause**

**Of our NEEDY, HOME MISSIONS:**

**To get at least five new subscriptions—**

**To “THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST”—**

**Twenty-five would make us happier! New Subscriptions**

**Mean new friends for our work; New Friends mean greater**

**Co-operation; Greater Co-operation means more Catechists**

**In the Field; and more Catechists in the field mean**

**MORE**

**SOULS**

**SAVED**

**OUR AIM — AND YOURS!**