

The Missionary Catechist



The Night of Nights!

It is night time in Bethlehem. The twinkling stars are studding the deep-dyed dome of Heaven. With the advent of darkness the motley masses that thronged the narrow streets of the city have melted away. The busy world is at rest. The night wind rises among the low lying hills and gently, as though it feared to awaken the sleeping universe, sweeps down the pastoral slopes, and loses itself amid the stony ridges. All created things are silent with a great silence, an expectant silence, a hallowed silence!

Yes, it is night time in Bethlehem,—the night time of a holy night!

Outside of the city,—about a mile as man marks distance,—is a cave, a stable cave, where an ox and ass are wont to be housed. They stand there now, quiet and motionless, safely sheltered from the winter's night.

Before them, reclining on the straw beside the manger, but dimly discernible in the feeble, glowing light of a crude, red lantern hanging from a projecting rock, are a woman and a man. Clothed in a mantle of mystery and majesty and peace they rest,—Mary and Joseph! The deep, regular breathing of the animals as they stare and wonder and wait does not break, but rather enhances, the sweet silence which broods over all. Their moist breath rises in the cool cave and the cobwebs overhead catch and hold tiny drops of water as they condense lest they fall and distract the repose of their guests. All things are ready; God is content!

A brilliant celestial light floods the cave! The dumb brutes fall on their knees and bow their heads. The cobwebs overhead sway gently as to the rhythm of unheard music while the many drops of water held captive in those tangled meshes,



The Virgin adoring the Infant Jesus

gleam with the brightness of diamonds,—or perchance of angel's eyes!

The light of glory is gone! Darkness, broken only by the dim lantern light, reigns once more. Silence?—Ah! a cry, a Baby's cry, thrills the hearts of Mary and Joseph and sends a tremor of delight through the crouching beasts. A babe,—an Infant God weeps in Its Mother's Arms!

Centuries have passed! Busy, bustling masses still rest in the quietude of welcomed night. Stars still shine in the vaulted skies; dumb animals still find kindly shelter from winter blasts; alone, the Infant God still weeps!—not now in His tender Mother's arms, but in the little ones so dear to His loving Heart; weeps on in the person of poor suffering babes—Mexican babes—undernourished, scantily clad, a prey to numberless diseases. Weeps on in the person of the little ones whose infancy and childhood are painful periods of suffering and want; whose only cradles are the tired arms of work-worn mothers whose tears flow fast as they press wasted forms to their breasts,—not the tears Mary shed kneeling beside her shivering Son in the manger, knowing He was God, but bitter tears of loneliness and despair.

It will soon be night again, the holy Christmas night. Remembering Mary and Joseph, Bethlehem and our weeping Savior,—poor, rejected, unknown,—let us, according to our means, send joy to the children of God's poor. Let us remember that what is given to the Christ Child's little ones is given to Him!

Christmas boxes and offerings may be sent to our mission poor in care of the Catechists at the following centers:

- 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 Avenue, East Chicago, (Indiana Harbor, Indiana)
- 8 Box 30, Montezuma Route, Las Vegas, New Mexico
- 9 Cerrillos, New Mexico.
- 10 Lubbock, Tex., Box 1658
- 11 Santa Rosa, New Mexico
- 12 Catechist Blanche Richardson, Supervisor of Archconfraternity of Christian Doctrine, Victory-Mount, Las Vegas, New Mexico
- 13 Calipatria, Calif., box 533
- 14 Santa Paula, California 222—8th St.

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



The Missionary Catechist

Volume VI

Victory-Noll, Huntington, Indiana, November, 1930

Number 12

The Religious Education of the Spanish-speaking People in the United States

THERE can be no doubt that the Mexican problem is one of the biggest problems confronting the Church in the United States today. All those acquainted with this Mexican problem will agree that at heart it is a religious problem. Unless we bring religion to the Mexican people and give solid religious instruction and Christian training to their children, these Catholic people who have kept the Faith for centuries will be irretrievably lost to the Church.

To those who have made a serious and prayerful study of this problem it is no unknown fact that the Spanish-speaking people of our vast Southwest were, for many years, due to the lack of missionary Priests and religious teachers, deprived of the saving means of religious instruction, the reception of the Sacraments and the services of our Holy Religion.

You have heard much of the sad plight of the Mexicans who have crossed our border in such vast numbers during the past ten years. Due to the iniquitous anti-religious laws promulgated by Juarez in 1856, large numbers of these people who have come from the various states of Old Mexico, were for years deprived of the services of Priests or religious teachers. By reason of these laws the Church was not permitted to function as she should, with the result that, in rural districts especially, and even in some of the cities, the children of the poor were deprived of the advantages of religious instruction and Christian training.

To give some idea of conditions in Mexico today, we quote from a statement made some time ago at Victory-Noll by the zealous Archbishop Gonzales of the Archdiocese of Durango, Mexico: "I have six hundred thousand Catholics in my diocese. The government permits

us to have only twenty-five Priests to minister to the religious needs of these people. We have no parochial schools, no religious teachers to take care of the Christian instruction of our children."

Under such conditions is it any wonder that we find so many of the Mexicans who have crossed the border ignorant of the principles of Faith? The great wonder of it is that they have kept the Faith at all! How many American Catholics would have done so under similar circumstances?

Now, since these Catholic people have come to us from across the border in such great numbers, before God there

differing from the ordinary means must be devised to meet and supply the religious needs of these poor people.

Due to their dire poverty they are unable to erect or support churches or schools. In many cases, on account of the prejudice existing against them, they have met with rank discrimination at the hands of Americans. Saddest of all, cases have been found where they have either been refused admission to our churches, or have merely been tolerated.

Being unskilled laborers, they must make their living as best they can, and so we find in the Southwest, and, to a large extent in the Central West, many of them are engaged in seasonal labor, moving from place to place with the possibility of employment, camping in fields, living in box cars or dwelling in miserable shanties unfit for human habitation. To the beet fields of Colorado and to the cotton fields of Texas and California these Mexicans emigrate, carrying their whole families with them into the fields. Hence it comes about, that they have little or no opportunity for receiving religious instruction or attending the Holy Sacrifice of the



Visiting a Texas Farm House

rests upon us the responsibility of safeguarding their Faith lest, due to our negligence, it be weakened, or perhaps altogether lost.

We must solve this problem of providing religious instruction for the children of these, the poorest of our Catholic people! We must make an effort to solve this problem of religious instruction now, or later on there will be no problem left to solve.

The problem is not an ordinary one. It cannot be solved in an ordinary way. Due to the poverty of the people and the fact that they live in scattered districts or are engaged in seasonal labor, it is manifest that means and methods

Mass.

In the famous San Joaquin Valley, in the diocese of Monterey-Fresno, California, thousands of Mexicans, their wives and children, labor in the cotton fields for three or four months of the year. Their work finished, they go on to the vineyards and orchards and finally end their year's work in the canneries at the north end of the valley. Since these people have so little opportunity of going to church, and their children still less opportunity for receiving instruction through the ordinary channels, the Church and Catechism must be brought to them.

(Continued on page 4)

"HE WHO SHALL SAVE A SOUL SHALL SAVE HIS OWN"—ST. AUGUSTINE

Letter To Mary

All For Jesus Through Mary!

Canyon Escondido

My Dear Mary,

Oh, for a painter's brush or a poet's pen! The lights and colorings are marvellous in the Sunshine State. Nature has donned ball-room attire. The ghosts of Spanish dancers, who brightened the gay old Capitol of Santa Fe, live again in yonder mountains and recall the memory of mysterious accounts by traders and trappers of Fandangos held in historic Santa Fe before the coming of the "Americanos". The pine-scented air reminds one of the cascabels filled with perfumed waters which laughing dancing-girls, with scarf in hand, would break upon a partner's head and, like shadows, glide noiselessly away.

Of course you're smiling at my fancies, so I'll write about life's stern realities; and what is more real than death? I wish, nevertheless, that you could see crimson chili peppers strung on low, drab walls, or mountains draped with the scarlet and gold tapestries of dwarf oaks which flank their sides.

Last Sunday, we made a brief call on Senora Aguilar, a grief stricken widow, whose husband died two weeks ago. She has two little children and she plans to take them to Colorado, hoping to find employment for herself and support for all. We went to her husband's funeral. Did I tell you about it? He belonged to a fraternal society and an

all-night vigil over his body was held in a neighboring *morada*. Happily, the deceased man had a funeral Mass. We are striving to impress upon our poor children the fact that wakes, elaborate ceremonies etc., are nothing in comparison with the infinite value of ONE Mass offered up for a departed soul. Having Mass so seldom, they cannot appreciate very well its priceless value.

On the day of the burial there was a procession to the graveyard or "campo santo" as it is called. First came the women and children; then came the members of the fraternity,—three supporting their banner and one carrying a large crucifix. Here, too, was the Hermano Mayor with a reed whistle, conspicuously giving orders. Next came the

widow and chief mourners. Lastly, the pall-bearers with the coffin, followed by the Priest, vested in surplice and stole, reciting the office of the Dead. He was often interrupted by the pit-pit-pit of the reed whistle, and plaintive Spanish hymns.

A sacrifice that's promptly made
Is worth two—in measure!
A cheerful giver, who gives with
love,
Is a precious treasure!

There was the usual blessing of the grave accompanied by prayers for the departed and interrupted by suppressed sobs and moans. The procession back to the church afterwards, was less orderly. The ceremonies had been long and everyone seemed fatigued. Many of the babies in the arms of their mothers whimpered while the little children were tired and fretful. There were brief but heartfelt words of sympathy to the bereaved ones, and then was heard the rumble of wagons over the stony roads as they disappeared shortly around the brow of a hill.

You would master well a noble art,
So you might do great deeds?
Then learn the art of being kind,
It is all this sad world needs!

Such is a funeral in New Mexico. Truly the subject I chose for my letter is a little dismal, yet, let us not forget that some day ours shall be a similar lot. It matters little how we are buried

Let us commend to Jesus Christ
and His Holy Mother the souls in
Purgatory, in particular those of
our relatives, benefactors, friends,
and enemies; especially those for
whom we are bound to pray, by
the bonds of charity or justice.

provided we have saved our immortal souls.

"While my body here
decays
Let my soul Thy
goodness praise."

Let us pray for the faithful departed.

Yours for the reign of Jesus and Mary on earth.

—Catechist Blanche Richardson.

OUR OWN FAR WEST

Is a vivid and interesting illustrated Mission Lecture, written and prepared especially for the Crusade, by a Missionary Catechist. It may be rented for a nominal fee from:

National Headquarters
Crusade Castle Shattuc Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio
See in Pictures what the Catechists are doing for Home Missions!

O most sweet Jesus! by the sufferings Thou didst endure during Thy most bitter Passion and death, have mercy on the Poor Souls in Purgatory. O Mary! Queen of the Souls in Purgatory, come to their aid by Thy powerful intercession.

THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OF THE SPANISH-SPEAKING PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES.

(Continued from page 3)

"Mature consideration has convinced me," recently wrote Bishop MacGinley of the diocese of Fresno, California, "that the only solution of this problem is the establishment of auto-chapel cars which will follow these itinerant laborers from camp to camp, carrying Missionary Priests who will say Mass, give Missions, and instruct the people wherever they go, and Missionary Catechists who will travel in their own cars among these laborers, catechizing the children and preparing them for the coming of the Priest. In this way and in this way only can anything whatsoever be done for these poor people who know no permanent home and who constitute at present one of the greatest problems of the Church in California."

When our Catechists, at the invitation of Bishop MacGinley, established a Mission Center at Dos Palos, two years ago, they met with considerable opposition on the part of the American Protestant

ranch owners, who refused to permit them to teach Catechism in the public schools after the regular session. Nothing daunted, the Catechists led the children out upon the public road, hung up Catechism and

Bible History charts on the trees and shrubs, and, in imitation of their Divine Saviour, Who Himself taught along the public highway, they imparted religious instruction to these children of the poor. Then, when the rainy season started, they were compelled to devise new means for bringing religious instruction to the children. They purchased a large bus holding seventy children, divided it by means of portable partitions into class rooms and so taught the children. On Sundays the partitions are removed, the bus is driven to the various camps and towns and the children brought to Mass.

New Mexico, which is settled by Spanish-Americans, offered no such obstacle to the religious work of our Catechists. There the schools are controlled and taught by Catholics, and, as a result, our Catechists have access to them at all times. They go out daily from their Mission Center to the various school districts irregularly visited by the Missionary, and there prepare the children

for the reception of the Sacraments. Our largest Mission Center is located at Victory-Mount, near Las Vegas, New Mexico.

At Lubbock, in the diocese of Amarillo, Texas, the Catechists found school conditions among the Mexicans most deplorable. The poor Mexican

children living in the outskirts of this large and growing city were compelled to attend school under unsanitary conditions in a tumble-down shack. Due to the effective work of the Catechists in

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THE "SPANISH BAYONET"
(Charles F. Lummis)

One of the most universal plants of the Southwest, common alike to the lofty, pine-clad plateaus and the burning deserts of three or four thousand feet less altitude, is the Palmilla, the "Spanish bayonet," also called Amole. These long bayonet "leaves", tipped with a needle-pointed thorn, were pounded up and cleansed of the pulpy matter, leaving a mass of tough slender fibers excellent for thread and for weaving. Of these fibers the Cliff-dwellers wove their sandals—some of them so compact as to outwear good sole leather. It is a beautiful little touch of the vitality and sincerity of the art instinct in primitive man that we find the soles of those sandals wrought in beautiful raised patterns, though they were to be worn out upon the sharp gravels and abrading lavas. It is literally true that no act of life with the ancient Pueblos was so trivial or so selfish as to be without a distinct religious coloration and motive; and no article of use so trivial or so base that it must not be made beautiful. The pulpy root, by the way, of this sandal-making amole is a natural soap, better for the human hair and for woolen fabrics than any manufactured in civilization.

Please renew promptly.

Morenci, Arizona

Dear Catechists:

Allow me to send a little mite to help your poor. We know their plight having so many of them among us.

This is an offering of gratitude to our Lord for the wonderful work of your Society. May He bless it to continue in its providential mission with our poor Mexicans.

Recommending my people and myself to your prayers, I remain,

Yours very sincerely in Christ,
E. C.



NOVEMBER—AT VICTORY-NOLL

CONTRIBUTE TOWARD THE SOULS IN PURGATORY BURSE

The Missionary Catechist

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

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Huntington, Indiana

Read Something Worthwhile

By Rev. A. J. Blaufuss

THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS
by Sister M. Emmanuel, O.S.B.; Herder Book Co. \$1.75.

These devout reflections for the month of the Poor Souls cannot be read without feeling a strong desire to aid our suffering brothers and sisters. Only two points of doctrine regarding the Holy Souls have been defined by the Church, namely, that purgatory exists and that we can help the souls detained there by our suffrages. The authoress, therefore, had to draw largely on private revelation to corroborate her statements.

Practical suggestions to help the Poor Souls are added to each chapter. Besides obtaining generous relief for the suffering Souls we believe this work will inspire a salutary fear of sin. We bid this work God-speed in its twofold mission of atoning for sin and preventing its commission.

GENERAL CONFESSION MADE EASY by Rev. A. Konings, C. S. R. Benziger Bros, Chicago. \$0.25.

A clear and up-to-date little catechism on general confession, telling not only how it is to be made but when it is necessary, when it is useful and when it is harmful.

Corydon, Kentucky

Dear Catechists:

Enclosed you will find p. m. o. for \$7.50 in honor of St. Jude in thanksgiving for prayers answered.

MRS. T. D.

My riches, properties, earthly possessions are not mine by right. I hold no title to wealth. These things have only been loaned to me by Almighty God. I am in conscience bound to devote them to their proper use. I shall be answerable for their use or misuse. Therefore, I must use them to promote God's Glory. And God's glory is promoted by co-operating in the salvation of souls. "He who saves the soul of another shall save his own soul."

Rev. Father:

Enclosed is \$1.00 for a Mass to be said for the benefit of the Poor Souls in thanksgiving for a favor received.

D. S.

TRUE DEVOTION TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER AND DEVOTION TO THE SOULS IN PURGATORY.

All true servants and slaves of Mary are also devoted to the Souls in Purgatory. They never forget them in their needs. Through the most pure hands of their Blessed Mother, they offer up the merits of their good works for the relief and deliverance of the Poor Souls. Freely and generously do they make a gift of the satisfactory merits of their good works in behalf of the suffering Souls. In the intentions which they offer for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and Holy Communion and in all their prayers, acts of self-denial and other good works, they make a charitable remembrance not only of the souls of their own dear departed, but also of the most abandoned souls,—those souls who have no one to care for them, or to pray for them. Realizing how ardently their most Dear Mother desires to see the poor Souls delivered from their sufferings, they offer, through her Immaculate Heart, the merits of their good works, for their speedy deliverance.

"Most Holy Queen of the Souls in Purgatory"—they pray,—“Obtain grace and mercy and relief for these poor Souls, that being delivered through the Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, they may soon be numbered among the saints in eternal glory. Obtain for us the grace also to be truly devoted to the Poor Souls and to devote ourselves faithfully every day to procure the deliverance from Purgatory of these souls so dear to Thy Immaculate Heart. Amen.”



The Home of a Prosperous Rancher

BORROWED JOY

Not long ago a little tot of five came running up to me, her dark eyes fairly beaming with pride and excitement. Marie had permitted her to hold her doll. It was a good-sized doll but old and battered. One arm was gone and a foot was nearly broken off. Most of painted hair had long since disappeared. The little one held the doll up for me to admire.

"Look, Catechist," she cried, "Maria let me hold her doll! Es muy bonita, verday?" (It is very pretty, isn't it?)

Suddenly she hugged the doll close and looked up longingly at me. "Oh, how I wish I had a dolly, too!" she sighed. I comforted her by saying that if she prayed real hard to the Christ Child perhaps He would send her one for Christmas. Now I am praying hard too that this poor child, and many, many others like her here in Calipatria, California, will not find their prayers unanswered on Christmas day.

CATECHIST MONNOT.



BACK AT WORK

Catechism classes are in full swing. Twice a week eight Catechists go to Las Vegas to teach in the two public schools. With the help of Jesus and Mary we expect to organize clubs for our poor women, for girls and for the boys. Father Garcia promised to do all he can for the boys so that is sure to be a success; and we trust the others will also, with the help of our Blessed Mother.

We were happy to open a new Mission, Ojitos Frios, about twelve miles from Victory Mount. Three Catechists work there every Sunday. As is usually the case when our zealous Missionary priests are unable to reach out of the way Missions we found boys and girls fourteen and fifteen years of age who have not made their first Holy Communion. We should like to take in still more new out-missions but would need more Catechists or more days in the week in order to do it.

CATECHIST S. RENIER.

Llano is a tiny place hugging the foothills near Las Vegas, New Mexico. When you visit the people of Llano, you are immediately impressed with their deep-rooted faith and sincere piety. You would not be surprised at this, however, if you knew that every evening finds these simple, humble folk assembled together in the little, old church reciting the Rosary and singing hymns. Our Blessed Mother is watching over them and blessing them for their devotion to Her.

CATECHIST SULLIVAN.

Vaughn, N. Mex.

Dear Father:

I am enclosing \$10.00 for a LIFE SUBSCRIPTION to THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST.

I sure wish we had some of the Catechists here; this would be a fine field for them to work in.

Kindest regards and best wishes to yourself and all the Catechists, J. S.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT AS A GIFT—

IN THE HOME FIELD

NO ROOM

The other day a lady came to us for help. Her gas has been shut off for several days and she had no way of preparing food for her seven children. Her husband works only three days a week and as they pay twenty-eight dollars a month rent, they have hardly enough money left to buy the necessary food without paying any other bills. We visited her home and found it to be three little basement rooms. "Why don't you move into a cheaper house, or at least into one where you get decent living quarters for the price you are paying for these miserable quarters?" we asked. She answered us tearfully: "Madre, when we look for a better home the first thing they ask is how many children we have. When I say 'seven' they will not let us move in. No one wants the children."

I felt sorry, not only for the poor children, but also for the heartless persons who could treat God's little ones in such a manner. I am sure that in Heaven poor parents and their still poorer children will be given a better welcome.

CATECHIST MARY WHITFIELD, Gary, Ind.

In these days when we hear so much of the Social Service activities of our big organizations of Catholic men and women, it is a source of the greatest consolation for our Catechists to know that they have the unwavering support in their charitable works of one of the greatest Orders of the Country—THE DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA. Although this organization is not given to "spread eagle publicity" in publishing its various works of charity, still the good it has done and is doing in behalf of poor Missions and Missionaries is truly marvelous. For such works it merits Heaven's choicest blessings.

On Thanksgiving Day the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered in our Chapel at Victory-Noll in honor of Our Blessed Lady of Victory for the intentions of all our dear benefactors and friends.

AT VICTORY-MOUNT

At Victory-Mount, near Las Vegas, New Mexico,—our largest Mission Center—is located our Preparatory Training School for Spanish subjects. Following the completion of their preliminary course at Las Vegas, these subjects continue their studies at the training house proper of the Society, Victory-Noll, Huntington, Indiana, where, at the end of the three-year course of training they make their profession. Last year the first four subjects who entered Victory-Mount were professed. Since the very beginning of their missionary career they have done excellent work. Coming from the people, knowing their language and customs, these Spanish Catechists are a very important factor in bringing religious instruction to the children of their own race. At the present time our Society numbers among its members thirteen Spanish-speaking subjects.

Though winter has scarcely begun we already hear one pitiful story after another: Marcos can not come to school because he has no clothes and Mrs. T. can

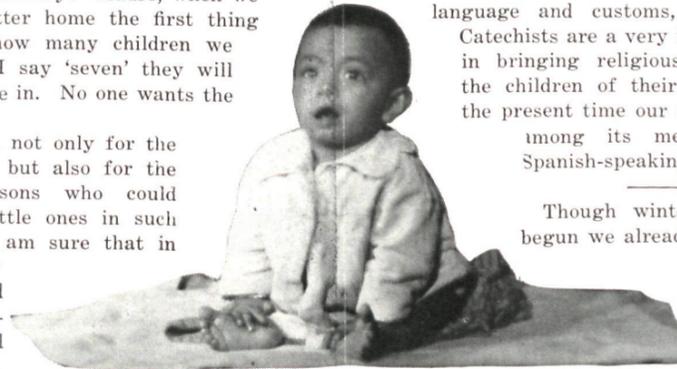
not come to Mass because her "tapalo" (shawl) is so worn that it keeps no cold out at all. But what touches us most deeply is that children like our little Juanito come to Catechism instructions barefooted and shivering with the cold, saying, "I came even though I didn't have any shoes.—But, Oh, Catechist, it's cold!"

CATECHIST EDNA LIKE, Chaperito, N. M.

While visiting today we found the mother of a family of nine lying at the point of death. The oldest child, a boy of nineteen, was on the floor in the next room suffering with pneumonia. The father had died recently. It was supper time and there was not a bit of food in the house.

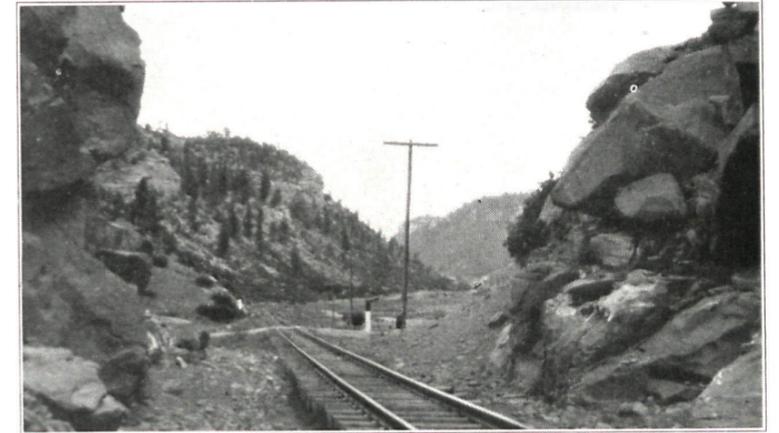
This is just one of the many cases we have found that demand immediate relief. CATECHIST E. FURST, Brawley, Calif.

Stretch out thy hand to the poor, that thy blessings may be perfected. (Eccles. vi., 36).



Laboring in districts where the infant death rate is appalling, the Catechists exert every possible effort to save these innocent victims. But they can do little without your help!

On the Way to the Franciscan Father's Missions, Lumberton, N. M.



HARDER TIMES AHEAD

It seems so good to be back with our dear "Mejicanos".

Most of the people from the ranches we visited last week attended Mass Sunday and many of the adults remained with the children for the instructions we are giving after Mass. The cotton crop is very poor this year so our poor people will soon be out of work again. The cotton picking season is expected to close sometime before Christmas. The pickers are getting only half as much for their work as they earned other years.

CATECHIST CAMPBELL, Lubbock, Texas.

(Continued from page 4)

charge of this mission, the School Board has now promised to provide better school facilities for these poor children, so that it will be possible to assemble them for instruction in a building amply sufficient to accommodate them.

The influence of the Catechists is not restricted to their Catechism classes. In their daily house to house visits they reach into the homes of the poor, where they find many parents who need to be instructed in their duties, reconciled with the Church and brought to Mass and the Sacraments.

The religious problem of the Mexican is a gigantic one. Providentially the Society of Missionary Catechists was formed some ten years ago to do its part in solving this great problem. Although we realize that under the powerful protection of the glorious patroness of our Society, Our Blessed Lady of Victory, gratifying results have been achieved in the expansion of our work in the Southwest, much still remains to be done.

In the words of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Lynch, of Dallas, Texas, we may truly say:

"This problem is so vast that it cannot adequately be met with the resources of a diocese. Daily it assumes ever-increasing proportion; hourly the need of action becomes more imperative. We must not fail in a duty so sacred and leave the field to those who can sow only cockle in what ought to be the garden of the Lord."

IT'S WINTER AGAIN

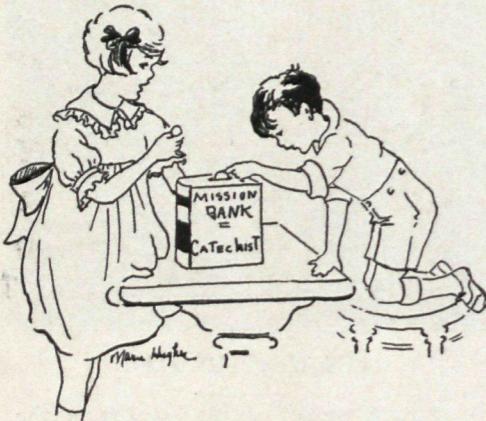
Strong winds sweep down from the mountains across barren plains—The approach of winter, even a mild winter, instills fear and dread into the hearts of the poor. Huddled together in their little adobe huts, lacking proper and sufficient food, fuel and clothing, and often visited by sickness and Death, the Grim Reaper, we find many families powerless to improve their own condition yet, hoping against the hopelessness of a dark future, that relief may come from somewhere. To such as these, the canned foods and clothing sent in mission boxes and the cash donations, however small, come like a welcome benediction. Then, warmly clad, they make their way on foot across mountains and fruitless plains for many miles to assist at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Adopt a Missionary Catechist by helping build up a new or an existing Burse.



A SUBSCRIPTION TO "THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST."

Mary's Little Helpers



Dear Little Helpers:

I wonder if you wouldn't all like to hear about my trip to Dilia, New Mexico? Dilia is one of the pretty little towns near the Catechists' Mission at Anton Chico. Most of the people there have farms. It is interesting to see how they get the water for their farms from the Acequia (pronounced aseckia). Acequia really means ditch. But a ditch that is twelve feet wide looks more like a river to me. The water in the Acequia comes from the Pecos River. You see, New Mexico is a very dry place, and if they waited for rain to make their crops grow, they wouldn't have any crops. So, a couple of years ago they built a big dam, so that all the farmers would have plenty of water. All year around the Acequia is filled with water except in January. Then the water is let out and the Acequia is cleaned. After it has been thoroughly cleaned out it is filled with water again. All along the Acequia there are beautiful cotton trees called Alamos. These trees are covered with little cotton pods and when they ripen the pods break open and cotton flies about in the air. They showed us where Mass had been offered up after the dam was finished. An altar was built right at the side of the dam and one of the Missionary priests said Mass and blessed the dam. They also told us that the Catechists from Anton Chico sang the High Mass that day. That must have been nice, don't you think so, to have Mass in the open air right beside the rushing waters? They showed us another place back of a little church where you can get water too—when it rains. There are several great big rocks there all grouped together. They are all hollow. They are called "Tinajas" (pronounced tinahas) which means vases because they look like vases. I wondered how anyone could ever hollow those rocks out. But I soon found out that they had not been dug out by hand but by the action of rushing waters. When there isn't water in these rocks, the boys and girls have a good time playing in them. There are little ledges inside of the rocks, like steps, so they can get down into them. Some of these rocks are pretty high. I thought it would be a good place to play hide-and-seek because nobody would ever see you after you get in there.

Oh yes, I found something else in this little town that I thought was pretty nice. The people built the prettiest little stone church there. They got fine looking red sandstone rocks in the nearby

mountains and the men of the town built the church themselves. During the month of November all the people and the children come to their little church and say the rosary every day for the Poor Souls in Purgatory. I think it would be nice if we all did the same, don't you? So, let's all pray for the poor souls real hard during this month. Shall we?

Till next time,
WEE WILLIE WINKLES.

The Little Flower Club of Chicago sent us a nice big check for \$25.00 for the feast of their patroness, the Little Flower. Marie Garrity had a big party at her house and that is how she made all this money. This little band is working very hard for the new Little Helpers Burse. Besides this, they have also adopted our Chaperito Mission to work for. Just now they are making plans for a party for the poor children in Chaperito.

We are still waiting for some more Little Helpers to suggest names for the



burse. We are not going to publish any until we get a few more.

Just think Little Helpers, not even one dollar was received for Wee Willie Winkles First Communion Fund this month. Have all the Little Helpers deserted Wee Willie Winkles? But maybe you are all saving your pennies to buy Christmas presents for the poor Mission children, are you? I hope you are, because I am afraid it is going to be a sad Christmas for most of our poor people.

Dear Missionary!

I am nine years old in the fourth grade in St. Michael's school. Mother gets the Missionary Catechist and I like to read about Mary's Little Helpers and I would like to know how to join them. I have twenty pennies saved for them. I have two subscriptions for The Missionary Catechist which I am sending you.

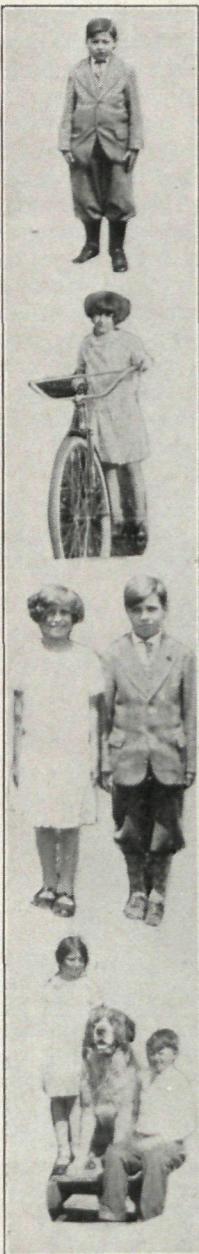
Yours with love, LOUISE LAWLER.

Meinrad Wirtz is working hard to help the Missions. He saved enough pennies to get his pin, he got enough subscriptions to get his statue and gets new Little Helpers to join.

Helen Baumann sent her own little First Communion outfit to one of our poor little Spanish girls. She also worked hard and got some new subscriptions.

Henry and Anna Czolba live in Pittsburgh and they save their pennies for Wee Willie Winkles First Communion outfit fund.

These three Little Helpers live in New Mexico—Peggie and John Cassidy and their dog Nap. When Peggie isn't getting new subscriptions, she is selling chances on something for the Missions.



The Associate Catechists of Mary

"Catechist, have you got some shoes?" Six times in one day we heard this question, and for the sixth time we had to answer "No tenemos zapatos (We have no shoes)", is the story of one of our Catechists from Indiana Harbor. Shoes are in great demand, especially for the children. Now that school has started, the parents try to provide shoes at least for the children who go to school, but that means the little ones at home must suffer. It is not an uncommon sight to see small children walking around in cold weather without shoes and stockings. Last winter in one home we found a little girl three years old barefoot; on the floor a tiny baby was lying in a box covered with a little red coat and nothing else, and the thermometer registered several degrees below zero. One little boy had nothing on but a pair of ragged overalls. This is just one of many such cases. If we could only provide shoes for these children it would be the means of preventing much sickness, which often develops into tuberculosis. You, no doubt, have a pair of shoes that will fit some of these little ones.

BENEFITS OF THE ASSOCIATE CATECHISTS OF MARY.

1. A special Mass is offered on the First Friday of each month for the living and deceased members.
2. Members are included in the special Mass in honor of Our Blessed Lady of Victory which is offered every Saturday at Victory-Noll for benefactors.
3. Their intentions are included in the memento made for all the members daily in the Masses offered by the Missionary Fathers connected with the Society, as well as in the special prayers which each Catechist recites twice daily for benefactors and in the perpetual novena to Our Blessed Lady of Victory.
4. The intentions of the members are likewise included in the perpetual novena made by the Poor Clare nuns for the Society and its auxiliary members.
5. The intentions of the members are included at the famous shrines of the Sacred Heart in France, Our Lady of Lourdes, Lourdes, France, Our Blessed Lady of Victory, France, and Our Blessed Lady of Victory Shrine at Lackawanna, N. Y.

WHAT SHALL I DO?

—for my dear departed ones during the month of the Holy Souls? Enroll them as perpetual members of the ASSOCIATE CATECHISTS OF MARY. The dues, which are \$10.00, are applied to the Souls in Purgatory Burse. By doing this you insure your loved ones of a continued remembrance in the Masses, Communions, prayers and good works of the Catechists laboring under this Burse; also in the prayers of the little ones under her care. You may also enroll them as yearly members for fifty cents. This is a twofold act of charity—you pray for your departed and also help to keep a Catechist on duty, thus enabling her to save souls.



Giving First Aid in the Open Air

6. Members share in the spiritual benefits of the Catechists.
7. They gain a direct share in the Missionary labors, merits and prayers and good works of the Catechists and the children under their care.
8. Upon notification of the death of any member, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered for the happy repose of his soul.

Some of our good A. C. M. friends have started a new Self-Denial Club. All that is necessary to join, is to deprive yourself of some little amusement, or luxury, each week, or each month, and give the amount you save to the Missions. One lady has promised to give up four card parties a month and send the \$2.00 for a Burse. Another has given up luncheons and buys toys for the poor children with this money.

Miss Marion Dillon has organized a new Band in Chicago. The members of this band have pledged a certain sum each month for first aid supplies for our Clinic at Las Vegas.

Miss Anna Heaney and the members of her Club deserve congratulations. This club was organized eight years ago, and in all that time they have never failed to send a check for \$25.00 each month for the support of a Catechist. The club meets every two weeks and each member pays a dues of \$1.00. They play cards, serve refreshments and have a good time. The secret of this successful club is the splendid cooperation between Miss Heaney and her members, and after eight years all of the original members still belong to the club. It surely must be a source of great happiness to these noble girls to know that they have contributed \$2400.00 to the support of the Sacred Heart Catechist.

BAND ACTIVITIES.

St. Francis of Assisi Band, Hamilton, Ohio, have added \$100.00 to the St. Francis Burse, as the result of a successful card party.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary increased their Burse by \$15.00.

Mrs. Wainwright and her members have had several successful parties and sent us \$52.75.

Our Blessed Lady of Victory Circle, Huntington, continue their good Mission work and they have also sent us \$25.00.

It doesn't take much to make some people happy. The other day a little old blind lady in a hospital was given a rosary by our Catechists, and the expression on her face would have made the donor of the rosary quite happy. The beads were very large and far apart, and as the lady told us, "Now I can feel my beads and pray without getting mixed up."

ANOTHER WAY YOU CAN HELP!

By saying an extra "Hail Mary" each day for the Catechists and for the poor Missions.

Now is the time for every Catholic, especially in our own country, to take an active part in Home Missionary Activities because of the rapid development of our Home Missions. Every Catholic wage-earner could, and should consider it a part of his duty to set aside a certain amount each week for the Missions. It need not be a large sum, because every penny counts in relieving the condition of our impoverished Catholic Mission people.

VICTORY-NOLL NOTES

Among the recent distinguished guests at Victory-Noll were Mr. Zach T. Dungan, Mayor of Huntington, Ind., and Mrs. Dungan.

Mayor and Mrs. Dungan were much impressed with the beauty of Victory-Noll,—building and grounds. Their genuine interest and appreciation of the work our Society is doing and the ideal for which it stands is ample proof that, in them, we have found two loyal friends and supporters.

Devotion to the Holy Souls
A prompt response should find
In every human heart and breast,
And every noble mind.
By faith and reason it is taught,
And clear as day is made;
It blesses those who help the dead
As well as those they aid.
It rests upon the two-fold love
Of man below and God above.
—Rev. P. J. Cormican, S. J.

ESTABLISH A BURSE

Each Catechist is supported by means of a Burse. A completed Burse amounts to six thousand dollars. Donations, no matter how small, will be gratefully accepted and applied towards whichever Burse the donor may designate.

Table with 2 columns: Burse Name, Amount. Rows include Souls in Purgatory Burse (\$500 00), Queen of the Souls in Purgatory Burse (5 00), Incarnation Burse.



OUR SOLEMN CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Christmas will soon be here. Prepare for the coming of the Divine Child!

No doubt our subscribers and friends will be anxious to unite with us in making the Solemn Novena in honor of the Nativity of our Blessed Savior. Every evening before Our Dear Lord exposed in the Blessed Sacrament, all the intentions of those who send in their petitions will be offered to Him through the heart of Our Immaculate Mother.

Join us in this Novena and send your petitions as soon as possible so they reach us before the opening date—December 15th.

- Spiritual Favors
Temporal Favors
Special Favors
Restoration of Health
Employment
Conversions
Peace in Families
Vocations
Successful Operation
Happy Death
Poor Souls
Miscellaneous

Name
Address

Your list of Christmas gifts should include Subscriptions to THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST.

TO MOTHER

All for Jesus through Mary!
Cerrillos, New Mexico,

My Dear Mother:

Loving greetings to you, dear Mother, from "The Souls in Purgatory Mission" during this, their own special season!

Our Mission-Center, with its family of five happy Catechists, has been the scene of constant activity since our arrival early in September. Most of our people here in Cerrillos as well as those living in the nearby town of Madrid are employed in the coal mines. Since these mines operate only one or two days each week, you may well imagine the poverty of some of our poor families.

Knowing that you will be interested in our surroundings, I must tell you that Cerrillos is a Spanish word meaning "Little Hills." Fittingly does it describe our "placita,"—town—as it nestles in the valley of the arroya, surmounted on one side by the lofty Sandia mountains, on the other by the "Sangre De Cristo" (Blood of Christ) range. Our Spanish-American population is largely descended from the early Spaniards. At no great distance from our little home, may be found many points of historical interest. A twenty-five mile drive brings us to Santa Fe, the city of Holy Faith.

Each morning the call of the bell brings one hundred and seventy-five or more of our boys and girls to the public school for the daily session of classes and study. Not the least interesting period to which they look forward is the one following the afternoon recess which is devoted to the giving of religious instruction by the Catechists. Studying the life of Our Divine Savior is a thrilling experience for our dear children. One little fellow expressed his admiration for Our Lord in these glowing terms: "Catechist, Our Lord was a great big man, bigger than George Washington, wasn't He?"

The Sacred Heart of Jesus must have rejoiced on the last First Friday at seeing ninety-four of our children receive

Arizona
Reverend dear Father Sigstein:
Thankfully we acknowledge that your prayers and ours have been heard. Thanks to Our Blessed Lady of Victory and the Souls in Purgatory for interceding for us in our earthly needs.
From unhopd for sources my husband obtained a good position. Now we hope to be able to pay some of our debts and in the near future we will try to help fill one of the Burses for the Catechists. In the meantime we pray that Our Dear Lord will bless and turner your noble work.
We also hope that the Missionary Catechists may soon be able to come to Arizona and labor among the many Mexican cotton pickers. The Catechists could take care of the poor.
The nearest Church is twenty-seven miles away and most of these people are really too poor to go so far for Mass.
Oh, if the rich could only see and understand how much good they could do by helping to support the Missionary Catechists so that they in turn could help the poor Mexicans to be faithful to their Holy Religion and save their children to our Faith!
Surely yours is a worthy work, God's Work, and we hope to be able to help it along.
Sincerely yours,
G. F. E.



An Out-Door Class

Holy Communion in His honor. Some of the children came from Waldo, several miles distant, and brought their breakfast. Next month we hope to have an increased number present.

This week we are beginning our special art and sewing classes for the older girls with a prayer that our dear friends and benefactors will assist us to provide the materials, and also that they will remember our poor children as the Christmas season draws near.

Duty bids me postpone my telling you of Madrid,—another of our large missions,—until my next letter. Praying Jesus and Mary to bless you.

Your child in O. B. L. V.,
CATECHIST MARY.

Ruthland, Vermont

Dear Father:

Kindly send me information regarding your ANNUITY PLAN. I have a few hundred dollars which I should like to leave to your Society after my death.

Begging God's choicest blessings on you and the Catechists, I am,

Very sincerely,
M. E.

Have you considered investing in our ANNUITY PLAN whereby you not only insure yourself of a regular income during your life time and the charitable use of your money after death, but also of a continual remembrance in the prayers and good works of the Catechists laboring among the neglected poor in the mission districts of our Country?

Chicago, Illinois

Dear Catechists:

Enclosed find \$10.00 for a LIFE SUBSCRIPTION to the Missionary Catechist. I take many magazines but none of them appeal to me as much as your little publication. It touches the right spot!

I shall try to get others to subscribe.
Sincerely,
M. D.

The Month of the Poor Souls

Joseph Wulff, Los Angeles, Calif.; Mrs. Minnie Keenan, Mr. and Mrs. Piedad, Mr. Walter J. Manion, Mr. Harry Whalen.

"May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace."

The Importance of Missionary Work

Rev. P. J. Geraghty

Words are powerless to picture the importance of missionary work. No interest here below, individual, corporate or national, can compare in magnitude with the Propagation and Preservation of the Faith. The human soul is worth what the Blood of Jesus Christ is worth. For six thousand years it had engaged the thought of the Triune God. For the propagation and preservation of Religion through a period of four thousand years, God sent His prophets, whose toil and interest absorbed every human energy and called for Divine aid. So vast was the magnitude of this incomparable work that, when the fullness of time was come, God sent His only begotten Son Who condescended to bleed and die for the salvation of souls. The Apostles also regarded this work of such momentous importance, that they endured hardships, suffered imprisonment, and even death itself for the love of immortal souls.

In every age God has raised up Mis-

Material help is a positive necessity for successful achievement in missionary work as in any other undertaking. Missionaries should not be forced to cajole funds from us. They are our representatives, our soldiery in the field where the battle for souls is being waged. It is our duty to keep them in supplies.—Merlee Mullane.

sionaries. Since the death of the Apostles, God has raised up apostolic men,—Missionaries whom He has sent to propagate and preserve the Faith.

The Missionaries who sacrifice the comforts of home, the company of relatives, and the riches and glory of this world, do it not to procure temporal happiness, but eternal happiness for themselves and their fellow-men. Missionaries, like their Divine Master, go to seek and to save that which was lost. They establish the Kingdom of Christ and preserve it here upon earth.

The progress of the work accomplished by Missionaries in every age is most inspiring. Neither rivers nor lakes, mountains nor moorlands form obstacles for the exercise of their apostolic zeal.

Every new Country has been considered a mission field for centuries after its discovery. The same is true of our own Country.

Among those working in our Home Mission Field of the Southwest,—a Field rich in possibilities for good,—are the Missionary Catechists,—partners of the First Great Missionary, Jesus Christ, in saving the souls of the poor, the ignorant and the neglected for whom He suffered and died.



WHAT

IS THE 2500 CLUB?

THE 2500 CLUB is an Association of charitably disposed Catholics devoted to the cause of God's needy little ones in our home missions.

WHAT ARE ITS OBLIGATIONS?

To pray for the Missionary Catechists and their work, and to contribute at least \$1.00 a month, or \$12.00 a year toward their support.

WHY

WAS IT ORGANIZED?

It was organized at the request of one of our loyal friends who realized the necessity of sending fully supported Catechists into the mission field. The Missionary Catechists go only to the poorest mission settlements and districts. They labor only among those destitute people who are too poor to support Priests, Sisters or Parochial Schools. They rely entirely upon outside means for the support and maintenance of their work. Even though times are very hard, still many Catholics can, by making a little sacrifice, contribute toward the support of a Catechist, thus enabling her to feed, clothe and nurse the poor. The 2500 Club was organized for these charitable Catholics.

WHO

MAY BECOME A MEMBER?

Any Catholic. Every Catholic. YOU!

HOW?

By sending your membership application, together with your initial payment to the Society of Missionary Catechists, Huntington, Indiana.

WHEN?

TODAY! NOW!

Dear Catechists:

Date _____

Please enroll me in The 2500 Club. I am enclosing \$ _____ dues
for _____ months.

Name _____

Address _____