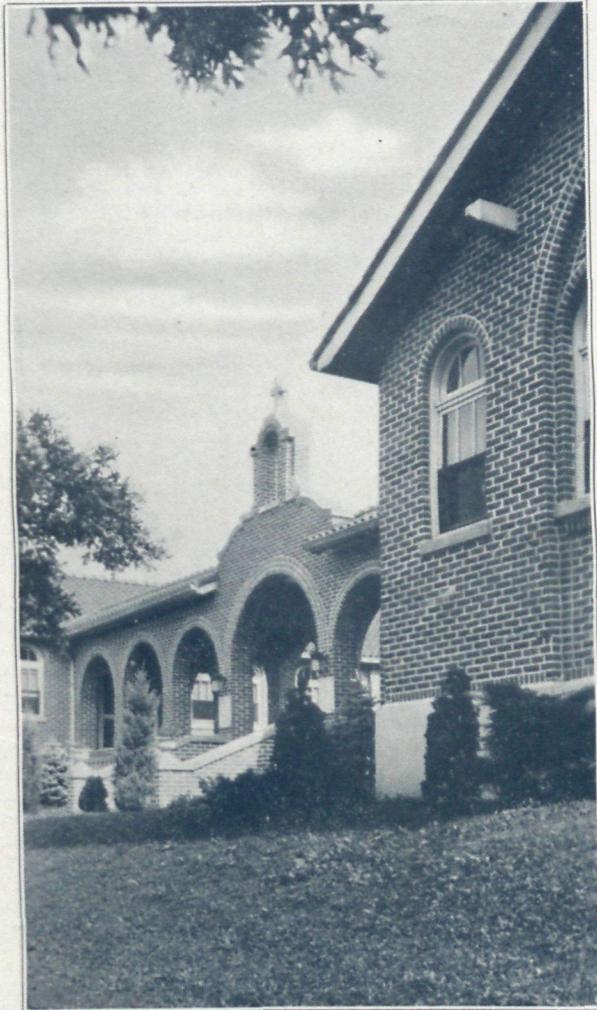


The Missionary Catechist



"Victory-Noll", the Motherhouse and Novitiate of The Society of Missionary Catechists.



New Mexico—The Land of Our First Great Adventure

The First Great Adventure

By Catechist Julia Doyle.

Often during the happy days of our Novitiate at Our Lady's Academy of Chicago we tried to picture to ourselves our future life in the vast, destitute Mission Fields of New Mexico. How eager we were to grasp every bit of information we could get that would help us in the days of "high romance" that lay before us as Missionary Catechists of Our Blessed Lady of Victory. Eagerly we drank in all the details of the Mission stories our dear Spiritual Father told us. It was always with a prayer of gratitude upon our lips and in our hearts that we thought of our high and holy vocation. I remember one day how thrilled we were when Father announced that he had invited an old-time Missionary friend in New Mexico to visit us in Chicago. So desirous were we of meeting the Missionary that we asked and got permission to go down to the Dearborn Station to greet the Father upon his arrival. How we enjoyed that first interesting but all too short talk with Father Dumarest, who we learned was the very first Missionary in New Mexico to become interested in our beloved, newly-formed Society, and who had made the "first bid" for our services in his twenty odd Missions in the northern part of the State. How eagerly did we not look forward to our Spiritual Instructions when our Father hurried from the hospital where he was serving as Chaplain, to train us in the principles and practices of Religious Life, to impart to us our Religious training and to form us to the likeness of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I can never forget that one of the first spiritual lessons I learned was that I myself must become holy if I wished to make others holy. How deeply did we not feel our sense of responsibility as the first Catechists to hold aloft the high ideals of virtue and of holiness and of ardent love of Jesus and Mary constantly instilled into our souls during those first days of our Novitiate! Never can I forget the maternal care and the devotion which good Mother Aquinata, the Superioress of the Academy, bestowed upon us, and of the many lessons we learned from her and from the Sisters whom she appointed to teach us Spanish, and music, and other subjects necessary to fit us for our life work. Came at last the day when we were to be invested in our blessed uniforms; and then our departure for the Mission Fields we longed to cultivate.

Do you know what stands out most clearly and strikingly in my mind today,—even after ten long years,—of all the swiftly moving events of that fateful day,—August 3,—as we knelt in the Chapel of the Academy and recited our beautiful Act of Consecration? It is this. There was a small statue of Our Blessed Lady of Victory, artistically crude perhaps, but very dear to us, nevertheless, because

it was the first gift of Mother Aquinata to us. This statue our Father himself placed upon the Altar of Our Blessed Mother, grouped candles and flowers about it, lit the candles and knelt and recited with us our solemn Act of Consecration, by which we became bound by the chains of love as the devoted slaves of Jesus and Mary forever. Perhaps it was the quietness of the Chapel in that early morning hour: perhaps it was the fact that no one was present besides ourselves, but our Spiritual Father, two of our Sister-Catechists, and good Sister Lamberta, who had been our "ministering angel" for many months at the Academy—that served to make the occasion more impressive. But the one thing I love to think about and cherish most is our Act of Consecration so solemnly and so fervently made before that little statue on that never-to-be-forgotten morning in August ten years ago.

I must not forget to tell, also, how Sister Lamberta, like a solicitous Mother, was so anxious to clothe us neatly in the new Uniforms that good Mrs. Owens had made for us, and to adjust the veils just so. I suppose it was her training as a Religious in the holy Congregation of Notre Dame that made Sister so precise in our first Religious clothing.

And, now came the breaking of home-ties, for the Academy, and especially that portion of it which had been assigned us by good Mother Aquinata in the beginning, had been in very truth, our home where we lived our first Community Life.

Then came touching farewells, a few hurried words, some tears, brave smiles, embraces from our young Sister-Catechists, well-wishes from Mother Aquinata, and the Sisters of the Academy:—And last but not best of all the paternal blessing of our Father, who urged us to do "all for Jesus through Mary", and charged us to go forth in the names of Jesus and Mary and for love of Them to bring the glad tidings of the Gospel Message to God's poor and suffering little ones in the vast Mission Fields to which we had been called to labor.

I do not recall much about the journey itself. We started it deeply conscious of our responsibility. Perhaps that is why we sat for a good part of that long twelve hundred mile trip with hands folded, and eyes cast down, and as we afterward laughingly recalled "as stiff as two Quakers". The confidence we reposed in Our Good Mother, however, was too great to permit us to remain long in such a stiff, formal, or solemn state.

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SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY NUMBER

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After Ten Years

Like all Religious Communities, the Society of Missionary Catechists of Our Blessed Lady of Victory had its humble beginning. Its Providential development, however, has been most remarkable. In 1922 when the first Mission Center was established the Society consisted of seven members, two of whom were Professed. The ten years that have elapsed since that time have seen a growth of from seven to one hundred and fifty members, seventy-nine of whom are Professed; and an increase of from one to thirteen Mission Centers—six in

North Dakota, who, on Thanksgiving Day, 1917, examined the plans for its establishment and promised his support and cooperation.

FIRST MEMBERS ENTER

The Society received its first members in the spring of 1919. They were Catechists Julia Doyle and Catechists Marie Benes, both of Chicago. These first two Catechists, through the generosity of the Reverend Mother Aquinata and the School Sisters of Notre Dame, made their Novitiate at the Academy of Our Lady in Chicago.

FIRST FOUNDATION MADE

The first foundation of the Society of Missionary Catechists was made in New Mexico. On July 7, 1921, the Most Rev. Albert T. Daeger, O. F. M., Archbishop of Santa Fe, gave his formal approval to the Society and on July 8 it was duly incorporated as a Religious Society under the laws of the State of New Mexico. One year later, in 1922, the first Mission Center of the Society was opened at Watrous, New Mexico, by Catechist Doyle and Catechist Benes.

EDITOR OF "OUR SUNDAY VISITOR" AIDS FOUNDER

The following year brought new and lasting friends to the Society. On May 25, 1923, the day after the Feast of Our Lady of Victory, Patroness of the Society of Missionary Catechists, the editor of "Our Sunday Visitor," the Rt. Rev. Msgr. J. F. Noll, D. D., now Bishop of Fort Wayne, called on Father Sigstein, at that time Chaplain at St. Bernard's Hospital in Chicago, and proposed to build a Motherhouse and Novitiate for the new Society at Huntington, Indiana. Part of the funds necessary for the construction of this building would be given by Mr. Peter O'Donnell, of Long Beach, California. Mr. O'Donnell was deeply interested in providing Religious Instruction for the poor, neglected Mexican children in the Southwest.

Meanwhile, the Catechists, with the approval of the Most Reverend H. J. Alerding, then Bishop of Fort Wayne, had opened a house in Gary, Indiana, where they received subjects. On December 8, 1924, "Victory-Noll", the new Motherhouse and Novitiate at Huntington, Indiana, erected and maintained by Bishop Noll and "Our Sunday Visitor", was completed.

The Society not only makes an appeal to young girls in the States, but to others as well. Applications have been received from Canada, Mexico, the West Indies, Central America, and even far-



Catechist Julia Doyle (at the right) and Catechist Mary Benes, first members.

off Mexico, one in Texas, four in California and two in Indiana.

NORTH DAKOTA BISHOP APPROVES

The Society of Missionary Catechists was founded by the Rev. J. J. Sigstein. It has for its special end the preservation of the Faith in the poor, neglected mission places and settlements primarily of our own Country. The first ecclesiastical encouragement for the new Community came from the Most Reverend Vincent Wehrle, O. S. B., Bishop of Bismark,



The first Mission Center, at Watrous, New Mexico.

off England. There are now twenty Spanish-speaking subjects in the Society.

MISSION ACTIVITIES

The Missionary Catechists engage in no institutional work. Their ideal is the spiritual and corporal welfare of the poor. This end they accomplish through the visitation of the homes of the needy, and the religious instruction of their children. They live in a Mission Center or convent provided for them in their

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Steps To Profession

Catechist Mary Blake slipped into the quiet chapel. She wished to kneel at the feet of Our Dear Lord and His Blessed Mother and to thank Them again for bestowing such great happiness upon her. Three years ago she had asked herself, "Is happiness really for me?" Now the fulness of it was hers.

That morning, Catechist Blake had pronounced her Holy Vows for the first time. True, the First Vows were only for one year, but in her heart she kept repeating, "forever and ever! Jesus and Mary, I am Yours for ever and ever!"

She knelt before the Altar of Our Blessed Mother and reviewed her past life so that she might better appreciate the great favors Our Lord had been pleased to shower down upon her. Even the trials and hardships,—how thankful she was for them now! It was comforting to know that she had borne something for Him Who was blessing her so abundantly. In her heart there was not even a shadow of a regret for all the sacrifices she had made in order to follow her holy Vocation to become a Missionary Catechist.

Like most American girls, she had set her heart upon following a Career. Her parents had sacrificed much in order to send her through High School and College. Then, just when she was ready to take her place in the world, she had heard a call. At first she had not cared to listen. Life promised to be most interesting! But soon the lights of the world went out one by one. She found herself longing for the call to come again. When it did come and she understood it, to answer it became her one desire. Then the opposition of her parents seemed to make it impossible for her to take up this new life which lay beckoning before her and she asked herself sadly, "is happiness for me? I know that I cannot find it unless I follow my vocation and that seems impossible!"

Fortunately for Mary, she sought advice from the parish priest. The result was, she saw clearly that her first duty was to God. Her parents had no actual need of her. She understood their distress and sympathized with them, but she could not let them persuade her to disregard the will of God. Of course, it almost broke her heart when they refused their consent, calling her an ungrateful, unnatural daughter. Reasoning, patient pleading, prayers and tears availed nothing, so Mary quietly packed her things and left. Her parents were good Catholics, so she did not doubt that in time they would see things from "God's point of view."

The first six months at Victory-Noll passed quickly. By work and prayer she prepared her-



CANDIDATE



CONSECRATE



PROBATIONER

training in the work of a Missionary Catechist and ample opportunities of practicing the beautiful virtues of charity, self-sacrifice and self-abnegation so necessary for success in the sublime work of saving souls.

At last Profession Day dawned. Her cup of happiness overflowing, Catechist Blake could only kneel in mute adoration, wondering at the merciful love and condescension of her Divine Spouse. Everything had been so beautiful,—perfect, she thought. Even her parents, repenting of their misunderstanding, had arrived at "the eleventh hour" to witness her profession and to share her joy. A sentence from the morning's sermon flashed into her mind: "After Tabor came Calvary." It would be with her as with all God's elect: she too would one day, soon perhaps, shoulder her cross and bear it to the end in union with Jesus and Mary and for love of Them. But today she could only thank God for her present, great happiness and murmur: "Lord, it is good for me to be here!"



JUNIOR

self for her Act of Consecration to Our Blessed Mother. Another six months sped happily by and Catechist Blake entered upon her blessed year's Novitiate. During this time she walked hand in hand with Our Blessed Mother, learning from Her the beautiful secrets of the interior life. How fervently she gave thanks to Jesus and Mary for having called her to do their own work among the neglected poor. How unceasingly she prayed for her parents and all those dear to her who, by their misunderstanding, caused her many a heartache. How courageously she battled with herself to acquire the virtues necessary to become a true Catechist of Jesus and Mary!

After the Novitiate came a busy year at the Junior Mission Training Center at Indiana Harbor, Indiana. Here Catechist Blake received practical



PROFESSED MISSIONARY CATECHIST

The primary purpose of the Society of Missionary Catechists is the personal sanctification of its members. Its special end is the imparting of a sound religious instruction and christian training exclusively to poor, neglected children in Mission places and settlements.

To become a Missionary Catechist one must have a pious disposition, an earnest desire to sanctify one's soul, and a true vocation to devote oneself in honor of Our Blessed Lady of Victory, to the missionary, catechetical and charitable labors of the Society among the poor.

READ "THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST" AND THEN PASS IT ON

OUR LADY OF THE SNOW

The Feast of Our Lady of the Snow, August 5th., is celebrated with great fervor by the Catechists. It is the day on which the pioneer Catechists reached New Mexico to open our first Mission Center in the Southwest. The history of this Feast, which is unknown to most people, is like a fairy tale:

In Rome, at the beginning of the fourth century, there lived a certain nobleman as remarkable for his piety and tender devotion to Mary as he was famed for his wealth and position. This good nobleman and his wife were, nevertheless, not happy because Providence had denied them a son and heir. Like Zachary and Elizabeth, they prayed for many years that God would send them a child. But heaven seemed closed to their petitions. At length, with renewed fervor, they promised Our Blessed Mother that they would dedicate their wealth to Her if She obtained their one desire. The Maternal Heart of Mary was touched. On August 5th, She came Herself to assure them that their prayers would be answered. She also told them to build a church in Her honor on Mount Esquiline. They would find covered with snow the spot chosen by Her for the site.

Pope Liberius, then the reigning Pontiff, likewise received a visit from the Mother of God Who communicated her desires to him. He, therefore, himself led the procession of clergy and people to Mount Esquiline. There, gleaming white in the golden light of a summer sun, lay a plot of ground covered with newly fallen snow. The church was accordingly built. A century later it was restored, and years later again rebuilt and redecored. Today it bears the title of St. Mary Major though it is also called St. Mary of the Crib because portions of the Crib are preserved there.

It is of interest to note, from history, that the magnificent basilica of St. Mary Major erected in honor of Her who bore Jesus, the Light of the World, stands on the site of an ancient heathen temple where the Romans came to worship the goddess of birth and light. It is also significant that the Catechists, who have received from Mary's hands the sublime mission of spreading the light of Faith among God's poorest, should have begun this great work on the beautiful feast of Our Lady of the Snow.

The 2500 Club is a convenient way of practicing charity. Its only obligations are to pray for the Missionary Catechists and to contribute \$1.00 each month for one year toward their support.



THE CATECHISTS' EMBLEM

At her Profession the Catechist receives a large, silver medal of Our Blessed Lady of Victory which she wears around her neck as on a silver chain. This medal and chain constantly remind her that she is bound by the chains of love to the self-sacrificing service of Jesus and Mary in the person of Their beloved poor. She also receives a beautiful, silver shield which she wears on her cape. The shield is the emblem of the Missionary Catechist. Its symbolical character is touchingly expressed in the prayer said by the Celebrant when he confers it upon the Catechist at her Profession:



Entrance to the Chapel at Victory-Noll

"May the reception of this shield serve as a sign of the powerful protection afforded you by the Queen of Heaven, in Whose honor you wear it, and may this emblem ever be the watchward of your life, to do 'all for Jesus through Mary'. Amen."

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Our Blessed Lady of Victory is the glorious Patroness of The Society of Missionary Catechists.



MARY'S DAY OF TRIUMPH

On the 15th of August we celebrate the feast of the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother into Heaven. She died of love and longing for Jesus. We cannot hope to be assumed into Heaven as Mary was because She alone was sinless. But we can and should strive to die filled with love and longing for Jesus. No one can obtain for us this great love better than Mary, our Mother, and the greatest lover of Jesus. Would you obtain this priceless treasure? Then appeal to Mary. Give Her yourself and all you possess. Hide your nothingness in Her Immaculate Heart and that Heart will love Jesus for you and cause you, too, in the end to die filled with Divine Love.

This sweet and meritorious surrender to Mary is called "The True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin". Our little pamphlet on this Devotion will tell you how easily you may practice it. We will gladly send you one free upon request.

The Confraternity of Mary, Queen of Hearts is the union of all of Mary's children who have given themselves to Her.

I would like to belong to the Confraternity of Mary, Queen of Hearts. Enclosed is \$1.00, the dues for one year.

Name

Address

Dear Father Sigstein:

Instead of my annual renewal I am sending a LIFE SUBSCRIPTION to "The Missionary Catechist."

In these hard times a little material encouragement will, I am sure, give you new strength. Your poor must now be a problem harder than ever before. May our dear Lord prosper your apostolic work and may Mary, our powerful Mediatix, obtain special graces for those zealous Catechists of yours who are in the field gathering in such a rich harvest of souls.

Very sincerely yours in Christ,
Right Reverend Monsignor.....

The Missionary Catechist
Huntington, Indiana

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

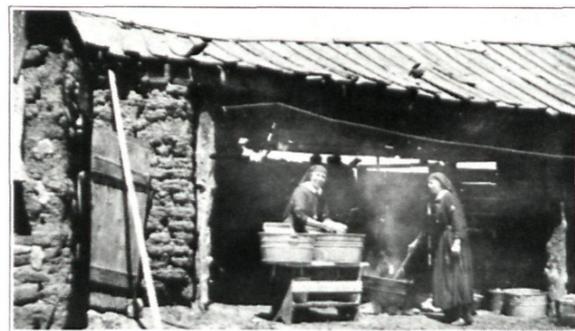
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"AT HOME" IN NEW MEXICO

No sooner had we arrived at our first mission center than we found enough to do to keep us from getting homesick. The manner of living in this typical Southwestern town kept us on the lookout for anything that was different from what we had been accustomed to in the city of Chicago. The friendliness and hospitality of these poor Spanish-speaking people made getting acquainted a simple matter. Their reverence for Religion made it easy for us to win their confidence and to help them. The news of our arrival spread rapidly, and even though our house was small, the people from many miles around found it within a surprisingly short time.

Our first thoughts turned toward remodeling our home to suit the needs of our work. We planned to tear down the old porch and paper the old, dark green walls. It was easy to make plans but to carry them out was another story. We

were getting so much happiness out of our work. The simple Faith of these poor children made it easy for them to grasp the things we taught. The sacrifices they made to attend instructions were a continual source of joy to us. I remember especially one boy of twelve because, in spite of all his efforts he



"Wash day" at our first Mission Center.

he would have been forced to miss class; it would have been impossible for him to cross the arroyo which had become a wild river since the storm. Jose was to receive his First Holy Communion when

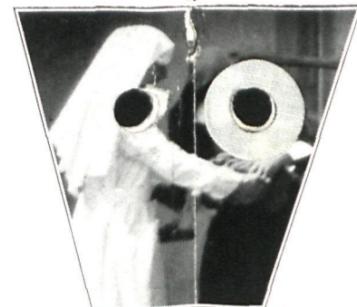
Father came to say Mass at the village, but before this happy time came, the school session began out on the ranch and his parents took him home promising, however, that he could receive Our Dear Lord later.

—Catechist Mary Benes.

GLANCING BACKWARD

Six years ago I was sent to my first mission. It was at Carmen, New Mexico, a pretty little spot in the heart of the mountains. The post office was seven miles away and we only received mail when the school teacher brought it to us. Father came to say Mass once a month. On that day people came from great distances to hear Mass and receive the Sacraments. Every few minutes Father would look up and down the road. If he saw a wagon afar off he would wait until it arrived. As a result, it was always very late, almost noon, before services began.

We had "a



"GOOD SAMARITANS"

Besides dispensing medicines and giving "health" instructions, the Catechists conduct clinics where the poor are given free medical treatment.

divided house,"—the building I mean. Two rooms were in one building; a part of one of these was partitioned off for a chapel which was so small that when Father said Mass we had to remove the chairs so that there would be room for us Catechists to



ANOTHER "PRODIGAL" WELCOMED HOME.

In their house to house visitations the Catechists have the best possible means of bringing the "lost sheep" back to the fold. They also lighten the burden of poverty by providing food and clothing to those in need, especially to the children and the aged who have none to care for them.

kneel. The third room was a little building all by itself, at some distance from the other part of the house. We used this for a kitchen. Just picture us running back and forth at prayer time, from the chapel to the kitchen, to stir the potatoes, put a stick of wood on the fire, or perhaps answer a call.

One morning after Mass, I hurried over to the kitchen to prepare Father's breakfast. When I went to put some

wood on the fire I received the surprise of my life for in the wood-box sat a chicken. Not being very fond of, or familiar with, "livestock" of any kind, my

first thought was to get rid of the intruder. The broom happened to be handy so I grabbed it and tried to chase the chicken out through the opened door. It flew up in the air, then down and around, squawking in the wildest possible way. Finally, I pushed it out with so much relief that I didn't bother to see what became of it. A few minutes later, however, one of the children appeared in the doorway saying, "Catechist, someone has let your chicken go that was brought to you for a present!"

Well, then, I began to understand! "Frankie,—Tom,—Jose!" I called to the boys playing near by, "Go! get my chicken!" When it was brought back, I noticed that it had its legs tied. You may be sure that since then I think twice before I chase a chicken out of the kitchen.

After three happy months at Carmen, we moved to Holman. The Catholic school had burned down there and the children were beginning to attend the Protestant school. Two Catechists went to Holman for a week to make preparation for the

new mission center. In the mean time, two of us stayed at Carmen. That was a week of weeks for us. I didn't know anyone could be so busy. Typhoid was raging just then and we were making sick calls from morning until night. But we had our consolations too. One day a man called and begged us to visit his



Tire troubles in the early days,—not so long ago!

son who was very ill. When I asked the man where he lived he pointed into the distance saying, "see that white house?"

I looked and looked but could see nothing that resembled a white house. I told him that I didn't know there was a white house in that direction. He insisted so we agreed to go with him in the morning. He came for us about nine o'clock. We drove and drove and drove. At twelve o'clock we reached his home in Piedra Blanca. No wonder I couldn't see that white house!

His son was delirious. The nearest doctor was forty miles away and there



To feed the little ones is often to win the whole family back to the Church.

was no way of getting him, so we did all we could for the patient, said a few prayers and left. A month later, the father with a tall boy whom we did not recognize, came to the door and asked for permission to make a visit to Our Dear Lord in the Blessed Sacrament to thank Him for the son's recovery. To our surprise, that boy proved to be our very sick patient of Piedra Blanca.

—Catechist Johanna Barthen.

"ONE SUNDAY A MONTH"

Those of us who were missioned to Ocate, our second Mission Center, still recall the joy we experienced when the long anticipated day,—the fourth Sunday of the month,—arrived. We always said that for us there was only one Sunday in every month. That was the Sunday on which we could assist at Mass and receive the Sacraments. At this time our joy was not unmixed with sorrow. In our hearts there was supreme joy because we were permitted to receive Our Dear Lord in Holy Communion and a tinge of regret that this happiness must be so fleeting. There was a long, dreary month of waiting in between "our Sundays." We knew, however, that we were just as pleasing to Our Lord as those who communicated daily, and His good pleasure was all that really mattered to us. Others



Ocate, New Mex., our second Mission Center.

approached the Holy Banquet through love; we were kept away through love; and it is much easier to do the former than the latter.

—Catechist Sophie Renier.

Did you ever ride over a rough road with a basket of eggs on your lap? We had this experience often in the early days of the Society. The eggs cost thirty or more precious cents too! There were many groceries and foods that we could not buy in our little mountain village, so every now and then we would make a trip to the nearest railroad town, twenty-five miles away. On these occasions we also bought a fresh roast of some kind which was a treat to us after several weeks of diet on eggs and smoked meats.

—Catechist Sophie Renier.

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The Catechists' delight,—a First Communion Class.

had to go twenty-five miles to get the wall paper and things necessary to work with. Finally, with explicit directions regarding how to hang the paper, we proceeded. We had many a good laugh over the awkwardness with which we did the task; there was no mistaking that this was our first attempt at interior decorating. The brush had a way of slipping that sent the paste splashing everywhere but where it belonged. Between the hanging of every two or three strips the doorbell would ring. Someone to visit the "Madrecitas" (little mothers.) Ranchers came from afar hoping that we would conduct a boarding school for their children, which of course we couldn't. Everyone went away happy, though, grateful that at last the children would be properly instructed in the saving truths of our holy Faith.

Even before the wall-papering process was completed, our classes were arranged and begun. What a joy it was to teach those little ones! We were often tempted to fear that we ought not to expect a future reward because we

was denied the great privilege of receiving Our Dear Lord. His parents lived on a ranch twenty miles away but they brought him to the home of relatives where he could stay while he attended Religious Instruction. Even this meant that Jose had to walk five miles every morning to our Mission center and five miles back after class. One night there was a severe storm. Great torrents of rain swept down upon the town. Though we didn't expect Jose the next day, he appeared on the scene,—and such a sight as he was! There was not a dry stitch of clothing on his body. I thought at once that he must have



Pioneer Catechists with some of their first pupils.

fallen into an arroyo. On questioning him he explained that the day before he hadn't been feeling very well and had been too tired out to walk the five miles home, so he stayed in the hills. He had no shelter there from the rain which had poured down upon him unmercifully. He was glad it had happened, though, because if he had walked home as usual,

Mary's Little Helpers

Won't You Come To My Party?

Can you guess what the birthday cake is for Little Helpers? You are right, it is for MARY'S LITTLE HELPERS. Just five years ago this month, THE MARY'S LITTLE HELPERS MISSION AUXILIARY was organized, so we thought it would be nice to have a birthday cake. Whenever we have a birthday, we celebrate, don't we? But now I feel sad because we have the birthday cake and no party, and what's a birthday without a party? Would you like to have a surprise party for us? I think we would have a good time. I'll tell you! Let's have a surprise party in honor of the little Jesus, shall we? Because, after all, the Little Helpers were organized to help His poor, and I know He would have a good time at this party. Even if you do live many, many miles away from here, that's all right, because Jesus is everywhere, isn't He. Now, we all know what a party means, especially a birthday party. When somebody had a birthday party for you, weren't you the happiest girl or boy in the world? Didn't you have a good time opening all your nice birthday presents? So now, I invite every Little Helper to Jesus' party, and also every little boy and girl

THE STORY OF MARY'S LITTLE HELPERS

Five years ago we didn't exist. There weren't any little boys or girls saving their pennies for the Catechists, to help them give food, clothing and medicine to the poor. Then Our Blessed Mother must have inspired someone to organize a children's missionary auxiliary, and so we came into existence. Now we are five years old. What has happened during our five years? First of all, many little children were that wants to come. Everybody must bring a present, of course, because



what's a party without a present? It doesn't have to be much, but it must be given with a loving heart, because Jesus loves a generous giver. What will you bring? Whatever you can. I think a lot of new subscriptions to our magazine would be awful nice, so maybe you can get a new subscriber for your present.

anxious to help the Catechists, and so they became Mary's Little Missionaries. As true missionaries of Mary they denied themselves many things and saved pennies amounting to hundreds of dollars. With this money we have started The Holy Child Burse. A burse, you know, is a certain sum of money which supports a Catechist all during her life. It takes a lot of money to fill a Burse, six thousand dollars altogether. Of course, the Little Helpers haven't saved six thousand dollars, but every penny helps, and they have already saved five hundred dollars. Then they also sent many, many dollars to fill Wee Willie Winkles First Communion Outfit fund. This money buys First Communion outfits for the poor children who cannot afford to buy their own, and would, therefore, have to receive our Dear Lord for the first time dressed in ragged clothes and often without even shoes and stockings. They also have secured new subscriptions to THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST and have sent clothing and toys to the Missions. Best of all, they pray all the time for the Catechists and for the poor in the Missions. We are very happy to be such a promising organization after five years, and we thank every Little Helper who belongs to it. Our birthday wish is that we may GROW BIGGER AND BETTER EVERY DAY. Or a contribution, big or small; even pennies will be welcome, although I do think that it ought to be at least five pennies, one penny for every year, don't

you? Maybe you would like to sacrifice a little handkerchief that you like pretty well, or a book, or a toy? Even a postage stamp will be welcome. If you can't send any of these things, then send a spiritual bouquet. I know every little boy and girl could offer up at least one Mass and Holy Communion. That isn't asking too much. Oh, I will be so disappointed if all my Little Helpers don't come to the party, and I won't be the only one that will be disappointed. Just think how sad the Little Jesus will be. But you won't disappoint us, will you? The party begins as soon as you receive your magazine, and ends after we have received the last present. If we have a nice party, I'll write you a letter and tell you who all came and what they brought. So, won't you come to my party? I know you'll all have a good time. I'll bet you have never been to a party like this before.

Your best friend,
THE CATECHIST SUPERVISOR.

We need many new Little Helpers and many new Clubs, and we hope that by the time we reach our sixth birthday we will be twice as big as we are now.

MARY'S LITTLE HELPERS.

The Mary and Joseph Contest is over, and we are happy to announce the winners. Little Mary Magdalen Sexton of Toledo, Ohio, won the statue of Our Blessed Mother, and Grace Rottner of Norwood, Ohio, won the statue for sending in names for the contest. A little boy by the name of Joseph Evans won St. Joseph, but we think Joseph forgot to include his address. As soon as he sends his address, we will send St. Joseph on his way to him.



The Associate Catechists of Mary

GETTING SOMETHING STARTED!

Margaret Mary knelt alone in the pew occupied every first Sunday of the month by the president of the Children of Mary Sodality. Regretfully she looked across the empty pews to Our Blessed Mother's altar. Ten other pairs of eyes were focused on the same lovely statue of Our Blessed Mother. But the Sodality numbered more than a hundred young women. Where were they? What was wrong with the Sodality? Margaret Mary knew that each member of the Sodality was a devout client of Mary; she knew, too, that each would cooperate in any parish activity proposed to her, but why this listlessness about the Sodality?

Kneeling there, Margaret Mary came to a decision. There would be no meeting after the Little Office had been recited. Instead she would call on Father John. After the usual prayers, therefore, she made the unexpected announcement that the regular monthly meeting would be dispensed with.

Father John looked up in surprise as she entered his study.

"Why, Margaret, I was just coming over to the Sodality meeting. Surely it isn't over already?"

"There weren't enough there, Father, to make a meeting worth while. That's just what I came to see you about. What's wrong with our Sodality? Last year when they elected me President, I was determined to put some pep into our Sodality meetings. There's pep enough, Father, if there's a dance or picnic in the air, but no one seems to care about attending the regular meetings."

Father John's glasses had a habit of sliding down his nose. Now he looked understandingly over them.

"I, too, have been considering our Sodality activities very seriously. If you're ready for work, young lady, I think we can galvanize our Sodality into life."

"Indeed I am, Father, there is nothing I would like better than to see our Sodality active. Not long ago I subscribed to "Catholic Action" and I think our Sodality should be for us a means of

putting into practice the Holy Father's wishes in this regard."

"Well spoken, Margaret. I agree with you. I wonder if Father O'Brien's idea would work out for us? We were talking about sodalities the other day. He said he had been confronted with the same problem but thought it had been satisfactorily solved. He mentioned something about the Society of Missionary Catechists, and gave me some of their pamphlets. I wonder what I did with them? Maybe they would throw some light on the matter. Here they are. You take them along, look through them and see what you find. It might be a good idea for you to call on Father O'Brien. Then come to me and we'll see what can be done."

(To be continued)



This is part of our zealous mission band of St. Jude's Parish, Fort Wayne. Although this band has been organized less than six months they already have a membership of ninety-one members. Besides sending a mission box to our Mission at Indiana Harbor every month, they have also started a Burse in honor of St. Jude with a contribution of \$65.00.

ANOTHER IDEA!

A real friend of God's poor,—Mrs. Gleason of Chicago,—is doing all in her power to help us find the means of supporting our Catechists, and she is trying out a very novel idea. Mrs. Gleason's idea is to obtain a chain of new friends for us by a series of card parties. She will invite twelve women, who

know nothing about the Catechists, to a card party at her own home. She will explain our work and then ask each of the twelve women to conduct a similar party for twelve of their friends. In this way she hopes to gain many new friends who will become interested in our work and thus get our Catechists supported. We feel sure that Our Dear Lord will bless good Mrs. Gleason's plan, and perhaps her idea will inspire others to do the same in other cities.

Are you an ASSOCIATE CATECHIST OF MARY? If not, won't you become one? If you can't, don't you know somebody who will?

Mrs. M. Gallagher and the members of her faithful Sacred Heart Band are to be commended for their untiring efforts in making it possible for the Catechists to relieve the destitute and suffering little ones in the Missions. In addition to recently sending \$78.00 for the support of a Catechist, they sent fifty First Communion outfits to the Missions.

COMING?

Don't forget our annual ASSOCIATE CATECHISTS OF MARY Retreat which will be held over Labor Day, at the Academy of Our Lady, 95th and Throop Sts.,

Chicago. Be sure to make your reservations early.

Chicago, Ill.

Dear Catechist:

I received your letter, and needless to say, I was glad to hear from you. I am enclosing a check for \$50.00, the result of our last three parties, which were given by Mrs. Luetkenhus, Mrs. Hincks and Mrs. Erxeleben. Mrs. Erxeleben is not a member of our band, but is a very good friend, and always willing to help by sponsoring a party for the Catechists. You may be sure that I shall certainly try to follow good Mrs. Wainwright's example, as promoter of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Band, and I know that our good members will continue the good work they have been doing in the past. Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Roger Murphy (Promoter of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Band.)



MOST REV. JOHN F. NOLL, D.D.,
Bishop of Fort Wayne.

AFTER TEN YEARS

(Continued from page 3)

mission districts. From this Center they go out to the surrounding towns and settlements, often reaching as many as fifteen districts from one Center. They not only care for the sick poor in their homes and furnish them with medical attention, but also provide food and clothing and thus relieve the necessities of the suffering poor. In their social Welfare Works and Medical activities the Missionary Catechists are laying the foundation for child-preservation in a region where the mortality rate of children below one year of age is extraordinarily high.

The Catechists are real auxiliaries to the Missionary Priest. They care for his humble Mission-Chapels, train altar boys and choirs, and frequently, during his absence, lead devotions for his flock.

Another interesting feature of the work of the Missionary Catechists is their training of Lay Catechists and enrolling them in the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. At present there are fifty trained members of the Confraternity teaching religion in the remote villages of New Mexico.

The Catechists labor exclusively among the poorest and most neglected of our Catholic people. They receive neither salary nor remuneration for their services. They are supported by means of Burses which are made up of contributions from those interested in missionary activities. Thus they depend entirely upon Providence not only for their own support but for the maintenance of their various Welfare works.

The marvelous development of the Society of Missionary Catechists is, to a great extent, due to the hearty co-operation and encouragement it has received from the Most Reverend John F. Noll, D. D., Bishop of Fort Wayne, and Editor of the Nationally known weekly, "Our Sunday Visitor." Without his sponsorship and timely aid, the erection

of the Motherhouse, "Victory-Noll", so soon after the foundation of the Society, would have been impossible.

In more recent years the Bishops of the South and West have, without exception, given their heartiest approval to the Catechist movement and have applied for large numbers of Catechists to labor in their dioceses.

OUR BLESSED MOTHER SHOWS HER POWER

On June 29 Mr. J—, a good Catholic young man living in Chicago, met in that city the Reverend Spiritual Director of the Society of Missionary Catechists and said to him: "Father, I want to thank you and the good Catechists for so kindly including my intentions for my sister and for my mother in your novena. My sister was given up by the doctors. They said she could not possibly live longer than a few weeks for she had tuberculosis. They wanted to puncture one lung and collapse it. We trusted the power of Our Blessed Mother, however, and asked the Catechists to include our intentions in their Novena. Before the Novena was ended my sister got up from her bed fully recovered and has been feeling fine ever since. My mother, too, who had been very sick, was cured after your Novena."

The Catechists at Victory-Noll make a perpetual Novena in honor of Our Blessed Lady of Victory not only for themselves and their beloved poor, but also for all their benefactors and friends. All those who desire may also include their petitions. Our Blessed Mother has been pleased to obtain remarkable favors in answer to prayers directed to her in this Novena. Send in your petitions for Spiritual and temporal blessings to be included in this perpetual Novena.

Read Something Worthwhile

By Rev. A. J. Blaufuss

"CHRIST'S GIFT, THE MASS," an illustrated Missal for Sundays and Holy days, by Rev. Dan F. Cunningham.

Benziger Bros. \$1.20.

This Sunday Missal has several points to recommend it:—elimination of frequent cross references; clear print; artistic illustration and excellent binding. Every child with ability to read can follow the Priest with this missal. In the entire Mass there are only three turnings from COMMON to PROPER, or reverse.



MOST. REV. ALBERT T. DAEGER, O.F.M.
Archbishop of Santa Fe.

THE FIRST GREAT ADVENTURE

(Continued from inside front cover)

Before we reached "the land of journey's ending", it was with our accustomed cheerfulness and naturalness of spirit that we greeted good Father Blaufuss, as he met us on the train speeding towards our destination, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Of course, there was a flutter of excitement when we received the hearty greetings extended us by His Grace, Most Reverend Archbishop Daeger, upon our arrival in Santa Fe. Then, too, there was as you may readily imagine, some excitement as we took possession of the neat little adobe building in the archiepiscopal grounds which His Grace had so thoughtfully placed at our disposal. How we felt and what we did, when we began our Mission Life there—well, this, of course, forms the subject of another story.

We two, Catechist Benes and myself, can look back over all these events and amidst smiles and tears call forth fervent and affectionate sentiments of gratitude to Jesus and Mary for starting us upon our first great adventure as the pioneer Catechists of our dear Society. Gratefully, too, can we acknowledge the untold blessings, the heavenly favors, the Divine Graces They have since bestowed upon us in our missionary labors for God's glory, Mary's honor, and the salvation of the souls of God's poor in this great Mission Field of the Southwest "white unto the harvest"—and that Mission Field still awaiting our willing hands and the ready hands and eager hearts of our Sister-Catechists to gather unto Our Heavenly Father's granaries, the choice harvest of immortal souls.

Our Annuity Plan is safe and sound. You will never regret investing in it. We accept amounts as low as \$50.00. Interest, 6%, payable semi-annually. We send full particulars free upon request.

BABY-SAN

Pure Liquid Castile Soap For Bathing Babies



BABY-SAN for a number of years has been the favorite soap for bathing babies in the leading Hospitals of the United States and Canada.

In the nursery of the Hospital it is dispensed from the Portable BABY-SAN Dispenser illustrated here. BABY-SAN is shipped in various containers to the Hospitals, ranging in size from five gallons to barrels.

Write now for more information and prices.

MOTHERS! You Can Use BABY-SAN

8 OZ. BOTTLE - - \$1.00 POSTPAID
16 OZ. BOTTLE - - \$1.50 POSTPAID



For those mothers who would like to use this finest of baby soaps, we take pleasure in announcing that it is now available in eight ounce shaker top bottles at \$1.00 per bottle C. O. D., postage prepaid. Large bottles (sixteen ounces) may be had at \$1.50 per bottle C. O. D., postage prepaid.

BABY-SAN is also unusually excellent for hair shampoo. It cleanses the scalp and hair, and when the hair dries it is soft and glistening in luster. Order BABY-SAN direct. Send \$1.00 or \$1.50 in money order, or ask to have us send BABY-SAN C. O. D.

The Hospital Department
HUNTINGTON LABORATORIES, INC.
Huntington, Indiana

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| —Enclosed is \$..... (—Send C.O.D.) |
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| City State..... |

BABY-SAN is made in the same city in which the MISSIONARY CATECHIST is published and is recommended as the finest and most reliable baby soap made—The Missionary Catechist.

“Forward She Goes---

to sow the Gospel seed
And strengthen Faith
By many a shining deed.”

Summer School sessions are completed; the semi-annual Retreat is over; Professions are made and Vows renewed. Again the Catechists set forth to re-open old mission centers and to establish new ones. They are facing another year of hard work, sacrifice and perhaps discouraging difficulties; but in union with their Blessed Mother, they take up their Christ-like activities with confidence. The week of departures for the mission field is the happiest one in the Catechists' Calendar.

This year 20 young Catechists have completed their course of training at Victory-Noll. They are ready to set out for their cherished goal,—The Mission Field.

Will You Help Send Them There?

The happy privilege of having a personal share in keeping a Catechist of Jesus and Mary in the “fighting lines” of Holy Mother Church is well worth any sacrifice.

We will need \$2,000.00 before September 15 in order to send the newly Professed Catechists to our Missions in California and New Mexico. Our only means of securing this amount is an unbounded CONFIDENCE in DIVINE PROVIDENCE and a FIRM BELIEF in YOUR LOYALTY!

Do not hesitate to make a contribution because you can give but little. A little from many has been the blessed solution of most of our financial difficulties.

Say a prayer for our Catechists and encourage them with a contribution.

SOCIETY OF MISSIONARY CATECHISTS,
Huntington, Ind.

I am enclosing \$_____ to help send the Catechists out into the Mission Fields so that they may continue their work among God's poorest.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

