

# The Missionary Catechist



God's great open spaces often serve as Catechism Centers for our Catechists at Dos Palos, Calif.



*Victory-Noll  
Woods In a  
Mantle of White*

Denton, Texas, November 21, 1930.

Readers of THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST will be edified by several pictures which are seen in the November issue. The one on page 6 represents a Sister with a shovel in her hand filling a wheelbarrow with good soil. Will children and old folks despise manual labor when they see a Sister enjoying it?

Page 9 shows devoted Sisters giving medical attention to children on the outside. That is a good lesson to those who are under the impression that such work can only be done in costly hospitals.

Do not miss looking at the picture on page 10. It seems the building is not safe, so classes are given on the outside. Education does not depend on beautiful buildings, but on those who are devoted to their calling. The great Sermon delivered by Christ was under the blue sky at the foot of a mountain.

REV. R. VERNIMONT.

*Victory-Noll  
Drive,  
Always Inviting,  
Is Doubly So  
in Winter Array*



# The Missionary Catechist

Volume VII

Victory-Noll, Huntington, Indiana, January, 1931

Number 2

## A New Missionary Field In California

Rev. L. S. Callahan, D. D.

Many souls have been won and lost, many priests have labored in the vineyard of the Lord since the days when Fray Francisco Garces, in the year 1768, ventured amongst the Indians on the plains of the interior of California. The work of this zealous Franciscan, the most fearless explorer of all, has not been forgotten, nor the thirst for souls that led him to set out alone and on foot to minister to the Indians in the virgin stretches of an unknown country of savages. But above all else, we remember his salutation: "Viva Jesus!" (long live Jesus) which meant to his zealous heart, "May Jesus reign," or as we say in the Our Father, "Thy Kingdom come on earth." As Fray Garces used this prayer as a salutation to every Indian he encountered, he came to be known amongst them as "Viva Jesus."

### The Same Spirit

What can be more expressive of the spirit of the Mexican work in this same country than this cry of the first missionary, "Viva Jesus"? We must view the field of labor in the same light as this zealous friar. It is a missionary work, as truly missionary as the evangelization of the heathen, with the sole difference that we are laboring amongst those who are Catholic by baptism.

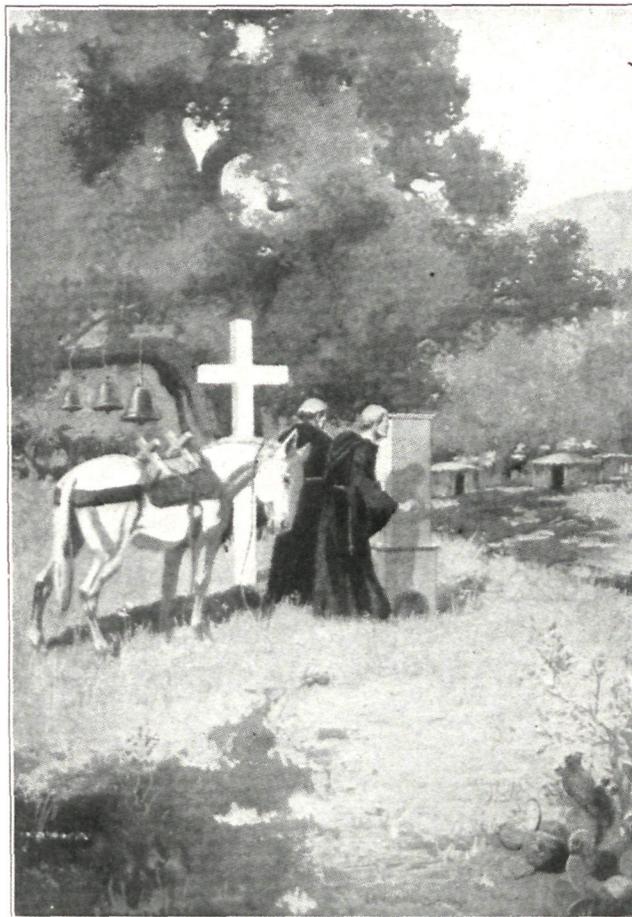
One who gives intelligent thought to the so-called Mexican problem will clearly see the parallel between missionary work in foreign lands and the work with the Mexicans of the poorer class. Many persons expect evidences of Catholic education and practice from the poorer class of Mexicans, which they unfortunately never had the opportunity of possessing. A study of the history of the Church in Mexico leads on to the conclusion that the organization of the Church, as far as this poor laboring class is concerned, has never advanced beyond the missionary stage. These subjects of the Church have been transferred in large numbers to a new field. We have every right, then, to consider this work as a purely missionary labor.

### The Proper Attitude of Mind

Every plan of action must be guided by a fundamental principle, an underlying thought. If we consider the work with the Mexicans in the Imperial Valley

district as a missionary endeavor, it will help us to prepare for such work with the proper attitude of mind. We must use every means available to the missionary to attract, instruct, train and protect these souls.

The Imperial Valley district, bounding Mexico on the North, is the gateway to California. While very fertile under irrigation, this valley lies below sea level and part of it remains an arid desert. Through it pass almost all the Mexicans



THE FRANCISCAN PADRES IN CALIFORNIA

of the poorer class, who later on join the army of laborers at points farther north. Many have taken up residence in one of the towns in the valley and live by working as seasonal laborers. Northward from the border, Calexico, El Centro, Brawley and Calipatria,—each has a large "colony" of Mexicans. Missionaries from the Protestant sects have established Missions everywhere in an effort to pervert them. Their efforts have been successful, if one wishes to consider in-

differentism a success, in causing a great deal of indifferentism amongst the Mexicans.

### Clinic—A Necessity

The poverty of these people and the unsanitary living conditions of the families form a very serious problem. The infant death rate is so high that the statistics quoted are beyond belief. Ignorance in matters must be dissipated, if religious re-adjustment is to be made. For that reason, His Lordship, Rt. Rev. John J. Cantwell, Bishop of Los Angeles and San Diego, made a very special request that the Missionary Catechists open a clinic in connection with their foundation and also that a Catechist with the certificate of a registered nurse be sent into this field. As both projects approach realization, much favorable comment has been heard in non-Catholic circles as well as Catholic.

To those who labor in this vineyard of the Lord, the large number of children in this district forms a vast field for missionary endeavor. Thousands of children are scattered over an area approximately fifty miles in length. The public school enrollment shows clearly the need of catechetical work.

Brawley reports 900 children in the public schools there; Calipatria, 319; Calexico, 732. The number of Mexican children in the public schools of the county totals 3,875.

### Working Under Difficulties

Many difficulties must be overcome in order to successfully reach these children: the migration of families from one point to another as fluid labor; the intense heat of summer, necessitating that the Catechists leave the district from May to October; the fact that many of the families live on small ranches

which makes it difficult to collect the children at one place for instruction; and the ignorance and indifference of the parents in matters of religion.

The notice of the coming of the Missionary Catechists has caused much excitement in the Mexican colony at Brawley. A very cordial welcome is to be found in the hearts of those who still love the faith of their fathers. They also long for the spiritual redemption of their

(Continued on page 10)

*He that is inclined to mercy shall be blessed.—(Prov. xxii, 9).*



## Victory-Noll Notes



Christmas with the Catechists—

December 24th. Beneath the usual quietude and peaceful calm of Victory-Noll throbbed a stream of expectant, joyful activity. Love and reverence and devotion were making the best effort to prepare fittingly for the coming of The Beloved Guest.

Four weeks of prayerful endeavor accomplished the work of preparation in all hearts and now Victory-Noll itself was being adorned as an outward expression of the welcome which filled the hearts of its inmates.

Candidates and Consecrates, with flushed faces and sparkling eyes, hurried about carrying arms full of holly and everygreen festoons. Junior Catechists, more serious and sedate but none the less eager, held long consultation behind closed doors and then set to work with that quiet,—almost stern,—intent which is characteristic of labor planned to be well nigh perfectly executed in a limited period of time.

Senior Catechists, ever serene and purposeful, flitted about first here and then there; suggesting, helping—always busy, always smiling.

Outside, the wind playfully shifted the sparkling snow flakes and heaped tiny mounds of white at the doors and beneath the windows and terraces of the Noll. The very air was laden with joy and good will.

Then came the night.

At 7:30, before all the happy stars had yet opened their sparkling eyes upon the dark earth, Victory-Noll was wrapt in the stillness of sleep.

'Twas almost midnight when the profound silence was broken by sweet strains of music floating down the dark corridors. Of a sudden Victory-Noll was once more aglow with lights and alive with moving figures. The Chapel soon filled with silent adorers as the Catechists, one by one, in answer to the irresistible invitation of "Adeste Fidelis" pleading, compelling; knelt side by side before the miniature stable of Bethlehem to worship Him who was their most beloved and honored Guest.

The Altar, upon which soon would descend the God of Love born for us this night, was a beautifully decorated with colored lights, holly and poinsettias.

After the midnight Mass all venerated the Holy Infant in true Spanish custom. The church services were over and reluctantly, the Catechists filed out of the Chapel to be welcomed into the gayly

### WISDOM

Question not, but live and labor  
Till the goal is won,  
Helping every feeble neighbor,  
Seeking help from none.  
Life is mostly froth and bubble  
Two things stand in stone,—  
Kindness in another's trouble  
Courage in your own.

bedecked community room. Here an unusually large and beautiful tree gleamed and glistened in the candlelight and Santa struggled his way out from under a heap of parcels which had evidently engulfed him when he bounced into the room with them in a frail pack upon his back. The Catechists were happy to note that many of their relatives will-



ingly acted upon the suggestion to "send us less for our stockings and more to the missions." Consequently the number of personal gifts was not as great as other years. Nevertheless, no one was forgotten and Santa will have a pack filled with gifts received by the Catechists to carry to the poor in the Missions after Christmas.

An hour of gaily around the Christmas tree put everyone in an excellent disposition to relish a light breakfast at 2:30 in the dining room which had been

Somebody did a golden deed,  
Somebody proved a friend in need;  
Was that somebody you?

transformed into a lovely Christmas bower. 3:30 found the Catechists once more in bed—though far from asleep. There they remained until the rising bell rang at 7:00 o'clock, again summoning them to Mass.

Christmas day was spent in recreative pursuits of one kind or another as taste and fancy dictated. It closed with another family gathering about the Christmas tree.

Adopt a Catechist. Follow her through her period of training at Victory-Noll then out into the Mission field where the harvest is so great. Live with her the interesting, varied and happy life of a consecrated Missioner of Jesus and Mary. Make one Catechist a member of your family and thus keep a lively interest in the activities of Holy Mother, the Church, for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

Each Catechist is supported by means of a Burse. A complete Burse amounts to six thousand dollars. Donations, no matter how small, will be gratefully accepted and applied to whichever Burse designated.

In appealing for financial aid in carrying out its program of corporal and spiritual works of charity the Society of Missionary Catechists offers an opportunity for all Catholics to share in its Christ-like work and thus fulfill the great commandment of Jesus to assist and comfort the poor in their needs.

To feed the hungry, to alleviate suffering, to console the sorrowful, to strengthen the weary, to bring comfort, hope, and above all, love into the hearts of the poorest of God's little ones is the sublime vocation of a Missionary Catechist.

Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Father:

The reminder that my subscription expires is before me. The little magazine is well received and eagerly looked forward to by my girls and me. I am sure it has been a means of further sanctification to us. Through it I have learned of True Devotion to Our Blessed Mother, which is wonderful and most consoling. Reading the pages of THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST, my heart, time and again, has been touched by the abject poverty and misery, which the Catechists encounter.

MRS. J. A. K.

*The Missionary Catechist exemplifies the great law of Christian Charity in her daily life.*

THE CATECHIST'S PRAYER

(For a Feast of Our Blessed Mother)

On this, Your beautiful Feast Day, I rejoice with You, my Mother, that You have gained the heart of Your Lord. I rejoice in Your matchless privileges and in the graces and honors that He has bestowed upon You. I rejoice in Your perfect correspondence to the great graces He has given You. Teach me, Mother dear,



how to practice the virtues You ennobled during Your life. Fill me wholly with love for Your Divine Son. Obtain for me the grace to do His holy will and to seek His good pleasure and to follow His holy inspirations in all things. Detach me from all earthly affections. Detach me from all that is not God. Remember that I belong entirely and forever to Him through You and that I seek no love but His and Yours.

Your LIFE SUPSCRIPTION—\$10.00—will help to support a Catechist in her labors among the neglected little ones of the Missions. It is payable in installments of \$1.00 per month.

NOVENA

Do you wish to join in the perpetual novena our Catechists are making at Victory-Noll in honor of Our Blessed Lady of Victory? Then send in your name as soon as possible. The spiritual and temporal blessings which you beg of our Blessed Mother, will be included in the intentions offered to Our Blessed Lady of Victory.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

TRUST

I think if storms should rage upon the sea,  
And Thou, asleep, shouldst take no heed of me,  
I should draw near and go to sleep with Thee.

I love Thee so and trust Thy love for me,  
That nought on land nor storms upon the sea,  
Shall make me fear, if only I have Thee.

I love the storms that rage upon the sea.  
I love the storms that show Thy care for me.  
I love the storms that prove my trust in Thee.

—Sister Mary of the Angels.

L. Ohio

Kind Rev. Father:

Enclosed please find money order for \$2.50; 50 cents for renewal of my subscription to THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST and the \$2.00 for the enrollment in the Confraternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary of my bride and myself. We were married yesterday and wish to be placed under the protection of the Blessed Mother.

Wishing God's blessing on your good work, I remain,

F. S.

Reject not the petitions of the afflicted, and turn not away thy face from the needy.—(Ecclus. IV, 4)



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

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Read Something Worthwhile

By Rev. A. J. Blaufuss

LITERARY ART AND MODERN EDUCATION by Francis P. Donnelly, S. J.; P. A. Kenedy & Sons, N. Y.; \$1.75.

Being a schoolman of a half century experience, Father Donnelly merits attention in his critical essays on modern educational problems. Futurists possibly will pass up this work with a shrug of the shoulder, for( "old men love the old ways." Father Donnelly, however, does not condemn the new because it has the twenty century mark upon it; he substantiates his criticisms with reasons. If educators fail to bow assent to every argument set forth in this book they will follow with interest a calm discussion of such vital topics as: Trades Schools, Electivism, Mental Tests, Vocationalism, Moral Training, Teaching of Art, Science and Literature.

THE BUSIEST AND HAPPIEST SEASON

Christmas at Cerrillos! what a wonderful time it was. Our altars were beautiful with the gorgeous poinsettias donated by friends. The loveliness of our crib was enhanced by the fifteen pine trees tastefully arranged around it. Best of all, we had over 200 communicants, many of whom were men.

Immediately after supper on Christmas Eve, the children started coming to our home. We were so tired that we were tempted not to let them in. But they had no other place to go, and they were afraid their mothers wouldn't call them, etc., etc. So in they came and stayed until time for Mass. After Mass the choir was scheduled to have breakfast, but when the altar boys came over to take off their cassocks and saw the girls in the house,—well, the altar boys also stayed for breakfast. It was 4:00 o'clock before we finally got them to go home;—but they had a wonderful time!

The second Mass was at Madrid, and the third at San Pedro. We stayed in San Pedro for dinner, which consisted mainly of chili. It was two o'clock when we finally arrived home. Two of us stayed up to prepare our Christmas dinner for 5:00 o'clock, while the rest of us went to bed. The goose, however, refused to be cooked, so, at the last minute, we put some ham in the oven. Everyone was, I believe, too tired to know whether she was eating ham or goose, anyway. But we were all happy!

We had five Christmas parties in all. Some of the youngsters who were not with us last year, had never seen Santa before except in pictures. Needless to say, many little hearts were made happy during this Holy Season.

May Our Dear Savior, Who loves little children, bless and reward all of you who helped make Christmas merry at Cerrillos, N. M. You will be happy to know that many fervent prayers are offered for you at our Christmas Crib by the grateful little ones.

*I have never seen a compassionate and charitable man die a bad death.—St. Augustine*

# IN THE HOME FIELD

## HOW SANTA DISPENSED CHRISTMAS JOY AND CHEER

Dear friends of our Missions:  
 The many gifts you sent were the means of bringing joy and relief to our poor children and their parents. The best of food, clothing and toys was given to the poorest among them. I wish you could have witnessed their speechless gratitude. You would have to see for yourself to actually realize the depth of their appreciation. Words can never do justice to it.

The Christmas parties were a success and we are certain that every child went home happy. The children enjoyed Santa's company immensely. A few were timid and came to us for protection. But most of them welcomed him in familiar fashion. When Juanita re-

benediction. This was indeed a Holy Night.

The next day we had our Christmas party. The little ones began coming two hours before the specified time. The first thing we did after the children assembled was to play some lively games in the yard to put us all in the proper spirit of play and to warm up. When all things inside of the house were in readiness, Santa appeared at the door and welcomed the children, bidding them to step into the room. Their gay chatter and laughter turned into "ahs" and "ohs" when they found themselves in a beautifully decorated room with a large shiny tree at one end. Many of the poor children, especially those who were enjoying their first Christmas with us, seemed spell-bound with delight. We sang carols and played several new Christmas games for Santa who, in turn, did his share by distributing presents to all present. Each gift package contained some article of wearing apparel, a stocking stuffed with tempting goodies and a toy.

How we wished that our kind hearted and generous benefactors who made it possible for us to spread the joy of Christmas among our poor, might have been here to see and share the happiness of these poor little children of the Texas plains. Surely, the Christ Child, at Whose feet our people are placing many petitions and prayers for all who show charity toward them in their need, will Himself reward them.

The Catechists of Lubbock, Texas.

Mission 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) P. O. Box 67.
- 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, Victory-Mount, Las Vegas, New Mexico.
- 13 Calipatria, Calif., box 533.
- 14 Santa Paula, California, 222 8th St. Victory-Mount, Las Vegas, N. M.

ceived a doll—the first she has ever had—her expression would make you believe that all the treasures of the world were in her possession.

Liberato was one of the lucky boys to receive a mouth-harp.

Even the older boys, 5th and 7th grade children, enjoyed the trucks, cars, aeroplanes, etc. Every toy, no matter what its size, design, age or nature, was lovingly received by some girl or boy who thought it the best of all those gifts which Santa brought.

We return fervent thanks to the Infant Jesus for having inspired you to help us bring happiness to the hearts of the dear poor under our care. May He bless and reward you!

Victory-Mount, Las Vegas, N. M.

## ENEMIES IN THE FIELD

The last week in October we had a Mission in our Chapel for the Spanish-speaking people. Father Munoz of the Detroit Diocese gave it and the services were well attended. We were especially happy when Father succeeded in marrying a couple who had not been married, and in baptizing several children whose parents had neglected to bring them to church for baptism and who were well past the usual age.

While we were praying for the success of the Mission others were doing the opposite. Wednesday morning we came down to Chapel as usual. One glance toward the Sanctuary discovered a strange change there. The beautiful statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe was gone from Our Blessed Mother's altar! The statue

The playroom at Gary after Santa's visit



## THE REWARD OF DEVOTION TO MARY

We were packing our last Christmas basket which was to go to our "tia Marianita," an old lady living alone on the mountainside. All around us in the Community room lay huge heaps of packages to be distributed in the morning among our needy. Suddenly the door-bell rang and Catechist hurried to answer it. Little Jose was sick and would the Catechists please come at once? We prepared hurriedly and were soon creeping up the steep, winding road leading to Las Lunas, the placita in which Jose lived. Large star-like flakes of snow were falling, deepening the gathering twilight and making driving difficult.

While ministering to the sick lad, a lady entered and asked if the Hermanitas would come to her home a short distance away and see her sister whom she believed to be very ill. Evening was now upon us and a high wind drove the snow furiously about as we followed the senora to her home. The home was a two-roomed hut. It seemed to me, as the door was opened and I stooped to pass through the low entrance, that the rooms were crowded with children. In the corner of one room upon a low cot lay the sick lady, gasping for breath. The dull, painfilled eyes lighted when she saw us, then filled with tears while she pleaded for her six little ones in this hour of sorrow. We assured her that Jesus and Mary would take care of them and that Jesus Himself would come to her this very night—Christmas night—in Holy Viaticum if the padre could travel over the slippery road.

Turning our attention to the children we realized how destitute they were. One, a boy of sixteen, seemed to be ill also, and would require prompt attention. Yes, we had another Christmas basket to fill as soon as we reach our Mission Center.

As was their custom, this poor lady and her family left their home in the mountains and came to the placita in order to celebrate fittingly the Fiesta in honor of the Virgin Immaculate, on the eighth of December. Here she shared the hospitality of her sister's tiny adobe house. The journey had been long and the weather inclement. The poor mother caught a severe cold which developed into pneumonia.

Her devotion to the Immaculate Mother of God was not, however, to go unrewarded. We

## HOW THE POOR LIVE AT BRAWLEY

We have started our mission work in Brawley, Calif.,—visiting and teaching. Our Catechism classes are conducted in a couple of old dance halls. The children do not know the least thing about our Holy Religion, as you can well understand. I asked the big boys if they ever prayed at home and one of them answered: "I tried it once but couldn't make it go so I never tried again." None of our children have made their First Holy Communion. They do not even know what you mean when you ask them about it.

Visiting in Brawley is like playing checkers. You go out of one door and into another. There are between forty and fifty families living in one block. Many of them live in one room. They boast of no floor, just plain adobe, no beds to sleep on but a bunch of rags. The one thing they have is plenty of sunshine but no one can live on sunshine alone!

Please pray for our Brawley Mission. Catechist Dorava.

notified Father immediately upon our return home and the dying woman received the grace of the last Sacraments with their consolation and strength for the journey to Eternity.

At the Midnight Mass, in spite of all my efforts, my thoughts persisted in stealing away from the beautiful altar with its twinkling candles, away from the myriad colored lights in the miniature pine forest surrounding the Crib, out across the starlit, snow-covered mesa to the one home I knew was sad this Christmas Eve.

Catechist Julia Murphy.



Courtesy of St. Anthony Messenger First Communion Class at Grants—1930



A few of the little ones with their first dolls

## CHRISTMAS ON THE PLAINS OF TEXAS

The week before Christmas we were kept busy answering timid knocks at the door. The opened door usually disclosed one or two of the children with some such solicitation: "Catechist, do you want us to pump some water for you?" "Catechist, don't you need wood?" "Catechist, may we take the ashes away?" "Catechist, don't you need something from the store?" Of course, we never let them know that we too realized it was a very short time till Christmas!

The bigger boys helped Father fix up the crib which was very beautiful when completed. Many people were moved to tears at sight of it, and their devotion was touching. Seven o'clock on Christmas Eve already found men and women—among them not a few young men and women—adoring the Infant. At 12:00 o'clock we had blessing of the Infant with procession followed by Midnight Mass and then veneration of the Holy Babe. The poor brought their humble offerings of nickels and dimes and laid them on the white satin pillow beside the Holy Child. Some of our dear people, moved by their simple faith and deep love, came on their knees from the back of the church up to the crib in order to kiss the feet of the new-born King. It was 2:00 a. m. before services were over. Several of the men built fires of tumble weed outside of the church. The flames lit up the plains for miles. It was an impressive sight. While the people were warming themselves around the fires the choir sang "Silent Night" and the sweet melody poured through the opened door and windows of the church touching the hearts of the silent throngs outside like a farewell



Courtesy of St. Anthony Messenger First Communion Class at Moquino—1930

Eat thy bread with the hungry and needy,—

and with thy garments cover the naked.—Tobias

# Mary's Little Helpers



One of our Little Helpers, Sonny Scheuer, who has gone away to study to be a Missionary priest. Sonny has been a real Little Helper. When he was just a tiny boy his mother started working for the Catechists and the poor Missions, and Sonny would get boxes to pack the clothes in and then take the boxes away on his little wagon. And now, some day, in the Missions as a Carmelite priest.

Sonny will be working in the Missions as a Carmelite priest.

Dear Little Helpers:

I am sure the Little Helpers will have a happy, holy New Year because they have made the Catechists and their poor little Mission children happy.

Did I ever tell you about the time I went with the Catechists to the Indian Village of Laguna in New Mexico? We had lots of fun with the Indian girls and boys. When they come to school it is funny to see them chewing away on an ear of corn instead of candy. Their corn is different than ours; instead of being yellow it looks almost black.

Did you ever stop to think when you were eating a piece of bread how much work it takes to make bread? I never did until I watched the Indians make bread. They don't use cook stoves like we do in the house. They build great big ovens outside that look just like an Eskimo hut. You know what that looks like, don't you? It looks almost like a big ball with the bottom cut off and a little tiny doorway. Well, this is what the Indians bake their bread in. I wish you could see the pretty picture it makes to walk through the village at night and see the flames shooting up out of fifty or more ovens. Each family has its own oven outside their house. They build the fires in these ovens late at night and then in the morning the fire is out, but the oven is real hot. You see these ovens are made of adobe and adobe keeps the

heat for a long time. Then they take a long paddle like a hoe and pull all the ashes and dirt out and put their bread in. Even though the fire is out now, the oven stays hot long enough to bake the bread. And I wish you could see the loaves when they are finished! They surely don't look like our loaves of bread. They are all sizes and shapes, and some of them even have five points like a star. They surely like to eat fancy bread. Just imagine how big these ovens are! They bake as many as twenty loaves at one time. I think they must eat a lot of bread, don't you? Or else it must be pretty hard before it's all gone. Sometime if I can get a picture of one of their ovens I will print it for you.

Don't forget to make a New Year's resolution. Resolve to work harder than ever this year for the First Communion Outfits.

Your friend,

WEE WILLIE WINKLES.

We are still waiting for more names for the new Burse. Hurry up! Send your name in. Most of the Little Helpers are suggesting a Little Flower Burse, some want Our Blessed Lady of Victory. One little girl wants the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and one a Guardian Angel Burse. Save your pennies! If you can only save a few, send them in, and suggest a name.

Marie Garrity's Band of Chicago has sent us almost a hundred dollars for the new Burse. Marie's mother gives card parties for Marie's band, and besides this sends all kinds of nice things to the poor Mission children and many, many clothes.

## OUR FIRST LITTLE HELPER IN HEAVEN

Little John Brewer of Youngstown, O., is our first Little Helper to go to Heaven. Even though John was sick a long time



Little Paul Quinn, Highland Park, Pa., who is saving his pennies for the Missions.

before he died he always thought of the poor little Mission girls and boys and saved all the pennies he could for them. I think it would be nice if all of the Little Helpers would offer up a Mass and Holy Communion for

John; will you do this? And when you say your prayers, say an extra Hail Mary for him.

I know Wee Willie Winkles will be happy to know that three Little Helpers thought about him this month. Henry and Anna Czolba each sent a dollar and James Till, of Fort Wayne, a new Little Helper, sent us a dollar.

Just think, Little Helpers, we have seven new Little Helpers' Bands! Isn't that fine? But we want many more. So get busy, and see if you cannot get your little friends to start a band. Now is the time to help because you know the poor children are poorer than ever.

Dear Catechist:

I have another subscription for you. What will we have to do to form a band? Thank you very much for the nice medal and holy card.

When I get big I am going to be a Catechist. I took the mite box to school to see if I could get a few pennies for the poor children. I put it on my Sister's desk. I put a dime in and one other boy put one cent in, so a few pennies go a long way. It must be awful to be as poor as those little children when they have hardly any food. When I get big I will help the poor little children, but Mother said that we should help the poor children when we are little, too.

I can't hardly wait till I get big so that I can be a Catechist.

Good-bye, Catherine Mary Lawler.



Our Visitation Academy Band of St. Louis, Mo.



Bernard, James and Danny Blake, Cedar Rapids, Iowa



John Francis, Mary Magdalen and Thomas Daniel Sexton, Toledo, Ohio

Happy New Year to Our Little Helpers—

# The Associate Catechists of Mary

Dear Associate Catechists of Mary:



I sincerely pray that Our Dear Lord and His Holy Mother will bless you most abundantly during the coming year and that They will grant you much joy and happiness

During the past year you have been our most faithful friends, and have worked unceasingly and untiringly for our dear poor in the Missions. Many times, I am sure, it has been a sacrifice for you to devote your time and your assistance to our cause, but for the

love of Jesus and Mary, and Their dear poor, you have made the sacrifice willingly and cheerfully, and the good that we have been able to accomplish through your generosity is untold. Not until the Last Day will you realize or know the number of souls that you, by your charity, have been instrumental in saving.

I wish to thank especially the zealous promoters of our Bands who have worked so faithfully to organize their bands; and the members of the bands for the splendid cooperation they have given to our good promoters. The A. C. M. is indeed proud of the vast amount of good work that has been accomplished during the past year.

I also wish to thank the many friends of our Victory-Noll Home Band who have been so faithful in contributing each month to the support of our Catechists.

During the coming year, I know that we shall have your continued faithful cooperation, and that you will help us to make the ASSOCIATE CATECHISTS OF MARY a bigger and better organization.

While it is not possible for us to thank each one of you personally for all you have done for us, be assured that we will remember you individually and personally in our Masses, prayers and Holy Communions.

—Catechist Supervisor

## CLUB ACTIVITIES

Our Lady of Lourdes Club held a very successful card and bunco party at the Sheridan Plaza Hotel. Thanks to the splendid efforts of this club, especially Agnes Ognibene, president, Mary Kraus, promoter and Rose Kurtz, they cleared \$140.00. Our Mission at Lubbock, Texas, surely has staunch supporters in Our Lady of Lourdes Club, because besides helping to support one of our Catechists there, they also send several barrels of clothes and toys each year.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Club, of which Mrs. Wainwright is promoter realized \$157.25 on a few card parties.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Club, Pittsburgh, held a very successful card party and raffled off a quilt which resulted in \$45.00 for their Burse.

Miss Katherine Hennigan's Band has had several successful parties and has sent us \$26.00.

From the St. Valentine Club we have received \$16.35.

Miss Celia Henrich of Evanston, Illinois, has organized a band which has been named Our Mother of Perpetual Help. This new band has made a very successful beginning with their first contribution of \$15.00.

St. Joseph's Band of Chicago was very happy to have Mrs. Campbell sponsor a very successful party.

We are happy also to welcome our first Band from Kentucky, which is call-



ed the Good Will Mission Club of Carrollton.

Father Lescher of Chicago has organized a new band which he has named the St. Gregory Club. Mrs. E. Stuermer is the promoter of this new band.

## A PENNY A DAY

1c a day—7c a week—\$3.65 a year  
5c a day—35c a week—18.25 a year  
10c a day—70c a week—36.50 a year

Everybody can save a penny a day; some can save a nickel and some can save a dime. Send for a mite box and begin the New Year right. Save at least a PENNY each day for the Missions. Every little bit counts.

## NOTICE

Have you renewed your ASSOCIATE CATECHISTS OF MARY dues for the year? We have not heard from some of our faithful A. C. M. friends, whom we feel sure will not want to lose their share in the great benefits of our society. Fifty cents is only a small sum, but it brings big returns to you, and helps to support a Catechist and keep her in the field. Begin the New Year right—by renewing your membership dues immediately.



Out-Door Chorus Practice in the Cotton Camps of Dos Palos, Calif.

And to Our A. C. M. Friends

## BUSY AT THE CAMPS

Dos Palos, Calif.

From across the continent we send news of this mission which is so different from our other missions in the great Southwest where we labor to strengthen and preserve the Faith of our beloved Mexican people.

The cotton section on which our Mexicans are employed was once a strip of desert land. The foresight and labor of public-spirited men converted it into a fruitful field. An extensive irrigation system fed with waters from the coast range mountains some forty miles away made this feat possible.

The Mexicans laboring here come from all parts of the state and adjoining states for the cotton picking season and then depart for their homes. They bring household goods in old dilapidated Fords and live in small wooden shacks, constructed for their use, or in tents.

The standard wage for cotton pickers is \$1.25 a hundred pounds, but this year, owing to general hard times, only 75 cents will be paid. How can any one live on this meagre pittance, let alone support a large family?

While visiting at one of the camps we met a man who had just finished a day's work in the fields. We asked him how many pounds of cotton he picked that day. He answered dejectedly: "only fifty pounds." The poor fellow. Those fifty pounds would bring him about 35 cents. How he managed to live is a mystery. This man is picking cotton for the first time this year. Experience is necessary in order to earn a living wage.

Every day we visit these camps, which are scattered all over the valley, and teach Catechism to these neglected people whose souls are precious to us. These poor people, largely Mexican, need sympathetic attention and care for their spiritual and temporal well-being. Exiled from their native land and speaking a strange tongue, they wonder about like nomads. No one bothers about them. In the camps and along the highways we teach these children as they come out of school. School hours here are from eight to one o'clock because most of the boys and girls have to help their parents pick cotton in the afternoon.

Catechist Agnes Kozla.

Perryville, Mo.

Dear Friends in Our Lady of Victory:

The enclosed is what an evening at the theatre would have cost. It doesn't seem right to indulge even a little when so many little people have not the necessities of life. Please use it to make some little one happy on Our Dear Lord's Birthday.

Praying God to inspire the rich to help the poor, I am,

Very sincerely,

A. S.

Let us never forget that Our Blessed Lord bade us love our neighbor not only as ourselves but as He also loved us.

The best way to start the day out right is to make the Sign of the Cross as soon as we wake up in the morning. By doing this we show our love for God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.



## EVERY MEMBER GET A MEMBER

Friends, let's boost the 2500 CLUB this year. Let's make our aim at least a 100 per cent increase in membership. If you are a member that's just fine, but get someone else to join. If you are NOT a member become one today.

The 2500 CLUB is an association of persons contributing \$1.00 a month towards the support of the Missionary Catechists and their work among the poor.

Dear Father Sigstein:

I am glad to acknowledge receipt of your check covering interest on annuity contract. Will thank you to send me another contract properly executed by yourself on the ANNUITY PLAN for an additional \$300.00 as I have that amount I can spare at the present time. I am certainly glad to do this to help out the great work of the Missionary Catechists.

May God bless you and all the Catechists with a Happy New Year!

A. M. C.

Get your friends to subscribe to "The Missionary Catechist."

How beautiful it is to behold the poor, when one considers them in God, and in the light which Jesus Christ esteemed them! (St. Vincent de Paul.)



BACK IN THE MOUNTAINS

## A NEW MISSIONARY FIELD IN CALIFORNIA

(Continued from page 3)

people. When the new missionaries go forth, they will be greeted with the battle-cry of the fervent Mexican Catholic: "Viva Christe Rey!" (May Christ the King Reign); re-echoing the salutation of Fray Garces, "Viva Jesus." Above all else may God's Holy Will be done and His Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven).

It costs only \$25.00 a month to support a Missionary Catechist in the field.

## PROPAGATING THE FAITH

If the Franciscan missionaries who traveled the plains and mountains of New Mexico in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries to convert the native Indian could see the American Catechists riding in old Fords from mission to mission, some missions still the same one founded three centuries ago, their hearts would rejoice. Zane Grey caught the adventurous spirit and imagination of American youth with his colorful novels of life in those regions. The lives of our Catechists in this land of romance and wilderness and barren stretches would be a fitting theme for a more prolific pen than Zane Grey's, for in it would enter the spiritual romance of life and the quest of souls.

If this wonderful and colorful picture of missionary life could be gradually unfolded before the eyes of our Catholic children now assembled in their class rooms, what an opening it would give them for spiritual adventure; how it would widen their horizon of missionary activity and create a new love for their Church! The missionary pages of the Church are a storehouse of information and knowledge that needs only to be opened to catch the spirit of American Catholic youth. And what a blessing for future mission years once our youth grasps that knowledge.

(Rev. Albert Albel, in Nebraska Edition of The Register.)

Dear Catechists:

I thing the MISSIONARY CATECHIST simply wonderful and read it from cover to cover without stopping, then I read it over again. D. R.

## PRAY FOR

Luiz G. Moraes, Josephine Shafer, Peter Junkersfeld, Nellie Altendorf, Henrietta Claffy Memmesheimer, Charles Zeller, James H. Jordan, Mrs. Caroline Zundel, Mr. Schirres, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Rhind, Mrs. A. A. Memmer, Mrs. Catherine Offerle, Mrs. Eileen Watson.

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

If God has so loved us, we ought also to love one another.—St. John I, 4.

*Dear Friends of God's Poor:*

*Looking back over the past year our hearts are filled with sentiments of deepest gratitude to our very dear and generous friends who have so nobly assisted us in our work among God's poor. During the Holy Christmas Season we have tried, as far as possible, to thank each one individually. At the beginning of the New Year we wish again to thank each one of our generous friends and benefactors who have made it possible for us to bring "tidings of great joy" not only on Christmas Day to the needy little ones of the flock, but throughout the entire year.*

*They are indeed those souls of "good will" mentioned by the Angels. They have not only made it possible for our devoted Catechists to bring the Gospel message to the little ones in the missions, to instruct them in the truths of Faith and to prepare them for the reception of the Sacraments, but have even enabled Mary's devoted Missionaries to feed and clothe and nurse the suffering in our destitute missions and settlements.*

*It is to these devoted, loyal friends of*

*God's poor that we must again look in this hour of urgent need. Never was there more pressing need for your charity than during these distressingly hard times—the worst our country has experienced in forty years. Today with the acute hardships of winter before them, the poor are faced with hunger and suffering and needs both of body and soul. Relief must be given to those desperately in need of food and shelter.*



*In the large centers where our Catechists are working, such as the steel district at Gary and Indiana Harbor, and at Las Vegas, New Mexico, the poor have turned to them for the very necessities of life.*

*Your financial help and continued cooperation will enable our Catechists to meet the present crisis with God's corporal and spiritual works of mercy. You will thus become co-workers of Jesus Christ, and His instruments in the saving of the souls and the bodies of the poor who are stretching out their hands piteously for assistance in this hour of their greatest need.*

*Rev. J. J. Gignier*

## Poor Little Ramona!

Only four years old and a tiny victim of tuberculosis. Just a few months ago it was only a cold, but Ramona's mother had no money to buy medicine for her. Someone told her about the Catechists. In desperation she carried her to the Catechists. But, alas, it was too late, because Ramona, like so many of our poor little children, was undernourished and not strong enough to fight the dread disease, it took but a short time for this little life to be snuffed out.

Wouldn't you like to help the Catechists save the lives of these innocent little ones? This can be done by helping the Catechists distribute milk to undernourished children and by supplying them with food, clothing, medicine and shelter. Start the New Year right by resolving to help these needy and sickly little ones during the coming year.

Start an ASSOCIATE CATECHISTS OF MARY band. It requires only ten members and we shall gladly send you further information. During the long winter months many pleasant evenings can be spent working for the Missions by sewing or having card parties.

Have a shower and ask your friends to bring articles for the Missions such as first aid supplies, bed clothing, stockings, gloves, toys, etc.

Give a small donation each month for the support of a Catechist.

Adopt one of our Missions. Write to the Mission you have adopted and ask them what their particular needs are, and then ask your friends to help this Mission.

Enroll your deceased loved ones in the ASSOCIATE CATECHISTS OF MARY. Write and tell us about your resolution and the way in which you will help.

*The Catechist Supervisor.*

