

The Missionary Catechist



FRANCISCAN FATHERS
Old Mission
Santa Barbara, Calif.

Rev. J. J. Sigstein
Huntington, Indiana

March 30, 1931

Your Reverence,

I want to thank you heartily for the big surprise party the Catechists provided for me on the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, which happened to be the principal feast of the theological community here. I had been all along wondering whether I should ever behold a real, live Missionary Catechist. Well, when the Brother called me to the Tertiary reception room, sixteen live Catechists confronted me. I expected at most half a dozen, but here were sixteen of these cheerful Catechists, whom the Mexicans affectionately call "Madrecitas" (little mothers). Thanks be to God! Mexican immigrants in Southern California are now safe against infernal deceptions.



About eight or ten Catechists came to Santa Barbara Mission and assisted at the blessing of the Palms and High Mass. They appear to be just what, from reading THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST and their own appearance and cheerful conduct, I had pictured them. May they multiply and thwart the devil wherever he may poke up his ugly head in the persons of his emissaries! . . .

Allow me, Father, to congratulate you on the training which the spirit of the Catechists evinces. They appear wrapped up in their Divine Lord without any other aspirations than to further the Lord's interest at all hazards, happy in the conviction that they belong to Jesus and that Jesus recognizes them as His very own. They must feel happy, indeed! Mother Church will have to take up your idea of saving the children in this way all over the world bye and bye. It is the simplest and the most effective way. If only enough candidates will volunteer.

Wishing Your Reverence all the blessings of this Holy Season, I am in SS. CORDE,

Padre Zeferino, O. F. M.

The Missionary Catechist

Volume VII

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Number 6

The Catechists in California

"Thank God! that the Catechists are now working in California!" exclaimed the venerable Father Zephyryn, O. F. M., the historian of the Franciscan Missions, when informed that the Missionary Catechists are now laboring in some of the most destitute Missions of the Golden State.

This sentiment was likewise voiced by both the Bishops and Priests of California. For some years past, they had been seeking the services of the Catechists in saving to the Faith the Mexicans, Portuguese and Italians, living in such large numbers, in cities and towns and countryside from the Oregon State Line on the North to Calexico on the Mexican Border.

Two and a half years ago the first band of Catechists began their arduous missionary labors in Dos Palos, California, in the heart of the famous San Joaquin Valley. Meeting with considerable opposition on the part of bigoted Protestant members of the school boards of districts in which they labored, the Catechists were denied the use of public school buildings for teaching Catechism even after the regular school session. Undaunted by this opposition the Catechists, nevertheless, found a way out of their difficulties. Immediately after the dismissal of each school, they led the children out on the public roads; hung their Catechism and Bible History charts on the shrubbery and trees along the roadside, and in imitation of their Divine Master, who taught the multitudes in the open country, they imparted Religious Instruction to these spiritually starving children of the poor.

With the advent of the rainy season in October, the Catechists were compelled to devise new means for conducting their Catechism classes. They purchased a large bus with the seating capacity of seventy children. This they divided into class rooms by means of portable partitions. Then, in these improvised class rooms they instructed their Prayer, First Communion and other classes and thus prepared their children for the reception of the Sacraments. On Sundays the partitions are removed and the bus is driven to the various ranches and sections and the children brought to Mass.

On their first Sunday at Dos Palos, the Catechists were grieved to find that there was an attendance of only seven

people at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. On the first Sunday of March, this year, however, they rejoiced to find that the two Masses celebrated there were both crowded. At the same time theirs was the happiness of having sixty Communion on the First Friday and the first Sunday of the month at one of their distant out-missions.

From the Mission Center of Dos Palos, the Catechists have been able to reach 800 Italian, Mexican and Portuguese children. And, this year the five Catechists of this Mission Center have had the happiness of seeing 400 of their little ones receive their First Holy Communion.

The first Mission Center opened by the Catechists in the Los Angeles Diocese at Santa Paula, California, has likewise



"The needy mission districts of California prove a fertile field for the missionary labors of the Catechists, where thousands of children—heretofore untaught and untrained,—will be instructed in the saving truths of our Holy Religion."

produced wonderful results. In this parish, presided over by Father Conlon, there are approximately 1,000 Mexican and 100 American families living within a radius of 100 square miles. Instructions have been given regularly in the eleven out-missions belonging to this

Mission Center. Today there is an enrollment of approximately 1,000 Mexican and 30 American children in the Catechism classes of these Missions.

At the invitation of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Cantwell of Los Angeles, the third Mission Center of the Catechists in California was opened, in the Imperial Valley, the latter part of last October.

Some idea may be gained of this vast Mission Field when it is known that in the City of Brawley, fifteen miles distant from the present home of the Catechists at Calipatria, there are over 5,000 Mexicans; one school alone having an enrollment of 900 Mexican children. From Calipatria to the Mexican Border there are thousands of needy, uninstructed Mexican children, who will receive solid Religious Instruction and a practical Christian training from Catechists, who will use Brawley as their permanent Mission Center.

These needy mission districts will prove a fertile field for the Missionary labors of the Catechists where approximately three thousand children, heretofore untaught and untrained, will be instructed in the saving Truths of our Holy Religion.

Owing to the severe financial depression through which our country is now passing, the missionary activities of the Catechists have been hampered. Unless generous friends in the East rally to their assistance the plans formulated by the Catechists for erecting community centers, for conducting free clinics for the sick poor, and for establishing their Catechetical Centers, will not be realized, and, thus the Faith of thousands of souls will be jeopardized and the lives of many little ones will be snuffed out by disease, mal-nutrition and lack of proper sanitary measures.

Gratifying beyond measure are the results achieved by the Catechists, through the powerful help of Jesus and Mary, in their Missionary labors among these poor people and their still poorer children. During the past seven months, the Catechists have been giving Religious Instruction to approximately three thousand children, children who would otherwise be without means of coming to the knowledge of their Faith. Over thirty out-missions have been visited every

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IN HONOR OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER HELP OUR NEEDY MISSION CHILDREN

"Missions Are Busy Places"

Catechist Margaret Schneider
Gary, Ind.

THE first thing I discovered about Missions was that Missions are busy places. We arrived at Gary on Thursday, just before twelve o'clock, and were greeted by Catechist Dalen: "At last! We were sure you were coming last evening and were all prepared with a delicious dinner for you! and here you came today at noon! The cook has gone on an errand of mercy and there isn't a sign of a meal. And will you please excuse me, Catechists? Petra is waiting for me. She has a sty and I opened it by pulling an eyelash. I was preparing some boric acid solution when you knocked." With this she disappeared.

We laid aside our capes. Catechist Watkins went to the kitchen while I decided to see the rest of the sty operation. I found Catechist Dalen carefully washing the inflamed parts and at the same time giving her patient instructions on how to prepare a saturated solution of boric acid from the crystals.

"Catechist, what is 'crystals?'"

"I'll show you some in a minute, Petra."

True to her word she returned in less than a minute with a small envelope filled with crystals for Petra.

"It doesn't hurt now, Catechist, may I stay awhile and play checkers?" Petra had caught sight of the well-worn games in the play room and the poor child forgot all about her ailment.

Just then a loud knock at the front door announced the arrival of a group of boys.

"Catechist, kin we have the basketball?"

"Were you all at class Saturday?"

"Yes, Catechist. We were in class. We had movies Saturday."

The ball was promptly forwarded. But the boys had another question to ask before they went out to play: "Are we going to have 'wood-chopping class' to-night, Catechist?"

"Yes, this evening at 4:30."

I just couldn't picture Catechist Watkins wielding the hatchet before a class of boys, so I decided to make an effort to see the performance at the stated time. Catechist further informed me that the class was held in the meeting room in the basement of the Settlement House. Meanwhile, there came a knock at the door. The regular portress being out with the cook on an errand of mercy, as a mentioned before, I was permitted to answer the summons.

As I went to the door the thought

flashed through my mind: "Now what do I say? Buenas Tardes, Como esta? Sientase, etc." In a flash I had brushed up on a good deal of my Spanish. Really, being in the Missions now, I'd have to speak Spanish. Here was my first opportunity; and so soon after my arrival! Being certain that I could carry on a very creditable conversation, I opened the door, smiled sweetly and said: "Buenas Tardes—" Only the iceman and he uses English that rivals that of any college professor!

After this episode, I returned to the dormitory for a short relaxation,—and short it proved to be. The ringing sound of clear voices and organ music told me that I was missing something interesting. This time it was the boys' choir practicing for the first time. There were only about a dozen boys, but they were

Catechist, what color is a burro's eyes?"

"I'll bet Tony will be glad when he gets this."

"Manuel, that is my wheel. Yes, it is, too! Yours has bumps on it."

Although rather disappointed in what I hoped to find a stage performance, the boy's enthusiasm and interest soon proved so contagious that I forgot the picture my imagination had drawn. No sooner had I acquainted myself with the various projects than Catechist Watkins said:

"Would you mind going up to the kitchen and bring me the folding ruler? It's in the drawer, second from the top on the right side."

I started immediately, leaving by the door through which I had entered a few minutes ago. But, somehow, the sur-



FIRST COMMUNION AT INDIANA HARBOR, IND.
(Read inside back cover)

not afraid to sing and certainly made a creditable showing at their first practice. They promise to develop into a choir that any mission would be proud of.

A glance at the clock reminded me that the wood-chopping demonstration was now going on. Tiptoeing in at 4:30, this is what I found: eight boys, from twelve to fifteen years of age, working with scroll saws, jack knives, sand-paper and glue. The meeting room had been converted into a work shop that was turning out wooden elephants, burros, carts, thread boxes and cutting boards. The few products that were nearing completion betrayed "store box" origin. The workmen often interrupted the silence, though not the work, to ask questions or make remarks similar to these:

roundings didn't look the same. I passed through two or three hallways but I couldn't find the stairway.

"Quia tu es, Deus, fortitudo mea," piped a shrill boyish voice. In tracing the sound to its source I was led to the sacristy, where I was confronted by three little seven-year-old lads, and a fourth youngster whose "pickaninny" origin could not be concealed. Moses, with one hand jammed into the depths of his pocket and the other twisting his curls was trying to repeat the Mass prayers as dictated by Catechist Quarens. "Fortitudo" would be "fortitudia" and the "quare me repulisti" just would not fit that little tongue. But Moses was facing his task with a determination that wins!

(Continued on Page 7)

Read Something Worthwhile

By Rev. A. J. Blaufuss

YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN, by P. H. Furfey, Ph.D.; Benziger Bros., Chicago. \$1.50.

The Encyclical on Education, lately issued by the Holy Father, has again emphasized the Church's supreme concern in the child. Her interests and rights in the child's education precede those of both parents and the state. She has received the divine commission to teach. The Rev. Author, mindful of this prerogative of the Church, recognizes that the governments of Europe and America have been very active in the educational field during the last fifty years. Having at their disposal inexhaustible funds they have not only been able to conduct schools but make interesting experiments. Many of these have proved futile; others, however, have increased the efficiency of the teacher. The Catholic educator is ready to take advantage not only of the two-thousand-year experience the Church has acquired, but of all successful experimentation of secular institutions. Father Furfey has happily blended the wisdom of Holy Church with the principles of present day psychologists. His more than twenty chapters cover the child in its educational possibilities and phases; the home, the school, play, the street, religion, purity, arts, books, adolescence, the healthy child, the sickly child, the subnormal child and the precocious child.

Louisville, Ky.

My dear Father Sigstein:

It seems to me that the Catechists are fulfilling the real aim and end of Holy Mother the Church in going out to labor among these poor neglected little ones. How blind are not those who are in a financial position to help and will not! It is sad to see money diverted to unreasonable undertakings when so much good could be done if it were properly invested!

Let us pray that the eyes of such may soon be opened to the need of helping God's cause.

Sincerely,

A FRIEND.

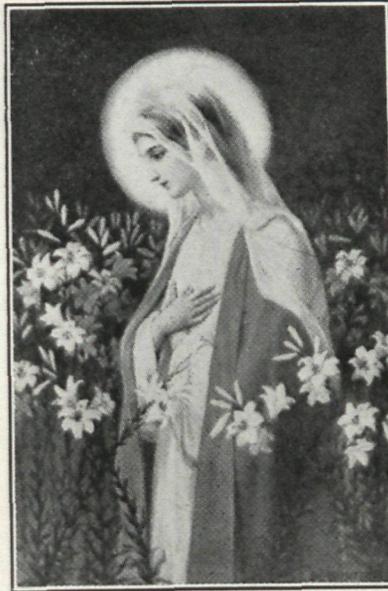
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Rev. J. J. Sigstein, Spiritual Director of The Society of Missionary Catechists
Editor

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VIRGIN MOST POWERFUL
Pray for us.

Our Blessed Mother is most powerful with Jesus Christ. While on earth the Divine Savior was subject to Her, and obeyed Her as His Mother; according to St. Luke, He "went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them." She is His Mother no less in heaven now, than She was while on earth. How powerful then must Mary be with Her Divine Son "The Son," says St. Bernard, "will surely hear the Mother."

When Solomon, who was a type of Christ, saw his mother approach, he rose from his throne, bowed to her, and ordered her to be seated on a throne at his right hand. When she intimated that she had a petition to make, he replied: "My mother, ask, for I must not turn away my face" (III kings, ii, 20). If this great king thus honored his mother, and gave her such influence over him, although she was a poor sinful creature,—how much more efficacious with Jesus will be the

A PRAYER AT NIGHT

By Myrtle Conger

Good-night, my dearest Lord, good-night;
Before I close my eyes in sleep,
I pray that I, in dreams, may go
Where shines Thy Tabernacle light,
And there, with it, sweet vigil keep.
I pray to dream all night of Thee,
Beneath that soft light's fervent glow,
In Thy lonely Sanctuary.

Oh! let me dream of Thy dear Heart
That beats so lovingly for me
Behind Thy tabernacle door;
Be Thou, of each dream-thought, a part;
And may I wake to love Thee more
In Thy lonely Sanctuary!

SUBSCRIBE FOR A FRIEND

Detroit, Mich.

Dear Reverend Father:

Enclosed please find check for \$25.00 for the support of a Catechist in the Mission field. This is to fulfil a promise to pay one per cent of our deposits during the month of January.

Yours respectfully,

A. J.

prayer of Mary, who has not only the natural influence of a mother, but whose perfect holiness must render Her so acceptable to God, the Author and Rewarder of all sanctity? . . .

The efficacy of Mary's intercession has been experienced and celebrated in all ages of the Church. By means of it have the most hardened sinners been converted, and, by the fervor of their penance, have consoled the Church, which they had before scandalized by their disorders. By it has many a wavering heart been confirmed in its virtue, many a tepid soul been roused to the practice of virtue, and many a faithful servant been excited to go from virtue to virtue, and make renewed efforts to attain perfection. Why, then, has it not produced in us similar effects? We shall find, perhaps that our tepidity, or neglect of Her service, and the want of fidelity and fervor in our devotional practices to Mary, are the causes of the little benefit we have derived from the appeals we have hitherto made to her.

Let us animate ourselves to increased exactness in all that appertains to Her service, and with St. Bernard "venerate Mary with all our heart and affection, because such is the will of Him who has been pleased to give us all through Mary. Let us then adhere to Her, and not let Her go, until She bless us; FOR SHE IS POWERFUL."

—Month of Mary.

During the present prolonged period of depression through which our country is passing, the needs of our poor multiply daily. Those of us who are blessed with the goods of this world should give, even at the cost of much sacrifice, to lessen the acute suffering of our less fortunate brethren who lack the very necessities of life. Especially let us remember to pray much, and while praying let us not forget the words of the Holy Ghost who says: "Prayer is good, but prayer when combined with alms and sacrifice is better."

Write today for full particulars concerning our Annuity Plan. Address: Rev. J. J. Sigstein, Society of Missionary Catechists, Huntington, Indiana.

Enclosed find membership fee of \$1.00.

I wish to be enrolled as a member of the Confraternity of Mary, Queen of Our Hearts:

Name _____

Address _____



FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS OF ST. JOSEPH

The faith and devotion, the simple religious spirit and the whole-hearted piety of our people have ever been a source of admiration and edification to me; yet I have never witnessed a more inspiring sight than the fiesta of the San Jose Society at Los Torres. On the eve of the feast of their patronal Saint, vespers were sung in the little chapel at Los Torres and on the following morning a High Mass was sung followed by a procession through the village streets. During the entire procession a song to St. Joseph, patron of a happy death, was sung by the Catechists and the Chaperito choir. All the people joined in the chorus.

This Society was organized more than fifty years ago, and has been active ever since. Never during this half century has the feast of St. Joseph passed in Los Torres without Vespers and a High Mass being sung in his honor for the benefit of the Society. In order to secure for themselves the services for this day, the members find it necessary to make arrangements many months ahead.

The society at the present time comprises forty men, many of whose grandfathers were among the first members. Only ten families remain in the one time prosperous village of Los Torres, but though now living from twenty-five to fifty miles distant, all the members attended the fiesta. One man even came from Colorado for this occasion.

It was indeed a most edifying sight to see these men coming great distances to attend Vespers and Mass, and especially to see them devoutly receive Our Eucharistic Lord in the Sacrament of His Love. Surely this is a fitting way in which

to celebrate the feast of their beloved patron where life of poverty and obscurity they so closely follow. May he obtain for them the grace to imitate his virtues and to persevere faithfully until they, too, die in the arms of Jesus and Mary!

THE MORE YOU INCREASE IN CHARITY THE MORE YOU BECOME LIKE OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

IN THE HOME FIELD

"FELIZ ES MI AMOR"

I have become accustomed to b's being converted into v's and vice versa, in Spanish pronunciation, but Sunday, while practicing the song "Jesus Es Mi Amor" (Jesus is my Love) with the little girls, I couldn't quite make out how some of them were pronouncing "Jesus." After the children went home one of the Catechists told me that our little Feliz, with sparkling eyes, was singing "Feliz es mi amor." Poor little Feliz. She is so serious one would never suspect that she possessed a sense of humor. Feliz is eight years old and the oldest of five children. She does the housework, bathes and cares for the baby, cooks and in general looks after the family during these frequent periods when her mother's arms and hands are so covered with eczema that she is unable to do anything. Feliz has a beautiful voice, and in spite of her multiplicity of duties, never misses Catechism class or choir practice.

CATECHIST HELEN SRILL,
Chaperito, N. M.

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

- 1 Anton Chico, New Mexico.
- 2 Chaperito, New Mexico.
- 3 Dos Palos, California.
- 4 Grants, New Mexico.
- 5 620 W. Fifteenth St., Gary, Indiana.
- 6 Holman, New Mexico.
- 7 3868 Block Avenue, East Chicago, Ind.
- 8 Box 30, Montezuma Route, Las Vegas, New Mexico.
- 9 Lubbock, Texas, Box 1658. Cerrillos, New Mexico.
- 10 Santa Rosa, New Mexico.
- 11 Catechist Blanche Richardson, supervisor of Archconfraternity of Christian Doctrine, Victory-Mount, Las Vegas, New Mexico.
- 12 Calipatria, California, Box 533.
- 13 Santa Paula, California, 222 Eighth St.

Our friends were generous in providing First Communion outfits for the children at Anton Chico. With the funds sent in for our poor we were able to complete the outfits of all the First Communicants except one boy who had to receive his First Holy Communion in overalls.

We have 20 cents left in our Poor Fund!

CATECHIST JULIA DOYLE.

"THE NO'S HAVE IT"

Sunday was the Communion Sunday for the Senoras de Guadalupe (Ladies of Guadalupe). In the afternoon, after Holy Hour, they had their meeting at our center. I enjoyed the meeting of these dear women as much as a party for the children. After the business was taken care of we all played games and sang hymns. Everyone entered whole-heartedly into the amusements and had a jolly time. Coffee and cake were the refreshments we served; a hymn to Our Lady of Guadalupe ended the meeting.

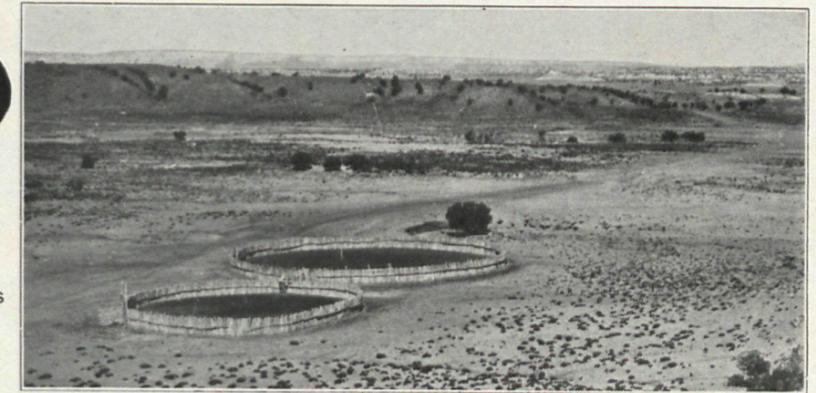
One of the things we suggested during the meeting was that we have an English class for the members of the club. In order to let them decide whether or not they wanted it I asked them to vote. Many of them were not able to write, so I asked them to make an X to signify yes and an O to signify no. I gathered and counted the ballots. There were eleven for and five against it. I told them that since the majority were in favor of a class we would make arrangements for it as soon as possible. "And," I added, "I am sure that those of you who do not now wish to attend will become interested and soon join us at the class sessions."

One little old lady immediately answered: "Oh, yes, Madrecita, (little Mother). Yes, we wish to come to the class but it was much easier to make the O than the X so we wrote the O."

Catechist Clara Foley,
Lubbock, Texas.

The Rio Grand River, which flows through the State of New Mexico, is one of the longest rivers in the world. The name is composed of two Spanish words, "Rio" meaning river, and "Grande" meaning great. The Spanish translation of it is "Great River," and its correct pronunciation is "Ree-o Grand-ee."

It is not to be wondered at that the Catechists sincerely love their work among the Spanish-speaking people. One day spent with those dark-eyed, affectionate, confiding Spanish children is sufficient to convince anyone that to live among them and not to love them is impossible. And loving them, how could one help being devoted to their cause?



DESERT CORRALS

A "GREAT" LITTLE LEADER

The people of Santa Paula, Calif., especially the children, have welcomed us into their midst as their very own. Our center is becoming a happy retreat for many. Thanks to Jesus and Mary, we have little difficulty in inducing the boys and girls to spend their evening recreations with us, whenever this is possible. Some times we permit them to play, apparently unsupervised, so that



GRANNY IS HIS "ALL"

even the most timid lose their diffidence and join the others in various games and amusements. On such occasions, especially, leaders come to the fore and take charge of the proceedings. One evening it was Frank. Frank was younger and smaller than many of the boys present, but his qualities of leadership were more pronounced.

Upon entering the play room, he immediately took charge of the assembly. Having learned some time previous in Catechist class that Catholics ought to offer everything they do to Jesus and Mary, Frank stood up and quietly informed the others: "We must pray before we play." Everyone arose. In unison they recited the Our Father, Hail Mary, and then "All for Jesus through Mary!" With such a leader we were not surprised to see every child enjoying an evening of wholesome fun.

Catechist Rafaela Mendoza.

MISSIONS ARE BUSY PLACES

(Continued from page 5)

Following Catechist Quarens' directions, I found the stairway, the kitchen and the ruler. I started immediately for the basement where I knew the ruler was impatiently awaited. On the way down I passed the front room where a sewing class was in session and I could not refrain from pausing a second. A large group of older girls was gathered together and conversing intelligently on what they could make out of a flour sack. Catechist had given each of them a flour sack with but one direction, "Make something out of it." She had suggested at the same time that a prize would be given for the most ingenious creation. Scarfs, table runners, baby dresses, and even curtains and aprons were under discussion. The finest piece of imported linen could not have created more interest and eagerness.

Meanwhile Catechist Watkins had come upstairs to see why the ruler was not being delivered downstairs.

"Well, Catechist," I tried to explain, "I got lost. I couldn't find the—" my explanation was interrupted by a loud knock with which our genial and energetic pastor announced himself.

"Catechist, may I use the telephone?" During the interval of quietude that followed, the Chinese gong in the dining room sounded and Catechist informed me: "Whenever you hear that, it means either pray or eat."

This time it was the call to prayer. In less than one minute all the Catechists were gathered in the community room. What sensations crept over me during that first community prayer! Peace? Yes. But also a realization that in the future, this peace would have to be sustained and nourished under the cover of an active, a very active life; a realization that there was much to be done and yet Jesus and Mary were expecting of me a spirit of recollection and prayer, combined with all the activity in their honor.

Prayers were interrupted several times by the door-bell and the telephone. There seemed to be a continual ringing of those two bells.

We retired at nine o'clock and my reflections on Missions in general and this one in particular, closed to the melody of "La Golondrina" which was being played by the Mexican band down in the meeting room of the Settlement House.

DEFER NOT TO GIVE TO HIM THAT IS IN DISTRESS. (Eccles IV, 3.)

Mary's Little Helpers

I am going to tell you a little story about one of our little Mexican boys to show you how much they love Jesus. Catechist noticed that during Catechism class Carlos never sat in the middle of his seat. He always sat on the edge, and Catechist was afraid he would fall off. So one day she asked him why he didn't sit like the other children. Carlos said: "Well, Catechist, you see, you told us that Jesus is always with us, so I make room for him to sit down beside me." Catechist said, "Do you really believe that Jesus is always with you?" "Oh, sure," said Carlos: "I know He is. Because if He didn't help me with everything, how could I do anything?" So you see, Carlos really loves our dear Jesus so much, that he thinks of Him all the time.

Marie Garrity and her mother, of Chicago, supplied fifteen complete First Communion Outfits for girls, and fifteen for boys. Besides this, they sent two hundred and sixty-eight pounds of clothing.

This is your last chance, Little Helpers, to choose a name for the new Burse. Most of our Little Helpers have suggested Our Blessed Lady of Victory and the Little Flower. The contest will close on June 15th., so send in your vote before that date. Just write to me and tell me which name you are voting for. If you wish, you may cut out the list of names and put a check beside it and send it to me.

Our Blessed Lady of Victory
The Little Flower
The Holy Child Jesus
Holy Guardian Angel
Jesus and Mary
St. Bernard
St. Agnes
St. Rita
Perpetual Help
Holy Childhood
The Little Angels
Jesus, Mary, Joseph
St. Michael

Have you ever tried to get your little school mates to be Little Helpers? If you like to be a Little Helper, surely you will try to get all your little friends to be Little Helpers too, so that they also can help the poor girls and boys in the Missions. Why not tell your Sisters in school about these needy children who do not have Sisters to teach them about God? If it were not for the Catechists, who go out to these Mission places, just think, these poor children would not even be able to receive their First Holy Communion! Don't you think that if your good Sisters knew how much the Little Helpers help our Missions, they would like to have their children to be Little Helpers? I am sure they would, if you would tell them.

Dear Little Helpers:

I'll bet you are all anxiously waiting for vacation now, aren't you? It is pretty hard to have to stay in school after the weather gets warm.

Warm weather makes me think of something I have always wanted to tell you. I think I have mentioned pinons, before but I have never told you how much fun the people have gathering them. First of all pinon is pronounced "peen-yon." with the accent on the last syllable. A pinon is a tiny nut, not quite as large as a bean and is very tasty. These nuts grow in the cones. When the cones get ripe they open up and the pinons fall to the ground. I was lucky to be able to go out on a pinon hunt with some of the Spanish people. Sometimes the whole family goes for a week at a time. They take a tent and all the things needed for camp life, and go way up into the mountains. Sometimes it gets pretty thrilling, too, when a bear or some other animal comes snooping around the camp. One day when we were walking along, I stumbled into a bunch of



dried twigs. In fact it looked like a little mountain of twigs and bones and sticks. I was going to tear it apart and see what it was all about, but Enrique, one of the little boys, wouldn't let me. Then he told me what it was. Up in the mountains there are little animals about the size of a rabbit, except that they look more like a rat. They are gray, have a little round face and a long tail with a ball of fur on the end. They live on pinons and they store them away, either in a hollow tree or a hole in the ground. After they have as many as they think they will need for the winter, they

begin to build a den over the hole. They trudge back and forth, carrying sticks, stones and twigs, and sometimes these dens, when they are finished, are as tall as a man. And you should see the bunch of nuts they have in some of these holes,—there are pounds and pounds of them. They surely aren't taking any chances of being hungry during the winter.

I think you would all have enjoyed my pinon trip up in the mountains. I hope I can go sometime again. You never know what you will find next out there.

Truly yours,

WEE WILLIE WINKLES.

St. Anthony must love the Little Helpers, because last month we enrolled several new Bands under his patronage. St. Anthony's Junior Mission Band was formed in Detroit with forty-seven members. In Chicago, at St. Anthony's school, we enrolled sixty-four new members. Besides these we enrolled Mary's Little Helpers of Holy Trinity School, Bryant, Indiana; there are seventy-seven members in this band. Isn't that fine?

DON'T FORGET THE LITTLE HELPERS BURSE!

The Associate Catechists of Mary

Haven't you often felt as though you would like to help the Missions? and yet on account of the many expenses of everyday life felt that it was impossible to do so? There are many good people who have this intention, and they keep putting it off until some later date. Perhaps if you knew how some of our good friends manage to save a few pennies here and there it might give you an idea of how you also can help in a small way. The following example shows a real self-sacrificing spirit. One of our friends in the East owned a car but he decided to give it up. Then he had a garage but no car, so he rented the garage to somebody else. He used the money which he received as rent, to pay his gas, water and electric bills. After paying the bills he still had something left over each month, and, as he says, Our Lord inspired him to send this balance each month for the support of a Catechist. As a result, each month we receive a check from him. The amount is never the same,—one time it may be \$3.00, another time \$2.59. Perhaps you could also try something like this?

Our good friend, Father Faust, of New Haven, Indiana, has encouraged his Sodality to work for the Missions. This Sodality has divided into two Bands—twenty-six members in one Band, which will supply various household articles for one of our Missions, and thirteen members in the other, which will sew.

Mrs. Lucy of Chicago sponsored a very successful card party for our benefit and made \$65.00.

It was very edifying to us to find such a self-sacrificing spirit among our friends during Lent. Many of them made little self-denial offerings in honor of Our



These little children wanted to show their kind benefactors how nice they look all dressed up in their First Communion outfits. Doesn't it make your heart glad to know that you had such a large share in making them happy on this day of all days?

Lord's Passion and Death. One man, who is seventy-four years old, promised at the beginning of Lent to give up smoking and put the money thus saved in a mite box. True to his promise, we received his contribution just before Easter. This is indeed charity which is pleasing to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Mrs. John Dietz of Chicago made a beautiful quilt which she raffled off, the result of which was a check for \$50.00 for St. Paschal's Burse.

Mrs. Kenny of Chicago was hostess at a splendid Catechist party recently and added \$105.00 to the Sacred Heart Burse. This good lady must be happy to know that by her wonderful missionary spirit this sum will support a Catechist for four months.

Warm days make us think of picnics. Who doesn't like to go on a picnic? When you begin to make plans for your summer outings, will you think of the poor little kiddies in the Missions who also like picnics? These poor children do not have playgrounds and the many things that our children have, and their only form of summer amusement is an occasional picnic given by the Catechists. And what picnic is complete without marshmallows, crackerjack, cookies, etc.?

In our daily visiting we find many sad cases, but one of the saddest cases is of a poor mother, dying and leaving her little children without anyone to take care of them. This is what happened

to the Gomez family, living near Las Vegas, N. M. One of the little boys came and told us his mother was dying, and begged us to come and pray with her. We started immediately and it is almost impossible to describe the pathetic scene that met our eyes. Mrs. Gomez was lying on boards that were padded, a sheet covering it and a pillow under her head. Under the boards at her head was a box and at the other end an old suitcase. And thus she died, with her eight children kneeling around her, praying. Before we left this little hut, we could see some men through the window digging her grave. The burial took place the afternoon of the same day because they could not afford to have a Mass. This is real poverty—the kind of poverty which prevails among our poor people. The mother it is true

has had her share of suffering and has gone to her eternal reward—but think of the poor little children—alone in the world and no one to look after them. These are the little ones that need help and your prayers.

Have you ever stopped to realize what an ASSOCIATE CATECHIST OF MARY means? We are all Mary's children. We love and honor Her as the Mother of God. We try to imitate her—Her humility, Her charity, Her loving kindness. But, when you become an Associate Catechist of Mary, you belong to Her in another sense also. You become Her partners, her co-workers in Her Divine Son's vineyard. While Mary was still on earth, She was the comfort and encouragement of the first missionaries—the apostles. And you, too, by being Her Associates, are the comfort and encouragement of the Catechists.

BAND ACTIVITIES

- Our Blessed Lady of Victory Circle, Huntington, Ind.—\$25.00.
- The Ave Maria Club, Chicago.—\$20.00.
- The Sacred Heart Band, No. 1.—Mrs. Scheuer, promoter.—\$100.00.
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Chicago.—Mrs. Wainwright, promoter.—\$35.50.



BE AN ASSOCIATE CATECHIST OF MARY

Rutland, Vt.

Rev. Dear Father:

Please find enclosed \$5.00 for a one year subscription to THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST. The rest is for Masses to be offered for my parents, brothers and sisters. I also want information regarding a few hundred dollars which I desire to leave to the Society in my will.

Very sincerely yours,

M. C.

A number of our subscribers have taken advantage of our partial payment plan for life subscriptions. Some send \$1.00, others \$2.00 or more as initial payments with the promise of sending us \$1.00 a month until they have paid the required \$10.00 for a full life subscription.

The Saints all unite in telling us that since our Blessed Mother is the source of the ordinary graces of God, we should go to Her in all our needs. St. Bernard, St. Alphonsus and Blessed De Montfort, writing of the prerogatives of Our Blessed Mother, tell us that She is the "Treasurer, the Stewardess the Dispenser of God's graces."

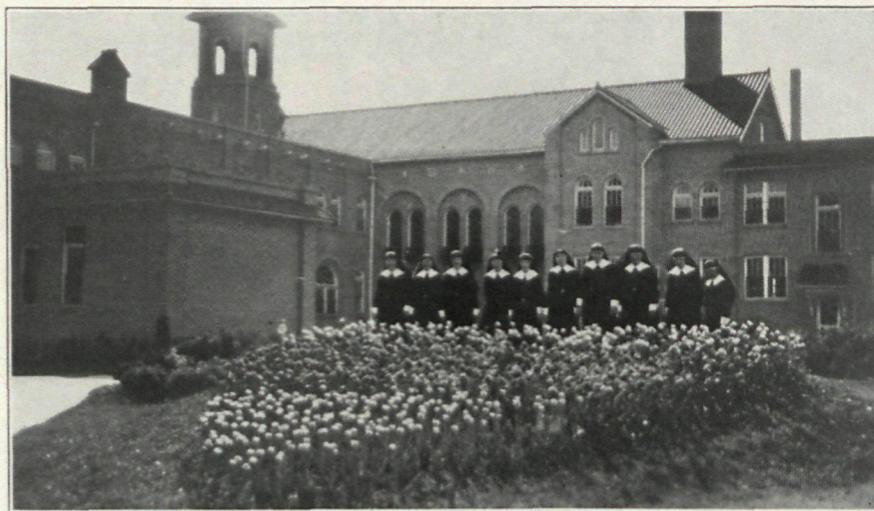
Since our Catechists and all their works have been consecrated to Her, She is in a special manner their powerful Patroness, their dearest Mother, Looking confidently to Her for aid, not only in their difficult missionary labors and in the crying needs of the poor little ones under their care, but also in the spiritual and temporal needs of their friends and benefactors, they include their intentions in the daily Perpetual Novena to Her, under Her glorious title of "our Blessed Lady of Victory." They, therefore, invite all their friends to send in their intentions for this Novena.

Mark intentions which you wish remembered. Your intentions will be placed on the altar of Our Blessed Lady of Victory in our chapel at Victory-Noll and will be included in our Perpetual and special novenas to Our Blessed Mother.

- Thanksgivings
- Restoration of Health
- Employment
- Conversions
- Peace in Families
- Parents and Relatives
- Vocations
- Poor Souls
- Happy Death
- Successful Operations
- Spiritual and Temporal Favors
- Other intentions

Name

Address



TULIP TIME AT VICTORY-NOLL

The 2500 Club 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. Although there are few who can wholly adopt a Missionary Catechist, there are many who can contribute toward their support. The 2500 Club was organized for these charitable Catholics. Will you be one of those who are always glad to help?

Your only obligation is to pay one dollar or more each month.

Without charity there is no true life, no progress in holiness, no eternal happiness.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Mrs. Jennie Thorne, Mrs. Russell, Wm. Monahan, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Hoffman, Rev. R. Glasmeyer, O. S. B.; Mary Moreth Renner, A. C. M.; Mrs. Philip Minnich, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; Mrs. A. McGuane, Catherine McKeogh, A. C. M.

May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

THE CATECHISTS IN CALIFORNIA (Continued from Page 3)

week, and over 800 children alone have been prepared for their First Holy Communion.

Realizing that the hope of the future development of the Church lies in the religious training of the children in their Missions, the Catechists here, as elsewhere, have labored strenuously to establish organizations for the growing boys and girls. In every Mission under their care the Catechists have organized The Children of Mary Sodality for girls and the Junior Holy Name Society for boys. By means of these splendid organizations, the Catechists have been able to accomplish much good in training the children to become, not only practical Catholics, but useful citizens of our Country as well. Through organized effort much constructive work can be done in forming Christian character in the children in training them for their duties as good practical Catholic men and women and thus holding them close to their Church and to their Priest.

These works, however, cannot be accomplished without the continued cooperation of the friends and benefactors of the Missions, who alone can make it possible for the Catechists to expand their progress of Religion, Social Service and Welfare Activities in the vast mission field of California.

May is Our Blessed Mother's own month. We may be certain that She will not fail to bless all those who, during this month, make a Sacrifice and contribute something to help us feed and clothe the abandoned poor under our care. During this period of depression the needs of these poor are becoming more acute and more pressing every day. It is no uncommon thing for the Catechists to find, in their daily house to house visits, families where the children have had no food for two or three days at a time.

... Christian Charity toward our neighbor absolutely demands that those things which are lacking to the needy should be provided; hence it is incumbent on the rich to help the poor, that having an abundance of this world's goods they do not expend them fruitlessly or completely squander them, but employ them for the support and well-being of those who lack the necessities of life. They who give of their substance to Christ in the person of His poor will receive from the Lord a most bountiful reward when He shall come to judge the world; they who act to the contrary will pay the penalty. Not in vain does the Apostle warn us: "He that hath the substance of this world and shall see his brother in need, and shall shut up his bowels from him; how doth the charity of God abide in him?" Pius XI.

A Red Letter Day in the Lives of the Children of the Poor

CATECHIST MARY McCONVILLE

It is not a children's convention that is depicted in the picture below but an Easter party of our Mexican children at Indiana Harbor. These little children of the poor were made supremely happy at this party which was sponsored by the zealous band of ladies representing St. Augustine's Council of the Ladies of Isabelle of Chicago.

This Easter-Day party was a real red-letter day in the otherwise drab and dreary lives of the children. The splendid program, consisting of musical selections, recitations and games, was immensely enjoyed by the 325 children present. Eager to learn the new games to be played and to gain the prizes offered to the winners, the children were especially delighted with the novel game of "Bingo."

With the thoughtfulness and generosity characteristic of these devoted "Ladies of Charity" they had made provisions for satisfying every child at the party with the appropriate gift of an Easter Basket. At the conclusion of the party each one of the good ladies expressed herself as having enjoyed the day as much as the children did.

In the needy missions and destitute settlements of the Southwest, wherever the Missionary Catechist carries on her works of mercy, feeding the hungry and nursing the sick poor, her service is a boon to suffering humanity.

In the vital work of health conservation and of community welfare, her consecrated service and her ministry of love have been instrumental in healing the sick in relieving the necessities of the needy and in saving the souls and bodies of God's neglected little ones.

At last, through the kindness of these same Ladies of Isabelle, who donated a beautiful array of mixing bowls, kettles and other kitchen utensils, the so-styled "Kitchen" in our Community Center is beginning to assume the appearance of a real kitchen where our little Mexican charges will learn to prepare a few wholesome American dishes.

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To the Ladies of Isabelle we are also deeply indebted for the dozens and dozens of black and white hose for our First Communicants. Having to clothe almost eighty children for First Communion on a few day's notice (the children received a month earlier than we had intended) would have been a tremendous problem had it not been for these good Ladies and the foresight of Mrs. Klein and her devoted band of workers of Huntington, Ind.

The Little Flower Circle of Chicago gave us a donation with which to buy tennis shoes for quite a number of children who would otherwise have been shoeless for the occasion.



Not Impossible

Our curiosity was aroused. Catechist Woods was spending most of her free time in chapel. What was she praying for, anyway? Every Catechist at Victory-Noll spends a great deal of time in prayer, so it took several days before we suspected that Catechist Woods was praying for something very special.

In answer to our questions we received one of those disarming smiles and,—“Oh, I’m making a Novena.”

Two days later we were mending clothes in the shade of an oak tree when Catechist Woods burst in upon us radiant with joy: “My prayers have been answered already! Catechist Directress just gave me this.—Listen.”

We listened.

“Dear Catechist Directress:

“My children are all grown up and married and I have often longed for someone to take their place,—someone whom I could call my own and have no fear of losing, but who would truly be a consolation to me in my old age. I met dear Catechist Woods while visiting at Victory-Noll and would be very happy if I might be permitted to adopt her . . . Her letters, perhaps an occasional visit, and especially her prayers and labors, will be an everlasting consolation and joy to me. . . .

“I am enclosing a check of \$300.00, my first contribution toward her Burse. . . .”

Catechist read the whole thing. No one interrupted because we were all struck speechless with happy surprise. At last we cried with one voice, “So that’s what you were praying for! That Mrs. J. would adopt you!”

“It was not! I didn’t care who did it but I just told Our Blessed Mother She must send someone to adopt me so I could go to the Missions and save souls for Her. She chose Mrs. J. and I’m glad She did, too!”

Catechist Horan arose suddenly: “I am going to begin this minute and make a Novena for the same

The Society of Missionary Catechists depends entirely upon charitable contributions for the means to carry on its work. Each Catechist is supported by a Burse. Each Burse when completed, amounts to \$6,000.00. It is usually made up of small contributions.

\$25.00 supports a Catechist in the field for one month. \$1.00 supports a Catechist for one day.

Contribute toward the support of a Catechist and thus make it possible for her to save the souls of poor little children so dear to the Heart of Our Blessed Mother.

purpose! There must be more good people like Mrs. J. in the world who would be glad to adopt one of us if they only understood what it would mean!

“Just the other day Catechist Directress told me that we could open many new Missions in settlements where people, too poor even to support a Priest, are eagerly awaiting us and praying for us to come; but we cannot go until we are supported by kind friends outside of the Society. I am going to pray!”

“But Catechist’s adoption sounds like a fairy tale. Those things don’t happen every day!” I reminded.

Catechist Horan stood firm. “I know they don’t happen every day but that isn’t saying they can’t or won’t! Surely there are devoted clients of Our Blessed Mother who, for love of Her, will be glad to help us save Her suffering children and lead them to Our Dear Lord.”

I dared make no further remarks but followed the others to the Chapel, silently apologizing to Our Blessed Mother for the task we were placing on Her shoulders. In fact I asked St. Anthony to offer his assistance in seeking out the generous Catholics who would at least contribute something toward the support of our class of nineteen Juniors who were so soon to make their profession and be sent out in the field to labor for the love of Jesus and Mary and the salvation of souls..



Doing the early
Spring planting
at Victory-Noll