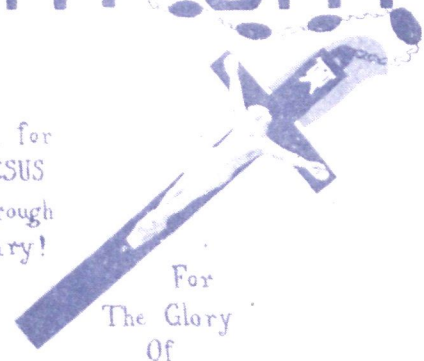




THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST

MAY

All for
JESUS
Through
Mary!



For
The Glory
Of
God the Father

1944



Warfare

by Phil Guidt

THERE are wars and *wars*.
Wars that are military conflicts
have always been
and always will be.
They are passing,
as all things in this world are passing.
Their instigators,
their leaders and generals,
become buried
beneath succeeding ages
and are forgotten.

THE present world conflagration,
with all its horrors and sufferings,
is no exception.
Let us be wise, therefore,
and while we go all-out for victory
in the contention of armies,
let us not disregard another war
of a more abiding nature,
and of far more vital importance,
to each of us personally.
I mean,
that greatest of all life's combats—
the battle against OURSELVES

THE "Just Peace"
so much expostulated upon,
necessitates nothing less
than the re-conversion
of entire nations.
And how is that to be brought about?

LONG ago the Saints gave us
a pertinent admonition
apropos of this very thing.
"If you would convert the world,"
they said,
"begin with yourself."

THESE same Saints
have told us further,
that to overcome oneself
is a greater achievement
than to subdue nations
or to conquer kingdoms.
For to overcome oneself
is to become perfect—
a thing that God demands of all
no matter in what state of life.

THEREFORE,
We have no alternative.
We must fight against ourselves
or be condemned as deserters
for endless everlasting.

IN CONDUCTING this spiritual combat
we can learn
from military strategists
to "strike at the weakest point."
Our "Weakest Point"
is our strongest passion,
or what is commonly called,
our predominant fault.

The noise and distraction
of every-day life,
leave us little time
for silence and reflection.
In pitiful consequence,
we scarcely know
that we have a predominant fault.
What then are we to do?

FOLLOWING the advice
of learned and holy men of all ages,
we ought to begin
by making a retreat,
even a short one.
In solitude and prayer
we shall meet ourselves
face to face
and become acquainted.

A ZEALOUS confessor will gladly
help us map out
a plan of campaign against
that most formidable of foes,
OURSELVES.
He will teach us, too,
how to pursue him relentlessly
to utter subjugation.

THIS warfare against ourselves
is not,
like military expeditions,
a destructive force.
Rather,
it is gloriously constructive.
For in the vanquishing,
the mopping up,
the wiping out of self,
we are revealing
the image of God
more and more clearly
in our souls,
and fitting them
for that blissful union
with the Holy Trinity,
in Heaven,
the land of conquerors,
for eternity of ages.
Amen.

The Missionary Catechist

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MOST Catholics are still unaccustomed to seeing Sisters drive automobiles, and so the Missionary Catechists are often greeted with a surprised, "Oh, so you drive your own cars!"

Cars are indispensable to the Catechists' missionary program. Not only do the Catechists teach and do social welfare work in the places where their convent home is located, but from each of these homes, or mission centers, they reach out to as many as forty out-missions and teaching centers, at various distances away. Obviously, a dependable means of rapid transportation is a necessity.



CATECHIST Mary Ann Hitzler, recently returned from San Angelo, Texas, gives her weekly itinerary of the past year as follows:

THREE of us left San Angelo on Tuesday morning and drove 107 miles to Stanton, stopping at Big Springs for luncheon. At Stanton we visited families until school was dismissed and then we taught the children—the Mexicans at the public school and the Americans at the church. In the evening we drove to Midland, twenty miles distant, where we stayed over night. Early the following morning we began visiting. In the afternoon we taught classes of both American and Mexican children; the evening

we reserved for Sodality meetings or special devotions such as Stations or Rosary. Wednesday night we also spent in Midland.

THE next day we drove eighteen miles farther to Odessa where we followed our usual schedule of teaching and home visiting. In the evening we returned to Big Springs about fifty-six miles from Odessa; here we stayed the remainder of the week. Friday morning we spent in visiting at Big Springs. Then, from noon to 6:30 p. m. we taught classes for the Mexican children. In the evening we had choir rehearsals and club work. On Saturday morning, from ten

(Continued on page 18)

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Devotion to Mary Mediatrix of all Graces

by the Rev. Thomas J. Kelley, S.M.M.

THE forthcoming canonization of Blessed Louis de Montfort will do much to spread far and wide Devotion to Mary under the title of Mary Mediatrix of all Graces. I say this because Blessed de Montfort's masterpiece, "True Devotion to Mary," a book widely known throughout the Catholic world, is reputedly *THE CLASSIC* when it comes to explaining the vital role that Mary plays in our behalf as Mediatrix of all graces. So much so that in January 1925, his Eminence the late Cardinal Mercier published a prayer asking for both the proclamation of Mary's Universal Mediation as a dogma of faith and the canonization of Blessed de Montfort as the Apostle and Doctor of the Mediation. This prayer has had the approval of more than 500 bishops throughout the world.

THE doctrine of Mary's Mediation is as old as Christianity itself. But Blessed de Montfort deserves our veneration and gratitude for having popularized in simple and clear language what many of the saints had spoken of centuries before him. To him also countless souls are indebted for a method of spirituality founded on the doctrine of Mary's Mediation. There is not the least doubt in his mind that Christ is the one and only Mediator of all, including the Blessed Virgin herself. "There is but one Mediator of God and man, the man Christ Jesus." (*Timothy II, 3*)

"**I** AVOW," says de Montfort with all the Church, "that Mary, being but a mere creature . . . is in comparison with His Majesty, less than an atom, or rather she is nothing at all. Nevertheless I say, that things being supposed as they are now, God having willed to commence and to complete His greatest works by the most holy Virgin, we may well think that He will not change His conduct in the eternal ages for He is God and He changes not either in His sentiments or in His conduct."

WHAT are these "greatest works" which God willed to commence and complete by the most



May the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, Mediatrix of the human race, by her chain of love, draw all souls to her Son and by the Son to the Father: "I shall draw them all by a chain of love."
—Card. Mercier.

holy Virgin? God the Father willed to give His only begotten Son to the world by depending on her virginal consent. By the force of her prayer and the eminence of her virtue she merited to bring forth the Savior. God the Son wished to commence His life on earth by depending upon her. From the moment that the angel Gabriel told her that she was predestined to become the Mother of Jesus, Mary knew that this Son whom she was to bear in her womb would be a victim destined for sacrifice on the cross. Later the holy man Simeon would remind her that she was destined to share in the Sacrifice on Calvary. When Jesus does complete the work of Redemption we find Mary there at the foot of the cross, like the priest at the altar, offering her Divine Son for our Redemption. And in doing so, she is, we know, immolating something of herself, offering something of her own flesh and blood in the Person of her beloved Son. And so it is that the Church gives Mary the title of co-Redeemer of the human race.

SINCE Mary was so intimately associated with her Son in the acquisition of grace both at the Incarnation and on Calvary, it clearly follows that she is associated with Him in the dis-

tribution of these graces. In fact the expression *Universal* Mediatrix means something far more than saying Mary distributes each and every grace in particular; it means that we owe to Mary the Author of all graces Christ Himself. His Holiness Pope Benedict XV clearly emphasized this point when he inserted the following words in the Office of Our Lady Mediatrix of all Graces: "It is God's plan that *everything* in the spiritual order should come to us through Mary." Thus vanishes of itself the objection so often raised: Why pass through Mary? Why

not go directly to Jesus our chief Mediator?

BLESSED DE MONTFORT'S total and perfect consecration to Jesus through Mary, or what we call his "True Devotion to Mary," is but the logical conclusion of Mary's Mediation. If we would honor her as Mediatrix and thereby acquire greater union with Jesus let us acknowledge our total dependence on her by a total consecration of ourselves to Jesus through her. **AD JESUM PER MARIAM—TO JESUS THROUGH MARY.**



The Manzano Apple Orchard, located 14 miles north of Mountainair, N. M., is over 300 years old and still bearing fruit.

WHILE doing catechetical work in the Manzano district, we visited the gorgeous Manzano Apple Orchard there. The original parent apple tree was brought from Spain by missionary padres over 300 years ago and planted near the spring at Manzano. Now both the spring and the orchard are walled in and preserved as a historic beauty spot.

MORE delightful than the many scenic beauties all around Manzano, is the simple faith and the religious spirit of the people who live there. This, we feel certain, is due mainly to the constant efforts and evident sanctity of the late Father Jose Gauthier. Father Jose came from France to devote his life to the scattered people of New Mexico. He was pastor of Manzano for

forty-two years before his death in July, 1943. Every man, woman and child in his parish was known to him, and loved him as a true father. Father Jose cared for seven out-missions from Manzano. These he visited regularly, despite his seventy-three years, the rough mountain roads, and the severe winter weather.

THE Confraternity of Christian Doctrine is doing splendid work in the Manzano district. In February, 1943, fifteen teachers received their badges and were enrolled by Father Jose. The zeal of these teachers is evident from the fact that two of them, unable to secure transportation, walked five miles to attend a joint meeting of all Confraternity members.

by Catechist Madelon Lorang

The Family

by the Most Rev. John F. Noll, D.D.

NO lesson in history is told with greater force than that the civilization of the ancient Roman Empire passed away through the dissolution of the family. Just as the family establishes society, so marriage establishes the family.

THE family, not the individual, is the basis of society; indeed it is not only the basis of society, but supplies the units of which society is constituted—and as the family is, so is society.

IF all its family units were perfect, society would have the perfection which Christ envisaged.

THE family is a reflection of the Holy Trinity, and was intended to be that, with father, mother and child. Husband and wife alone do not constitute a family.

WHEN Almighty God instituted the patriarchal system, He built it on the model of the family. The patriarch was father, king and pontiff. His kingdom was his family; his subjects were his children. His parental role became the model for social authority. The word "patriarch" means "father of the people."

THE place of the "father" in Old Testament Scriptures, even after the time of the patriarchs, was only next to that of the priest. He blessed his children, and children were eager to have that blessing frequently in life, and more particularly did they seek a last blessing from their father before he died. Did not God Himself teach Moses (Exod. XX, 12) that if "children honored their father and mother, they would live long on earth"?

THE honor and obedience we owe to civil rulers stems from the honor and obedience we owe to our "fathers." Our country is our "fatherland." We call George Washington the "Father" of our Country. The Latin word for "Fatherland" is "Patria"; the French, "Patrie"; the German, "Vaterland" — all derived from the word "father." Hence rulers of nations should regard themselves as "fathers of families." Authority in the Roman Empire was vested in the "patres" conscripti—conscript "fathers".

RELIGIOUS ORDERS in the Church are built on the ideal "family" model. There are the

Fathers and Mothers Provincial, Father Abbott, and Mother Superior. Members are recognized as "brothers" and "sisters." The Latin word for Pope is "Papa" and to all of us he is the holy "father." He calls his Bishops "brothers," all the faithful "brethren." You call your priest "Father," because he does for you in a spiritual sense what the "father" of a family does for his children in a material sense.

ISN'T it really unfortunate that the father of the family has lost his exalted position in our day? Isn't it unfortunate that the homes of 10,000,000 of our countrymen have been broken up, and that father and mother have not only been separated from each other, but from their children?

THE repudiation of parental authority has resulted in the repudiation of all authority, except when its recognition is forced by the strong arm of the law.



"Priests and Sisters are eager to assist but not to substitute for parents."

ACCORDING to the teaching of the Church the MOTHER possesses equal dignity with the father; although she is destined to fill a different role in life from the father. It was never intended that she should be the breadwinner, that both she and father should be away from home most of the time, with their children in nurseries, orphanages, or even in the schools of the community. Until modern times, even in our own country, it was generally assumed that the father of the family should provide the financial support, that the mother should have care of the household, guide and

instruct the children, rear them as children of God, as little brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ.

THE CHURCH never found fault with a mother taking interest in social life provided her duties to her family were not neglected, and provided her sole motive was to make the atmosphere of social life safer for her children.

WE HARDLY need to tell you that comparatively few mothers today seem to love their children with the true kind of love. They are more interested in the child's material than his spiritual welfare; in his social than his religious contacts. They do not worry over the dangers to which their children are exposed, dangers arising from companions who were never taught of God, places of recreation which cater to their lower instincts. They do not set their children examples of piety, modesty, purity, honesty, truthfulness, etc. They transfer their own maternal responsibility to the teacher, and then too often do not back the teacher.

ALL PARENTAL obligations may not be transferred to the priest or to the nun. The latter, because they have been specially trained along educational and spiritual lines, are ready and eager to assist but not to substitute for parents. They take the place of parents during the four or five hours of the school day, but during the longer period when children are out of school, parents are in conscience bound to keep them from influences pernicious to their spiritual and supernatural life.

CATHOLIC children attending public schools must look almost exclusively to their parents for the learning of their prayers, for instruction in their religion, for guidance by both word and example.



BEFORE the child is taught a set of nursery rhymes, it should be assisted in learning simple prayers like "Angel of God, my Guardian dear, etc."; ejaculations, such as "Sweet Heart of Jesus be my love." Do not understand us to mean that it is wrong to teach nursery rhymes or that it is wrong to have the child utter names of father and mother as soon as it is able to talk. Rather do I mean that while the latter things may be taught, the former should not be neglected, because they are even of greater importance.

ACT OF CONSECRATION

My Queen, my Mother, I give myself entirely to Jesus by delivering and consecrating to thee my body, my soul, my possessions, both exterior and interior, and even the value of all my good actions, leaving to thee the entire and full right of disposing of me without exception, according to thy good pleasure, to the greatest glory of God, in time and eternity. Amen.

Junior Sodalists

by Catechist M. Bernadita Marquez

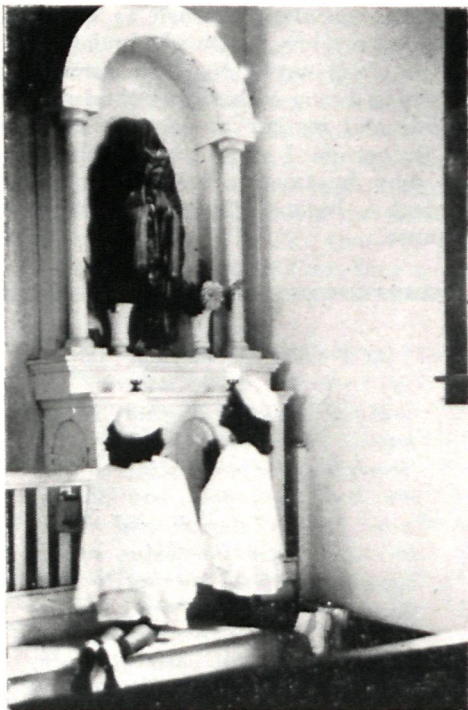


MEET the Junior Sodalists of San Salvador Parish, Colton, California. A merrier, livelier, peppier, and—dare we say it—holier group of small girls it would be difficult to find.

The Junior Sodalists are little Mexican girls who have made their First Communion. A few of them are seven-year-olds and some are eight-year-olds, but the greater number are nine and ten years of age. To hear the older ones talk to the others you would think that they were grandmothers of "those little kids."

There are twenty-five Junior Sodalists "received." The others are on probation, or as they

say, on trial. Reception is held twice a year. Of course all the little girls want to be Sodalists and they strive diligently to attain the high



standard required for admittance. They encourage each other to be good so that they may become Our Blessed Mother's own little girls. We know that some of the appeal lies in the medal which every Sodalist wears around her neck suspended on a blue silk cord, and in her lovely white-and-blue circular cape and trench cap.

Ticket, Please

by Catechist Sophia Renier

SHORTLY after my arrival at Queen of the Missions Convent in Redlands last year, I was appointed to a task which since then, has developed into a steady position for me, and placed me in the ticket manufacturing business. I was told that each child is given a ticket before being dismissed from religion classes. Then I was presented with a stamp pad and a dater, and shown to a room which contained boxes of small slips of paper in all colors. A friend of ours furnishes us with paper already cut to ticket size.

NEXT, I was given a list of the numbers of children who are present at classes on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, with the names of the respective Catechist after each number. The total for these three days is approximately one thousand and nine hundred. Another Catechist prepares the tickets—about fifteen hundred of them—for the children who come on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

I AM seldom parted from the stamp pad and the dater. They accompany me to the various missions and usually to the recreation room in

the evening.

AT CHRISTMAS time, and during vacation school, prizes are awarded the children, and those having the most tickets are given first choice. This brings to mind an amusing incident. Last Christmas when the children brought their tickets, the Catechist who teaches third grade boys was amazed at the envelope full which one lad gave her. She didn't have time then to inspect Eddie's envelope. However, she was certain that it contained many more tickets than she had given him during the period from September to December. At recreation that night Catechist afforded us much amusement by displaying Eddie's collection which contained tickets dated from 1930 to 1933—before the lad was born.

WHEN the boys and girls return home in the afternoon, the parents ask to see their tickets, thereby assuring themselves that their children have been at class. Often, when visiting homes, we encounter mothers who are under the impression that their children are attending religious instructions regularly, although we rarely see the youngsters. We then tell the parents about our ticket system which they appreciate very much.

THIS "checking up" works both ways. Occasionally the child checks up on the Catechists. One small girl was given a ticket that did not have the date clearly stamped on it. She was not slow in telling Catechist about it, and would accept it only after it had been properly dated.

A LITTLE boy, three years of age, strayed into a class of much older children, one afternoon. Catechist, thinking that the ticket would not mean anything to the child, did not give him one. Later the mother told us that he had come home disappointed because he had been passed over.

LAST week five-year-old Ruben was accompanied by his dog, Scotty. Scotty behaved perfectly during class. When the children were dismissed Ruben remained. Catechist inquired if he wished anything. "I would like a ticket for my dog," said Ruben, and he meant it.

THE little tickets accomplish much good, and certainly occasion many amusing incidents. They also keep me more than busy during odd moments. And while I make them I pray that these little tickets may help win many souls for Jesus and Mary.

JUNIOR SODALISTS

On big feast days the Junior Sodalists form a guard of honor for Our Eucharistic Lord, and sometimes they do this for His Excellency, our dearly loved Bishop Buddy. He calls them his "bonitas ninas" and they feel very proud.

The Juniors belong to the "army on its knees to keep an army on its feet." They take their "service" seriously, and are faithful in reciting prayers and receiving the Sacraments for their adopted soldiers, sailors, or marines. They are one hundred per cent in attendance at Sunday Mass, and many of them are weekly Communicants.

This month the Sodalists are making elaborate plans for reception of new members. After Mass and the reception ceremony, breakfast will be served in the parish hall, followed by a Bingo Social. Later there will be movies—"Popeye," "Mary had a Little Lamb" and some scenes from Old Mexico. The girls will see themselves on the screen too in a review of last year's May Crowning and Living Rosary Procession which had been photographed.

The Senior Sodalists and the Holy Name boys will also participate in this gala day in the parish.



Sodalists of Ida, Michigan, snapped at an outing.

HER BIRTHDAY PARTY

Catechist Julia Wathen

THE most delightful Sodality gathering of the past year here at Ida, Michigan, was, I think, what the Sodalist called "Our Lady's Sixteenth Birthday Party."

At 7:30 p. m. the Prefect arrived at our mission center where the meetings are held. She brought a large birthday cake. Singly and in groups the other Sodalist followed her, bringing gifts until the table which held them called for an extension. There were bouquets of lovely flowers for the altars; handkerchiefs, pencils, and other articles for poor children; foodstuffs for us Catechists. A picture of the Child Mary formed a center-piece for the lace-covered table which was piled high with beautiful gifts.

At eight o'clock the meeting was called to order. A prayer was recited for divine assistance; minutes of the last meeting were read and approved; and other business was taken care of as usual. At this meeting the Question Box made its initial appearance with such questions as: What should a person do while the priest is blessing the home, and how often should it be blessed? For what does the yellow-and-white flag in church stand? In the "America Back to God Program Bible Classes," after school, should Catholic parents send their children? Does the Church encourage Catholic women to enter auxiliary forces?

The Spiritual Director's talk was an analysis of the Communion Intention for the month.

After the meeting was adjourned, the Prefect announced that Catechist would now draw back the curtains of time and all would join the Virgin Mary in the observance of her sixteenth birthday.

In The Home Field

Then followed an inspiring, short presentation of Mary's last birthday celebration in the temple which terminated in a series of games. Finally, the candles on the cake were lighted and everyone sang, "Happy Birthday, dear Mary." Refreshments were served.

This was indeed a happy evening for all, spent in the blessed company of Mary.

ALONG THE WAY

Catechist M. Florence Michels

On a Street Car

A little girl pointed at us, laughed gleefully and said, "Oh, Mommie, look at the Catholic Churches!"

In the Sacristy

Two altar-boy recruits were inspecting the liturgical calendar which indicated the color of the vestments proper to each day. Johnnie was puzzled. "I don't see black on any of the days," he remarked. "Don't be silly," advised Robert with an air of superiority. "The people who make calendars don't know when somebody is going to die!"

During a Catechism Class

Three times Catechist sent Joe to take his dog Pal out, and each time the dog reappeared. Finally Joe volunteered an explanation of the dog's seeming eagerness for religious instruction: "Catechist, we just bought some dog food before class," Joe said disclosing a package of GRO PUP, "And Pal doesn't want anyone else to get it."

At Procession

Three-year-old Margy pulled her grandmother's sleeve and whispered, "Why is Billy walking before Father and swinging that little stove?"

After Altar-Boy Practice

Catechist remarked that if Mass begins at 6:30 a good altar boy ought to be in the sacristy at 6:15. Tony, afire with enthusiasm, exclaimed, "Oh, boy! what if he got there at 5:30!" What IF—?

In Church

A fifteen-year-old girl on crutches hobbled down the aisle to an empty pew. Sit during Mass? Not as long as Lucy has one good knee!

While walking down the street we noticed two small boys digging vigorously. To satisfy our curiosity we asked what they were doing. The elder informed us: "We're digging for the devil, and as soon as he comes up my brother is going to hit him on the head with his hammer!"

Catechist S. Dorava.

RECENTLY, while visiting in a county hospital, we came to a very sick patient who had been brought in just the day before. He was Catholic, and though the family expressed the wish that Father come to see the dying man, no one would call the priest. We called Father who came out at once and heard the man's confession. Ten minutes later the man expired. It is very encouraging to us in our work so often to witness the triumph of God's grace in the end. Our poor people certainly must be favorites of our blessed Mother.

Catechist Margaret Gutierrez

Catechist: Why do you tell your sins to a priest and not to anyone else—not to your mother, for example?

Small Boy: I tell my sins to a priest because—because my mother would spank me if I told them to her.

Suzette concluded her night prayers with "God bless Mother; God bless Daddy—" and so on, down an almost interminable list of relatives and friends. At length she paused, wondering if she had completed her litany. Her little sister Marie, an interested listener, prompted, "Aren't you going to say, 'Dod b'ess Dona'd Duck'?"

In speaking of Confirmation, Tony declared emphatically: "Confirmation makes us soldiers and sailors of Jesus Christ." Frank raised his hand and arose to make a correction. "Tony forgot the marines," he said.

The prayer class was learning the hymn, "Jesus Teach Me How To Pray." Each stanza ends with the words, "Sweet Holy Child." After Catechist explained all the words that she thought were unfamiliar, one small girl asked, "Catechist, what is CHILD?" Catechist answered in surprise: "You are a little child." "Oh," the small face brightened. "That's the same as KID!"



During May in practically all Mexican churches, little girls and boys in white offer flowers to Our Blessed Mother between decades of the rosary.

Speaking of excuses. The other day we visited an old couple—past seventy—who were having difficulties over attending Mass. The lady had always been faithful but the man had just begun to realize how careless he had been. He would like to go to Mass, he said, but he didn't know how to pray in church. I asked if he had tried to use a prayer book. He answered: "Well, it's like this. I can't read without glasses, and I don't want people to think that I am getting so old that I have to use glasses to read." My companion and I looked at each other; we were both wearing glasses.

Catechist M. Rochel.



Associate Catechists

RAINY WEATHER "KNIGHTS"

It rains even in California—sometimes. And this happened to be one of the times.

We had been visiting all morning and had just about an hour in which to eat our lunch and reach our next mission center for class. The rain was coming down in such torrents that we could scarcely see the road ahead of us, and it was one of those curving roads which makes one think of a pretzel—with soft shoulders on the side—very interesting driving on a day such as this was. We were beginning to wonder whether we should ever find a place where we could park and at least eat a sandwich. We came to a place that seemed firm enough but hardly had we stopped the car when I had the queer feeling that we were getting stuck. I started the engine and tried to move the car but all I got was—whirr-rrr- and swish-sh-sh—nothing more. We both heaved a sigh, looked at each other and laughed. What else could we do? Here we were at least eight miles from the nearest town, not a house in sight, and rain teeming harder than ever.

Around the bend of the road came a car. I opened my window, looked out hopefully and all I got was a drenching. That happened at least six times and we were almost ready to conclude that there weren't any "knights" on the road any more—especially not when it rained. And really in a downpour like that, what could one expect?

Then, suddenly, lo and behold! around the bend came still another car and I wasn't even going to open the window—I had had enough

showers. But, the car slowed up. It was an old one of about the 1932 vintage. I opened my window; a head peered out from the other car. When the occupant saw us, he stopped his car and got out. He was an elderly Italian all dressed up in his Sunday best. In all that rain he walked over to us with the greeting:

"Hello, you get stuck in the mud, huh, Sisters? I push you."

We thanked the good man, "But," I said, "I fear we are in too deep now to be pushed."

Luckily the rain began to let up a little, so our good samaritan, in his Sunday best, tried to push. Our car went around in circles but nothing else happened. Even he was beginning to think he had undertaken a hopeless task when another car came along—this time it was a truck. Our friend was taking no chances of letting the truck pass us by. He stood in the middle of the road waving both hands frantically, so there was nothing for the truck driver to do but stop. He was not too anxious to get out in the rain but our Italian friend had noticed a stack of gunny sacks in the rear of the truck. Before one could count ten, he had the driver out of the truck and the gunny sacks under all our tires. It wasn't long before we were back on the main road again.

Our friend in need, wetter than a dripping hen, climbed back into his car, waved his hand and shouted, "You musta pray God, Sisters, to get you out, or you stay in all day."

We assured him that we had earnestly prayed God, and that we should continue to do so and ask Him to reward him for his charity to us.

The fitting end of this little episode occurred a week or so later. We were out in this same country district taking census and we met our benefactor on his ranch. We not only had more time to thank him for his goodness—but came away richer by a lug of tomatoes and potatoes.

of Mary



Dear Catechist,

We had such a grand meeting yesterday. We are having a drive for new members, and there were about twenty women present. There were some new members, and we have another \$18.00 to add to our account. Our members always say "Nothing on our Catechist day," so we are always sure of their coming to the meeting. Sickness is the only thing that keeps them from attending.

We sent you a package of eighty Sunshine Bags which you asked us to make for you.

I am enclosing \$10.00 check.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Katherine Hammer

From all appearances St. Katherine's Band (Chicago) is making real progress. Needless to say, we are happy to hear this and we congratulate Mrs. Hammer, who is the promoter, and her zealous members.

* * *



Our Blessed Lady of Victory pray for us and protect us.

May, 1944

A.C.M. BAND DONATIONS

Charitina Club, Chicago, Miss Katherine Hennigan	6.00
Charitina Club, II, Paris, Ill., Miss Mary C. Gibbons	4.00
Child Jesus Band, St. Louis, Miss Adelaide Fitzpatrick	4.00
Dolores Band, I, Chicago, Mrs. A. Klingel	13.50
Dolores Band, II, Chicago, Mrs. A. Bechtold	10.00
Florentine Band, St. Louis, Mrs. K. Krueger	13.75
Holy Family Band, Chicago, Mrs. Wm. Murphy	13.00
Immaculate Conception Band, Detroit, Miss Lillian Dunn	10.00
Infant of Prague Band, Chicago, Miss Dorothy Spitzer	10.00
Les Petites Fleurs Band, Chicago, Miss Elsie Jachmann	6.00
Mission Club, Chicago, Mrs. Gunda Westphall	
and Mrs. Anna Diebert	11.00
Mother of Perpetual Help, St. Louis, Mrs. K. Krueger	6.00
Gur Lady Queen of Angels Band, Los Angeles, Mrs. M. Sauthier	5.00
Our Lady Queen of Poor Souls Band, Los Angeles, Mrs. Anna Meng	5.00
Our Lady of Sorrows Band, Chicago, Miss Florence Kuenster	10.00
St. Anthony Band, Chicago, Mrs. A. F. Beck	99.25
St. Elizabeth Band, Dearborn, Michigan, Mrs. T. Donahue	16.25
St. Irene Band, Chicago, Miss May Walsh	8.00
St. Justin Martyr Band, Chicago, Mrs. F. Kiefer	6.50
St. Katherine Band, Chicago, Mrs. Katherine Hammer	20.00
St. Margaret Mary Band, Omaha, Mrs. Elizabeth Welchert	10.00
St. Mary Band, Chicago, Mrs. A. Hansen	46.00
St. Mary Sodality, Detroit, Mrs. P. Pink	5.00
St. Mary Band, Fort Wayne, Mrs. T. Ankenbruck	100.00
Via Matris Band, Chicago, Mrs. Regina Belz	15.00

* * *

Dear Catechist,

I am enclosing \$25.00 for Perpetual Family Membership in the Associate Catechists of Mary, also \$4.00 for a five-year renewal of my subscription. I feel like a "spiritual bargain hunter" though perhaps our Lord will not mind too much.

Sincerely,
Miss A. F. S.

* * *

We wish to thank our promoters for their splendid cooperation in sending us a revised list of their band members. We are grateful for the promptness in which all have responded to our request.

Sodalists in Home Missions

by Catechist M. Regina Foppe

THE Sodality of Our Lady was established here at Elko in May of 1941, under the title of Mystical Rose. It began with quality rather than with a large number. Six out of a possible fifty young ladies of high school age were willing to assume the responsibilities—as well as enjoy the privileges—of Sodalists. It was through the good example and leadership of these few that, in the following September, seventeen others applied for admittance, completed their probation, and were received on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1941.

The following May, after a third reception, it was thought best to divide the organization into two groups: the Juniors of high school age, and the Seniors who were post graduates and working girls. Though the divisions meet separately, both carry the same program. A joint Sodalists' choir was formed which provides the singing at the late Mass on Sunday. Most of the weekly meetings are devoted to religious discussions and to choir rehearsals.

One of the most interesting handcraft projects was the making of sixteen-inch crucifixes. When the project was completed the Sodalists celebrated with a picnic dinner. Their director then blessed the crucifixes which were carried home to places of honor.

Social activities of the year included a raffle given by the junior group. Proceeds from it enabled them to purchase copies of the "Proper of the Mass for all Sundays of the Year," by Rev. Laboure, O.M.I.; special Easter music, and a Sodality flag. The seniors held a card party and used the funds thus realized to defray expenses of the breakfast and dinner served at their annual retreat day in May. Father Costello, C.S.S.R., conducted the exercises of the retreat. Fifty-five young people took time out to spend the day with Our Lord.

The Sodality is helping its members realize the need for Catholic education. Four of its members have entered Catholic colleges or training schools for nurses. One of the Sodalists embraced the religious life. Hers is the first vo-



Junior Sodalists of Elko display the beautiful sixteen-inch crucifixes which they made. Father Timothy Ryan, Sodality Director, is with the group.

cation in the twenty-five years that the parish has been in existence.

We pray that Our Blessed Mother will continue to smile on the members of her Sodality in Elko and bring each one safely to her Divine Son.



Senior Sodalists carrying the statue of our Blessed Mother during a May Crowning procession.

Wartime Class

by Catechist Ardella Heintz

CHANNEL Heights, the latest housing project in San Pedro, California, is only about a five-minute ride from our convent. Down one hill and up another; past the lovely green verdure of Peck Park and there we are.

UPON our arrival we are greeted by a smiling trio made up of Bobby, Danny and Freddie. Bobby is as bright a six-year-old as one could hope to meet. Oh, yes, he knows his prayers. He learned them in far-away Massachusetts.

DANNY came to California from his Michigan home too late for registration at Mary Star of the Sea Parochial School, and so he attends our classes faithfully and is working hard to prepare himself for his First Communion.

FREDDIE, from Iowa, completes the trio. He is smiling now, but often he pouts just like a little girl. Poor child! His mother, a young widow, is supporting her precious brood of four by working in a ship-yard.

OUR voices attract the attention of the occupants of the swing on the playgrounds. These youngsters, who are Blessed Martin's brothers in color, have come to sunny California from Mississippi. The two eldest will need a bit of calming down before they can absorb much religious knowledge.

HERE come the girls! First is brown-eyed Lucy from New Mexico who is making rapid strides in learning her catechism. With her are Tillie and Flora, also from New Mexico.

GLORIA and Grace are not in sight. I must remind them that this is class day. These two fair-haired lassies from Oklahoma are sure to forget if I don't let myself be seen.

THAT little Irish fairy joining the increasing number is Aileen from Nebraska. Aileen loves the religion hour. She becomes so engrossed in what Catechist is saying that she seems not to mind when George, a colored boy from Texas, pulls her golden tresses. George appears to have a particular like—or should I say dislike—for small girls with blonde hair. I must make sure that he is seated at a safe distance from the blondies or there will be hair pulling.

TEACH at the home of Manuel and Paul whose little brothers also come to class. These same little brothers have not yet acquired the art of sitting quietly, and so they are a great trial to their well-behaved bigger brothers.

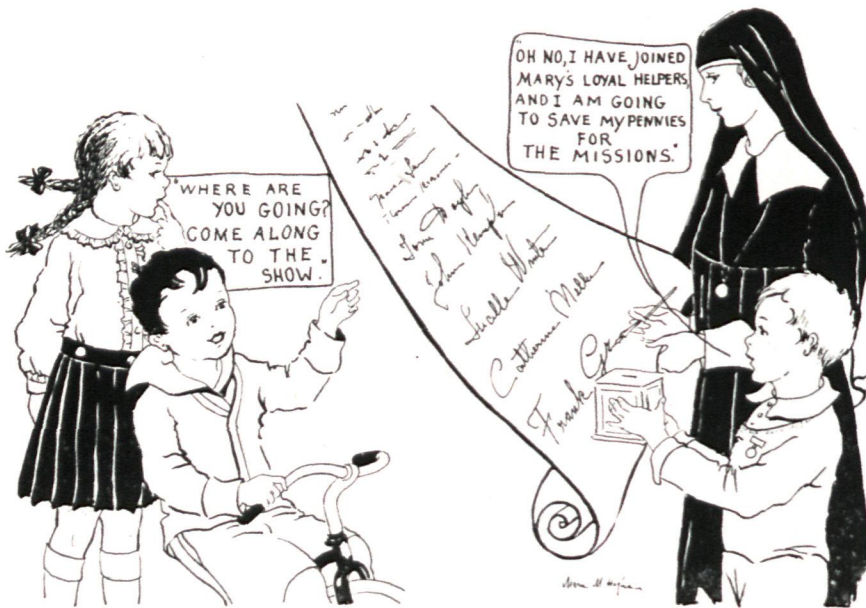
CURLY-HAIRED Buddy, whom the rest refer to as "she" because they think that he looks like a girl, will undoubtedly be late. He has a Catholic mother and a Jewish father.

DEAR little Benny with the crippled hand, and his sunny-faced sister, Arlene, have left us to go back to their home in South Dakota. Emily and little Henry whose daddy is in Attu, will be leaving us soon, also. There is a constant coming and going.



Catechist Heintz and her class at Channel Heights.

BESIDES the children mentioned and their families, we have met Catholics who have come here to San Pedro from Washington, Oregon, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio, Indiana, Virginia, New York, Arizona, Idaho, Kansas, and Missouri. Many of these were able to send their children to parochial schools. In our classes we enroll only those who cannot be taken in by the Sisters. They are here because of the war. Most of them will leave as soon as it is over. While they are here we will do everything possible for them so that their stay will not prove detrimental to their spiritual well-being.



Mary's

These letters from our Loyal Helpers show that there are many generous souls who love our dear Lord and our Blessed Mother so much that they are willing to help others—especially those in the missions who must depend upon the Catechists for their religious instruction. During this month of May, which is our Blessed Mother's own month, we pray that She may love and bless in a very special manner, those who are banded together under Her "MARY'S LOYAL HELERS."

* * * * *

Dear Catechist,

I want to join Mary's Loyal Helpers. I would have written you sooner but I was very busy with exams.

If you would like me to I could interest some of my friends in the Mary's Loyal Helpers' Club.

Please send me a membership card and a Sunshine Bag. I, in turn, will fulfill the requirements of the organization.

Hoping you will write me, I remain

Bridgetta Buhrman (Marion, Pa.).

* * * * *

Dear Sunshine Secretary,

Will you please send me a Sunshine Bag immediately so that I can fill it by the end of Lent.

Thanking you kindly,

Mary E. Forberger (Lancaster, Pa.).

Dear Missionaries,

I received your letter and was glad to get it. I will try and fill the little Sunshine Bag as soon as I can.

Now for some news about us. My brother is in the Army and is in Alliance, Nebraska. Out of the ten in our family there are six red heads, and the rest have dark hair. We are 100% Irish and mighty proud of it.

We have 180 acres on the farm and we all pitch in to produce as much as we can.

My grandfather died last Sunday. He was ninety years old and the nicest old man I ever knew.

For Lent I am giving up candy and I am going to Mass and Holy Communion and Stations every day.

I must go now for it is time to go to bed.

Ellen Costello (Fond du lac, Wis.)

P.S. This is something unusual—I got 98% in Science Exams and 97 in English.

It looks as though Ellen is a very good student in addition to being a good missionary. We need more Helpers like you, Ellen.

* * * * *

Dear Catechists,

Kindly accept this little offering for your work. Could you spare twelve of your Sunshine penny banks? Please send them to me at this address.

Sincerely yours,
Therese Wojtanowska

Loyal Helpers

Dear Catechist,

Once more the pennies have been counted and amount to \$3.00. There were a few more but we left those in the Sunshine Bag to start us on our next bag full.

For some reason or other it seems as though it took us a long time to fill the bag this time. For one thing Marilyn was saving all the new white pennies. I guess it was because they were so shiny, and of course, something new on the market. I told her the Sunshine Bag was suffering on that account, so without a word she gave them to me and said they were no good to her and would do a lot more good in the little bag.

Next time we shall fill the bag a little faster. May God bless you and keep you.

Mrs. Edw. Hahn (Chicago)

* * * * *

Dear Catechist,

Enclosed find \$2.00 from the boys' Sunshine bag. Both boys worked during the holidays, thus the gift for your work.

Sincerely,

Louise Hopper (Kansas City)

* * * * *

Dear Catechist,

I should like very much to be a member of Mary's Loyal Helpers. This is a very good mission club for young people.

I will say a Memorare daily for the work of the Catechists, and I will put aside some money if you will send me a Sunshine Bag. I am interested in the Catechists and would like very much to help them.

Sincerely,

Alice Geimer (Decatur, Ind.)

Dear Catechist,

I had so much to do helping take care of my baby sister and helping my mother, and other things I still have to do, I didn't take time out to answer you sooner. I'll answer quicker next time.

I am sending you a Money Order for \$2.50 which I and a few of my friends collected. You can spend this for anything you think the children might like. I also sent you by parcel post a box of necklaces and some holy cards which I made. I expect to send you more later.

I had a birthday party on my tenth birthday. I got a lot of nice things. My little sister is two years old and I am sending you her picture and also one of me.

Your friend,

Rita Martin, (Dayton, Ohio).

* * * * *



Rita is not only helping one of our Catechists in the missions but is getting others to help also, as her letter shows.

HOW TO KEEP FIT

Eat less, chew more.
Smoke less, breathe more.
Ride less, walk more.
Bundle less, bathe more.
Worry less, work more.
Hurry less, read more.
Idle less, play more.
Talk less, think more.
Go less, sleep more.
Waste less, give more.
Frown less, laugh more.
Fret less, pray more.
Preach less, practice more.

—Selected.



(Continued from page 3)

BOOKS

WELCOME JESUS by the Rev. George M. Dennerle, Pastor, and Director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Cleveland, Ohio, and Sister M. Magdela, S.N.D., M.A., Elementary School Teacher, Cleveland.

WELCOME JESUS is a First Communion Prayer Book for a child. In content, style, format and language it is suitable and attractive to children. It is available in several bindings, priced at \$1.25, \$2.00 and \$3.00 the copy. Bruce Publishing Co., Milwaukee.

TEACHING CONFRATERNITY CLASSES (The Adaptive Way) by Sister M. Rosalia, Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, is written to meet the needs of those who are striving to teach religion effectively to public-school children. Loyola University Press, Chicago, Ill.

FROM A MORNING PRAYER, Autobiography by John M. Haffert, Scapular Press, New York 16, N. Y. \$2.00.



Bobby: Catechist, let's say the breakfast prayer we learned. (Grace before meals).

John: I only say that prayer before dinner; it's the biggest meal.

to twelve, we taught American children. The afternoon was again devoted to home visiting.

ON SUNDAY we attended Masses at the Mexican church and at the American Church in Big Springs where we prayed and sang with the children. Before Mass in the Mexican parish we conducted congregational singing for at least a half hour. Everyone loved it.

ON Sunday afternoon we returned to San Angelo. Monday was wash day, and on Tuesday morning, early, we began the same route over again. Approximately 500 children were instructed on this round trip which was 290 miles long. The other Catechists at our center had schedules similar to this one. We should have been helpless without cars.

IN MEMORIAM

Rev. V. H. Krull, C.P.P.S., Carthagen, Ohio
Mrs. Rosa Resch, Columbus, Ohio
Mary E. Henihan, Springfield, Mass.
Charles Desaro, Dayton, Ohio
Lawrence Byrnes, Chicago, Ill.
Charles O'Brien, Chicago
Thomas Conniff, Roscommon, Ireland
Marion Collins Reaum, Chicago
Mrs. Margaret Larsen, A.C.M., Duluth, Minn.
William Susens, A.C.M., Duluth

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

We are only worth really what we are worth in the eyes of God.—St. Francis of Assisi.

Mission Intention for May

by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. T. J. McDonnell

"The Spread of the Faith in Central Africa"

THOUSANDS of the visitors who made their meandering way through the crowded lanes of Flushing Meadows to view the wonders of the New York World's Fair in 1939 undoubtedly entered the Belgian Building. It is only fair to surmise, however, that few passed beyond the wonders of the tapestry-hung entrance hall or the diamond displays to penetrate to a second section of the building, which held great interest for mission lovers. Besides the radium exhibits which were prophetically breath-taking in their medical and surgical value a panorama of mission works was spread before the visitors' eyes. This provided a glimpse of mission achievements which may be said to epitomize activity not only in the Belgian Congo, but throughout the length and breadth of Central Africa. With a remembrance of that sight the Society for the Propagation of the Faith reiterates the wish of the Holy See for the prayers of the faithful during the month of May for the spread of the faith in this portion of the once dark continent.

The Scene That Beckoned

WHILE some evangelical work had been done by the Portuguese and Spanish during their great exploratory periods there had been a cessation of mission activity until Stanley's discoveries awakened interest in Central Africa. Lethargic Europe then was awakened to the untapped wealth of this district, while for the Church the quest assumed new and startling possibilities. Souls—thousands of souls beckoned—souls to be won to the knowledge and love of Christ. Difficulties might seem insurmountable but they constituted mere challenges for the missionaries.

IN THIS district may be found a galaxy of tribes under a medley of rules. Here may be found French, English, Belgian, Spanish and Portuguese colonial or mandated territory. Here also may be traced the descendants of the ancient Hamites, with the courtly bearing of the Pharaohs, the aristocratic Batutsi, the Bantus,

the Bahutu, as well as the Batwa, the African dwarfs which we know as pygmies.

Reawakened Activities

IN THE beginning of 1878, the Holy See confided to the newly founded Society of the White Fathers the task of carrying the faith to the center of Africa. Missionaries arrived in Uganda in 1879 where they were warmly received by King Mutesa. As soon as they could make themselves understood in the language of the country they found themselves surrounded by well disposed catechumens in constantly increasing numbers. This soon aroused Mutesa's distrust and the missionaries were forced to withdraw temporarily from the country. Upon the death of the King, two years later, his successor, Mwanga, hastened to recall them.

UNFORTUNATELY, this good disposition did not last. Neophytes were commanded to renounce their allegiance to Jesus Christ. However, the virtue of his royalty did not deter Mwanga's subjects from openly admitting their fealty to their God. Frightful punishments were inflicted upon the twenty-two subjects brought to trial and in 1886 they won the crown of martyrdom. On June , 1920 these brave sons of Central Africa were proclaimed Blessed in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, and through the intervening years the faith which they so valiantly professed has spread among their confreres.

NOW the long arm of war has come to this great continent. The eighteen communities of men, not to mention the many communities of brothers and sisters, find their ranks depleted with little chance of receiving new recruits. This need not constitute a disheartening note, however, when one recalls the fact that this territory has been watered by the blood of martyrs and sustained by the prayers of the faithful. It is for this reason that Catholic Americans are urged by The Society for the Propagation of the Faith to pray during the month of May for "the spread of the Faith in Central Africa."

2500 Club

FROM members of our 2500 Club we receive many letters which express the good will and helpfulness that have characterized this group of faithful co-missionaries from the beginning. We are sharing a few of these letters with you. In this, Our Blessed Mother's month, you also may wish to join the 2500 Club in her honor, and to unite with the Catechists in their soul-saving work which they carry on under the patronage of Our Blessed Lady of Victory.



"Please find enclosed my application for membership in the 2500 Club, and also one dollar for my first month's dues. I think the idea of such a club is a fine one, and I hope there will be many new members enrolled this year."

"I've been reading your welcome magazine and see the need for carrying on your good work; and so I made up my mind to send one dollar a month—if I can make it."

"Enclosed is money order for \$13.00. Twelve is for my annual membership in the 2500 Club, and one is for my subscription. May this be a bit of assistance in the good work that the Catechists are doing. I am sure their prayers will be of greater assistance to me."

"I am enclosing six dollars as my dues to the 2500 Club for the first six months of this year. I am still with you, and praying for you and your charges."

"Here I am at last to join the 2500 Club, for which I enclose \$12.00. May you get many others to do the same, so your wonderful work can grow and grow."

"It is with deep satisfaction that I am forwarding this money order for twelve dollars. I should like to increase it—if I were able—as the work of the Missionary Catechists has always been very dear to me."

"I promised to send one dollar a month for one year for a special intention. I have received that intention in part; therefore I wish to keep my promise before the year is up. It has been difficult at times but I have never missed what I have sent. May Almighty God, in His infinite goodness, shower His most choice blessings on the Catechists and the poor whom He loves so well. Two dollars are enclosed."

The 2500 Club is an association of persons who contribute \$1.00 a month or \$12.00 a year toward the support of the Missionary Catechists who are laboring in mission districts of our country.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Victory-Noll
Huntington, Indiana

Date

Dear Catechists:

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

Name

Address

City Zone number

State

