



Volume I

Victory-Noll, Huntington, Indiana, October, 1925

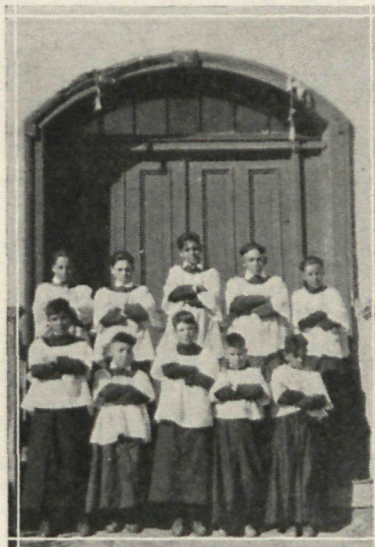
Number 11

STANDING BACK OF THE MISSIONARY PRIESTS

By Catechist Madelon LoRang

Sacred History records that from the very first ages of Christianity women have taken a very important part in the service of the Church and its ministers. Even Our Divine Saviour, Himself, did not disdain the services of those devout women who followed Him during His apostolic labors and ministered to His needs. In the 27th chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, there is given a striking account of these faithful workers who followed Our Lord and supplied His needs. In simple, but very beautiful language, the Evangelist tells us: "About the Cross of Jesus there were many women who had followed Him from Galilee ministering unto Him." And St. Luke, in his Gospel, even mentions by name some of these zealous women who were devoted to the personal service of Our Lord. In the Epistles of St. Paul, especially in his epistles to the Romans and Philippians, the great Apostle commends "the faithful Phebe, our sister, a servant of the Church, who has assisted many and myself also." And again, he asks his converts to "Help these women who labored with me in the Gospel."

Church historians tell us that before the middle of the fourth century, women who bore the distinctive title of "deaconess" were permitted to perform certain definite functions in the Church. These deaconesses had a certain standing and a certain position in the Church and were ordained by Bishops with the laying on of hands in much the same manner as deacons were ordained. It was their duty to guard the doors of the Church, and to instruct and prepare for baptism female catechumens or beginners in the Faith. Very often they were assigned to the office of assisting the Clergy in their various duties. During the middle ages, up to and within the last century, we do



Altar Boys at Watrous

not find women holding such distinctive offices as did the deaconesses and widows of the early Church, although women continued to assist the Bishops and Priests throughout the ages of ecclesiastical history as far as was compatible with the social customs of the changing eras.

During the last century the need for the services of women in the Church became more generally recognized. Bishops and Priests began to realize the necessity of the services of devout, zealous women in their parishes, not only as tabernacle workers, but as Sunday-school teachers and as social service workers among the poor. We have all heard of the excellent catechetical work done by the various Confraternities of Christian Doctrine organized in many parishes of the East. Approximately

fifteen years ago an order of Priests' Housekeepers was founded in England, and about five years ago, in New York City, a semi-religious community, called the "Parish Visitors", was established. These good ladies assist the pastors in their parish work by visiting Catholics in their homes, bringing the delinquent ones to Mass and the Sacraments, and by giving religious instruction to children and preparing them for their First Holy Communion.

Now while the needs of the city parishes were thus supplied, nothing was done to relieve the pressing necessities of the poor, overworked missionary of the far Western and Southwestern missions. Not only were his needs unnoticed and unknown in the well-established parishes of the East, but even his very existence seemed to be forgotten by the Catholics of our prosperous communities. It was not until Msgr. Kelley, founder of the Church Extension Society, now Bishop Kelley of Oklahoma, traveled the length and breadth of our country, preaching in no uncertain tones about the pitiable condition of the Western missions and missionaries, that our Catholics finally awakened to the fact that something would have to be done to improve the conditions existing in these places; to supply the sadly needed auxiliary workers who would aid these overworked and oftentimes undernourished missionaries in their struggle to keep the flame of Faith burning in the hearts of thousands of our Catholic people in the mission fields.

In our Catholic Southwest a parish comprising five or six thousand square miles is not unusual, and so poor are the people, that the combined contributions of more than six thousand are required to afford a

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Do not fail to read "Soldiers of the Cross" in this issue. After reading it, you will be anxious to read an absorbingly interesting story entitled "The Re-discovered Country," which we can mail you for only 25c a copy.

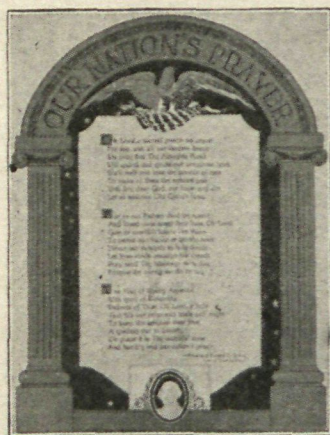
Soldiers of the Cross

Less than fifty years after the discovery of America, the Spanish Catholic pioneers began to explore and settle the now existing States of New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, Colorado and California. And with every band of explorers came saintly Franciscan Missionaries to civilize and evangelize the Indians. The soldier looked to the conquest of lands and peoples for his earthly king; the Missionary to the conquest of souls for his Heavenly King. Both advanced, now together, and now apart, both facing the right point, though with different views and far differently equipped. The soldier, clad in mail, mounted on his steed, with spear in hand to fight the Indian if need be; the Missionary dressed in the poor habit of his Order, walking on foot and bearing the cross, to console the conquered native, and tell him that there was One Who Died for him, in order to win his heart and make him happy in another world. So fruitful were the labors of these saintly Padres that by 1617, they had



already converted 20,000 Indians, built many churches, opened schools, and trained their Indian converts in the useful arts of European civilization. Many, indeed, laid down their lives in

bloody martyrdom, and even to this day you will find traces of their labors in the crumbling walls of ruined chapels and deserted Missions throughout our Catholic Southwest.



Aside from sacrifice, does patriotism consist in only waving the national colors and singing the national anthem? Or should we raise our national heart to the God above in prayer? President Harding said: "That our nation can be helped every time 'Our Nation's Prayer' is given sincere utterance." President Coolidge wrote: "It eloquently voices the national love for peace, honor and the flag. I am glad to have it." Most of the Governors have given it similar indorsement. The press throughout the land, after its first use as an invocation at American Legion Post No. 183, gave it warm approval in editorials. Church-

A PRESENT for Serious Minded Loyal Americans "Our Nation's Prayer"

By the Reverend Francis C. Young, Chicago's Poet-Priest



men of all beliefs have sponsored it heartily.

"Crime amongst the youth of our land is on the increase," is the cry we hear from all sides. This is only natural, if we leave our children ignorant of God, whom they must learn to love and fear to offend. We know the bitter experience of those countries which neglected God. We do not want history to repeat itself. It will, even in our case, unless we raise our hearts to God, praying for His protection and guidance. There is urgent need for a national prayer, one which can be used by Protestant, Jew and Catholic alike on all patriotic occasions. "Our Nation's Prayer" from the indorsements it has received, seems to meet this requirement. It breathes the spirit "Let love abide amongst the creeds." It will assist in bringing about the "Great Brotherhood of Men," which every sincere heart craves. Father J. M. Lonegran, National Chaplain of the American Legion, predicts this, when he writes:

"May it circulate abundantly, for it is sure to fructify into a beautiful national morale." It is indeed beautifully inspiring to sing the national anthem, to wave the national colors, but unless we raise our national heart to the God above, all this becomes shallow and empty.

This de Luxe Art Motto of Our Nation's Prayer has been prepared with much skill and devotion. Some of the country's best artists gave of their talents so that it could be properly presented to the public.

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Why not contribute towards the support of a Missionary Catechist by sending a contribution of at least \$1.00 every month?

IN HIS STEPS

A Popular Exposition of the Spiritual Life

V

It was a happy gathering of children which greeted Sister Charitina upon the opening of the Fall term of the school year. As the good Sister rose from her desk to greet the pupils of her class, she was quite surprised to find the number increased so that now there were ten eager and happy aspirants in her class of Christian Perfection.

"In a short time," smilingly remarked Sister Charitina, "I shall have to call the roll before each class, because you are growing so rapidly in numbers. I am delighted to see, my dear children, that you appreciate these Spiritual Instructions so much that you are desirous of having others share with you 'The Secrets of the Saints.' I do hope, Rosemary and Vera, that you were faithful in reading at least part of a chapter from St. Francis de Sales' 'Introduction to the Devout Life' during the summer months."

"O yes, Sister," chorused her apt students. "And not satisfied with reading and studying this golden book, we made a resolution after our last class that we would read at least a portion of a chapter of 'The Following of Christ' regularly every day."

"And you kept this resolution?" asked Sister.

"Yes, happily, with the help of Our Divine Lord and His Blessed Mother, we were able to persevere although we were often tempted to give up our spiritual reading during the hot days of the past summer."

"I am so happy to hear this and I am confident that if you are faithful in this practice you will soon become very perfect. You know the Saints tell us that spiritual reading is a powerful help in acquiring holiness, for Our Lord speaks to us through these holy writers just as we speak to Him in prayer."

"And now let us resume our course of Spiritual Instruction. You will remember that in our last class before the vacation period we finished the first part of our instructions, that is, **ESSENTIAL PERFECTION**. I feel quite certain that by this time you all have an idea of what Essential Perfection is. It is nothing more than Perfect Charity. Now if the end of the Spiritual life consists in Perfect Charity, it follows that there must be certain means for reaching this end. These means we call **INSTRUMENTAL MEANS** of Christian Perfection. By the use of these means we are enabled to reach this end. Evidently, since Our Divine Lord calls us to this end, He must give us the means necessary for reaching it. You know it always holds true that if Our Dear Savior wishes us to reach a certain

end, He will put into our hands certain means necessary for reaching that end and the means used must always be proportioned to the end we desire to reach.

"And so in striving to attain to Essential Perfection, we must use certain Instrumental Means. And the Holy Fathers of the Church tell us that these Instrumental Means, without which we cannot possibly hope to acquire Perfection, are chiefly: the Moral Virtues, the Evangelical Counsels, good works—such as, Prayer, Mortification, Alms giving, Penance, the Sacraments, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and various devotions. So imperatively necessary are these Instrumental Means for attaining to Christian Perfection that without them we cannot even hope to reach the first degree of the Spiritual life to which God has called us.

"Father Scaramelli, S. J., one of the great Masters of the Spiritual life, tells us very clearly that the life of Christian Perfection (that is, both Essential Perfection and Instrumental Perfection) consists in the formation of the habit or virtue of Charity. This virtue of Charity is acquired by making frequent and fervent acts of the Love of God and of our neighbor. Now, in order to gain ease and readiness in making pure acts of Love of God and of our neighbor, we must first take great care to remove all obstacles that stand in the way of Perfect Charity. Then we must implant in our souls those positive dispositions which prepare the way for Perfect Charity. In other words, you must first purge from your souls, my dear children, all bad inclinations, sinful habits, attachment to the world and self, and, finally, you must subdue and control all your passions and those sensual appetites which war against our higher nature and threaten to drag us down to spiritual ruin. This can be done only by mortification, penance, prayer and the practice of solid Christian virtue. When you have removed from your souls those obstacles to virtue which I have mentioned, you must introduce into them—especially by the practice of the Moral Virtues—that purity and perfection which form the proper disposition for inflaming your spirit with the fire of Divine Charity.

"Now, if we would bring Perfect Charity or love into our daily life and make it the guiding principle of all our thoughts, desires, words and actions, it is necessary that we do something more than merely cultivate the practice of the Cardinal Virtues of Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance. We must, in addition to the exercise of the Moral Virtues, make use of those means best cal-

culated for removing all obstacles that stand in the way of Christian Perfection and for preparing the soul for the ready and constant practice of Perfect Charity, by clothing it with certain suitable and positive dispositions. Chief among the various means comprising Instrumental Perfection, which we must cultivate, are the following:

"We must, first of all, have a strong, persistent and persevering desire and a determined will to reach the highest degree of Christian Perfection, cost what it may. Then your will must be conformed as perfectly as possible to the Will of God. It is needless for me to tell you that Prayer—both vocal and mental—is a most powerful Instrumental Means of Perfection, as is also a lively sense of the Presence of God. Then when you have acquired this lively sense of personal relationship to your Divine Lord by placing and keeping yourself in His Holy Presence, you will readily and fervently multiply acts of Pure Intention throughout the day.

"In order that we may acquire Perfection, it is imperatively necessary



The Secret of the Saints

that we be exact in making our examinations of conscience. Surely no one would rashly presume to hope for progress in the Spiritual life unless she follow the injunction of Our Divine Lord to watch—that is to guard her conscience by prayerful ex-

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Do not fail to read an absorbingly interesting story on vocation to a Missionary life, entitled "In the Service of the Queen." This story sent gratis upon application.

THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST Huntington, Ind.

Devoted to the Greater Honor of Our Blessed Lady of Victory and the dissemination of information concerning the Catechetical and Social Service Activities in the Mission Field at Home.

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

S. Cyril Hettich
Business Manager

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APPROVAL OF ARCHBISHOP DAEGER

Nov. 26, 1924.

It was indeed a great pleasure for me to co-operate in establishing in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, The Society of Missionary Catechists of Our Blessed Lady of Victory. I am now pleased to give my hearty approval to the publication of its Official Organ—THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST. This magazine will, no doubt, serve not only as a greatly-needed medium of publicity for the excellent work now being carried on by the Missionary Catechists among the destitute portion of Spanish-speaking people in the Southwest, but should also prove interesting reading by disseminating information about this too little known section of our Country.

I wish THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST every success. May God bless those who help the Catechists by subscribing for their little magazine.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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



APPROVAL of BISHOP NOLL

July 16, 1925.

Since practically every form of missionary activity has its publicity organ, it is almost imperative that the Society of Missionary Catechists, the latest and by no means the least important missionary movement in the United States, should publish a monthly periodical to acquaint Americans with its work.

I am very glad that you receive subscriptions direct from the people, which makes it possible to sell your magazine at the very low price of 50c the year. It is now the cheapest, and, because it is condensed, one of the very best missionary papers published. I wish for it a large countrywide circulation.

✠ JOHN F. NOLL,
Bishop of Ft. Wayne.

STANDING BACK OF THE MISSIONARY PRIESTS

(Continued from First Page)

very meagre living for one missionary. No parochial school or teaching-sister can be had for love or money, and there is no possibility of getting the services of a social welfare worker, visiting nurse, or tabernacle worker. The missionary considers that he is reveling in luxury when he can afford a housekeeper or maintain his own house. He is often compelled to get his meals when and as best he may, among the poor ranchers out in the foothills.

Though the noble, earnest, zealous priests laboring in this vast mission country willingly sacrifice their energy, their health, and their very lives for the spiritual welfare of their people, it is utterly impossible for them to reach and hold them, in the face of all the difficulties with which they must contend, without the aid of a Missionary Auxiliary.

It was to supply this urgent necessity—to furnish the missionary priest with capable, trained auxiliary workers, and so remedy the deplorable conditions existing in our needy mis-

sistance to the missionary by making and repairing his vestments, laundering altar linens, baking altar breads, and training altar boys. They serve as organist and train the choir, and even conduct public devotions in the absence of the missionary when requested by him to do so.

How well they succeed in their varied and difficult labors can readily be seen from the following lines taken from the diary of a Missionary Catechist. These notes were written at the close of an eventful day—a First Communion Day—in one of the large mission centers under the care of our Society.

"So it is all over—the day we have been preparing for during the past few months. And this evening as I muse on the events just transpired, my heart is filled with joy and gratitude that so much has been done for God's greater glory and the salvation of the souls of these poor, neglected children.

"It seems but yesterday—so quickly have the weeks gone by—that I came to New Mexico with my Sister-



First Communion Children

sions of the Catholic Southwest and elsewhere, that the Society of Missionary Catechists was founded seven years ago.

The members of the Society devote their lives to the religious instruction of poor children in scattered mission places. They prepare neglected little ones for the reception of the Sacraments and teach them to lead good, practical Catholic lives. As trained nurses they visit and care for the sick and poor in their humble homes. As experienced social service workers they engage in various welfare works. They enroll the first communicants in the Children of Mary Sodality and teach the growing girls cooking, sewing, and singing.

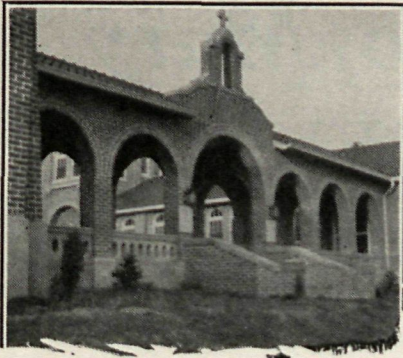
In the missions to which they are assigned they frequently find the chapel in a dilapidated condition, the altars unfurnished, and the sacristy lacking in even the very essentials for Divine Services. Utilizing whatever materials may be at hand, they exercise their training and ingenuity to make these chapels worthy, though lowly, habitations of the King of Kings. They render invaluable as-

Catechists to take up our work in this most neglected mission-center. I remember well how shocked I was at the poverty I saw, especially in my first visit to the church. How pathetic it seemed. The altar presented such a forlorn appearance with its altar linens torn and yellowed with age, the two misplaced candlesticks, with a bit of wax to serve as candles, and—for decoration—some wild flowers which looked very wild indeed in their unnatural position in the broken bottle serving as a vase. It was a sad sight, and how happily and eagerly we began the pleasant task of beautifying this humble dwelling-place of our Eucharistic Lord! This morning it presented quite a different appearance. The new altar linens sent us by those zealous women, the members of the Order of St. Veronica, quite transformed our little mission church.

"And how well the servers did! Our Blessed Mother certainly blessed this difficult part of our work, for when I began training them in the art of serving Mass properly, everything conspired to make me think it the

(Next Page Please)

Every good practical Catholic should be a practical Missionary by contributing towards the support of the Missions,—home and foreign.



"Doings" at Victory-Noll

By Catechist Margaret Molloy

Dear Helen:

You will probably be somewhat amazed to learn that my latest adventure as a Missionary Catechist centers about by debut into—of all unexpected things—the movies! I shall make my first appearance upon the screen in a "feature film" entitled "In the Footsteps of the Padres," the scenario of which is built up about the life of a Missionary Catechist in training and in the mission field.

The scenario is in three episodes. The first portrays our life in training here; the second our work among the thousands of poor Spanish-speaking people employed in the great steel mills of the Calumet district; the third depicts the scenic beauty of the too little known Southwest, its romantic history, its Catholic people, their quaint customs, their dire poverty, their utter lack of religious instruction, and the work of our Catechists in supplying their spiritual and temporal needs. My Sister-Catechists at Victory-Noll and in the missions are the principals of the cast appearing in the production.

The episode featuring Victory-Noll activities was filmed at a season when Nature is usually in a gracious mood, and She lent us for this particular day, a golden autumnal haze tempering the Indiana sunshine, and veiling the surrounding hills with a background of lights and shadows that rivaled California skies. The cast

having assembled on the "set" early on the fateful morning, the camera man began to crank promptly at 9:00 a. m. As you will probably surmise, there was no delay pending the application of makeup, and the easting director was not confronted with the difficulty of placating temperamental stars. Nor were there any tiresome rehearsals. We simply appeared on the scene and proceeded to act as naturally and spontaneously as we could under the circumstances—not such an easy feat for one unhappy amateur, at least, who was tempted to attribute to the cranking camera an inevitability usually associated with the recollection of the spinning Fates.

The principal scenes photographed for our episode were an investiture and reception ceremony, community exercises in the chapel, the various classes in session, choir-practice, a community group, community recreation hour, and a flag-raising ceremony. Close-ups were made of the more detailed activities. We posed continuously until 1:30 p. m., when, manifesting a tendency to "fade-out" through sheer hunger and fatigue, we were reluctantly dismissed by a still energetic and presumably tireless director.

Upon release the film is to be shown in connection with an accompanying lecture in parishes throughout the Middle West. We are looking forward to its initial showing here with a queer admixture of eagerness and anxiety. I have often wondered what the poet Burns, writing in the peace and solitude of his Highland cottage, would have said could he have looked down the years and foreseen his challenge

"Oh, that some power the gift
would give us,
To see ourselves as others
see us!"

taken up and answered by the modern movie photographer.

When you see "In the Footsteps of the Padres," as I hope you will shortly, you will observe a number of new faces which were not on our last published group photograph. Every section of the United States, with the exception of the extreme Northwest, is represented in our latest band of new candidates. The industrial East, the sunny South, the great Southwest, and the thriving Middle West, have each contributed their quota. From Vermont has come Miss Jeanette Graton; from New York, Miss Dorothy Schneider; from Florida, Miss Susanna Michels. New Mexico sent Miss Adelaide Velasquez; Oklahoma's representative is Miss Helen Walbridge, and our local home State has given us a native daughter, Miss Agnes Ness. We are, you see, quite a cosmopolitan community.

It may also interest you to know that we entertained recently, among other visitors, our beloved sponsor Rt. Rev. Bishop Noll, who spent several days with us; Miss Katherine A. Grimes, a prominent journalist of Tennessee, who was commissioned by the Knights of Columbus of that state to investigate our work with a view toward the application of some of its principles to the solution of the problem of spreading the Catholic Faith among the Tennessee mountaineers; and Miss Shehan, a member of the faculty of Loyola University, who gave us a most practical and interesting talk on social service.

And now my paper's out so nearly,
I've only room for

"Yours sincerely."

Commending you to the tender love of Jesus and Mary, to which I unite mine,

Your devoted friend in O. B. L. V.

STANDING BACK OF THE MISSIONARY PRIESTS

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most hopeless task I had ever undertaken.

"I was so happy, too, to hear how well the children recited their Catechism when the "Padre" examined them on his return from Las Febres. The long hours of teaching and training are already beginning to bear fruit in the hearts of these dear little ones of the flock. They looked so sweet and innocent this morning—the girls in their pretty dresses, the boys in their neat suits—all of which were made and sent to us by generous benefactors in the East. The faces of the children were glowing with the love and joy which filled their happy hearts. The parents, too, very obviously shared their happiness as the little ones entered the church in procession singing the pretty Spanish hymns Catechist M. has been teach-

ing them, and later accompanied them to the altar-rail when they received for the first time, with edifying devotion, their Dear Lord in Holy Communion.

"In the group were many children whom we have nursed in our daily visits to their humble adobe homes. Our lives seem to have become interwoven with those of the people in the few short months we have been here for we are with them in every vicissitude and sorrow.

"Every day we leave our mission-center in our little car and arrange to reach the district school of some outlying mission—sometimes fifteen or twenty miles distant—and there teach the children Catechism after the close of the afternoon classes. Having finished instructing the children, we teach the school-teacher—if she be a Spanish Catholic girl—the principles of Catechetics, so that she may conduct Sunday-school classes and

thus became a valuable assistant to us in our work. Then we visit the poor, attend the sick in their homes, and provide for the needs of both. Not infrequently, we take the part in one day of teacher, doctor, nurse, and social-welfare worker; and often we are called out at night to give medical attention to some sick or dying child.

"So all the days of my life glide by, as this has done, sweetly, happily, busily, like a gentle stream running its quiet course in peaceful serenity, yet touching and affecting many lives on its way to the bosom of Eternity. I pray that it may cause my little corner of the desert field to blossom with the rose of Faith, and that the desire of the eternal hills encircling it to be encompassed in the Kingdom of the Sacred Heart, may be realized in a vast harvest of immortal souls gathered by our dear Society for the treasure house of our Heavenly Father."



Skyward Miles of Savage Rocks

Ocate, N. M.

Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Dear Mary:

We have just returned home from Canonito where the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was offered up in Honor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. This charming little village, as the name infers, sets down in a little canon, thereby protecting it from the strong winds which are to be found in an altitude of 7,800 feet.

There was not a cloud to be seen in

Letters to Mary

From a Missionary Catechist

the sky, and the roads were hot and dusty as our car sped northward toward Canonito. We recited the Rosary, en-route, as is our custom and having completed it, remained for a few moments silently absorbed in Nature's grand panorama as unfolded before our eyes. To the left of us rose very high mountains whose bases were a mass of scrubby oaks and huge boulders, and whose summits were crowned with an unbroken line of evergreen trees, forming a dark outline against the azure sky. To the right of us was a broad mesa rising on a series of jutting rocks and spreading itself out for miles, without a tree or rock to disturb its table-like surface. Occasionally the startled cry of a bird, disturbed in the act of ferreting a worm from the earth, mingled with the drone of our motor.

As we neared Canonito the sweet tones of the bell in the little Mission chapel broke upon our ears. This first bell was to inform the people that the "Padre" had arrived, the second bell that Confessions were being heard, and the third that Mass had started.

But what shall I say of the church? Built of humble adobe, with two windows, one on either side, its dimensions not exceeding 40 feet by 30 feet, it would form a strange contrast with any of our churches in the East. The altar was built of rough boards, the images were for the most part hand-carved out of wood. San Jose, (St. Joseph), wore a dress of white crepe paper and a hat of similar material. While forced to smile, we appreciated that the poor folk had done the best they could without money to purchase better,—or materials other than a jack-knife and a piece of wood. The Carmelita Society had washed the altar linens and we helped them to put them

on in the proper manner. They had hung freshly laundered lace curtains at the two little windows and had decorated the church with huge paper flowers of their own make. Altogether the church had a festive appearance.

We had brought with us a portable organ and were thereby able to give the people a real treat by furnishing music for a High Mass. After Mass, the Padre led the procession in Honor of Our Blessed Mother. The Majordomo bearing aloft a banner of Nuestra Senora" sang the first verse of the Spanish hymn, "O Maria, Madre Mia", and was joined in the chorus by the entire congregation. After the procession, Benediction was given. It was very touching to see the deep Faith and childlike devotion of these poor people to Our Blessed Mother. She, on her part, has surely preserved them in the Faith.

With "adios" spoken, the older men and boys took their place in the front of the wagons, while mother and children seated themselves on the wagon bed behind, and turned their horses homeward. The noise of the last wagon, as the wheels scraped over the jutting rocks, had disappeared when we climbed into our little auto and headed homeward.

It had been a happy day for us, and we felt that our own Faith and devotion had been considerably strengthened in witnessing this profession of Faith by the simple Spanish people on the occasion of their Fiesta.

Begging your prayers for the success of our work among these dear people of the Missions and wishing you God's blessing in all your undertakings, I remain, as ever,

Devotedly your friend in O. B. L. V.
Catechist Blanche Richardson.

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THE STORY OF A LOST VOCATION

Once the most popular and most devout member of the Young Ladies' Sodality. Today looked upon by every one in the Parish as a "back number," a flat failure. Even in school Dorothy M. was considered one of the brightest and most promising of the pupils of St. Joseph's and every one predicted that she would enter the Convent of the Sisters of Charity. Dorothy's mother, however, had made other plans for her future. It was her ambition to marry her girl into a wealthy family.

After her graduation from school, the years passed quickly for Dorothy. In due time she was received as a member of the Sodality. One day she shocked her mother by informing her that she had decided to enter a newly-founded American Missionary Society. Upon hearing this the worldly-minded mother declared that she would rather see her daughter dead at her feet than to have her enter a Community to embrace a Missionary state of life.

Dorothy hesitated. Then yielding to the solicitations and flatteries of her mother, she postponed her final decision. Like so many other young women in a similar position, she put off going to see the one Priest who could have solved her difficulty and aided her in shaping her destiny. As a result, other interests took possession of her heart and then just when she should have said a final "yes" to the insistent call of God's grace soliciting her to a life of consecrated service, she neglected to exercise her will power and, having failed to co-operate with Divine Grace, doomed herself to the commonplace existence of a cynical and disappointed "old maid."

There is no more serious hour in the life of any good Catholic young woman than that time set for deciding upon her vocation. In every young woman's life there comes a time when the question is brought home to her, "What does Almighty God want me to do,—what is my true vocation?" Rarely it happens that the question of one's vocation is so interwoven with other matters as to slip by

unrecognized. As a general rule, the hour strikes when each one of us must meet the problem of our personal destiny—our choice of a vocation.

Are you, dear Reader, faced with such a problem at this time? You have undoubtedly heard how other young women,—perhaps even members of your own Sodality,—placed in similar circumstances, have promptly made their decision. They cheerfully made the sacrifice demanded of them and gave up home, relatives, the comforts and pleasures of life in the prosperous communities in the East in order that they might serve Jesus and Mary in the person of the poor, neglected Catholic children in the scattered settlements of the South and West whose Faith cannot be saved without outside help. They were willing to stretch forth a helping hand and save these Catholic children, languishing and dying of spiritual starvation for want of the food of Religious Instruction. These brave-hearted young women generously followed the call of their Divine Master. Today they are happily devoting

themselves to God's service and their dream of a glorious Missionary career has literally come true.

Now the question comes home to you, "What is my vocation? I am not satisfied with my life. I really want to do something for the spiritual and temporal good of those of my Catholic brethren less fortunate than myself." If you postpone your decision, if you neglect to exercise your will power, then, like Dorothy of this story, you are doomed to failure. On the other hand, if you give a decided affirmative answer to this call of God's grace and follow your vocation, you will no longer lead a narrow, restricted and self-centered life; you will no longer live for yourself, but you will live for the good of others. The sooner you decide this vital matter of your vocation, the quicker you will enjoy the rewards of a Missionary life—a life devoted to the extension of God's Glory and of God's Kingdom in the hearts of the poorest of the children of men.

The way is not difficult. The life is a supremely happy one. Write today for information concerning the life and work of the Missionary Catechists. When writing ask for a copy of a story of Missionary life entitled, "In the Service of the Queen."

Address: Reverend
Spiritual Director,
Victory-Noll,
Huntington, Ind.

Some time ago one of our generous and thoughtful benefactors sent us a check for \$100.00 to cover the traveling expenses of applicants who were eager to enter our Training Institute but did not have the necessary railroad fare. Needless to say this benefactor, and all those who follow his example, will have a share in the daily prayers and good works of the candidates whose expenses are thus defrayed.

Give your friends a copy of THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST and ask them to subscribe.

This is the time of the year for renewing your subscription to THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST.

VOCATION

When Jesus knew the Scriptures were fulfilled,
He cried: "I thirst." How cruelly 'twas quenched!
In torrents of fierce pangs, Him men have drenched,
And still, He grieves not o'er the road He willed.
Christ thirsted from excruciating pains,
"He cried aloud," and then His Life expired.
Perceive that call! Christ wills to have thee hired,
To fill the vineyard which by death He gains.
Can you resist? Stand idle by the way?
Be generous now! for thee the harvest waits.
So many souls fore'er will bless the day
On which your zeal has opened Heaven's gates.
Remember, too, the crown, God will repay;
No man, in bounty, ever God outrates.

Would you not like to have your intentions remembered in the daily prayers of our devoted Catechists and their children? Send us a list of these intentions and we shall gladly include them in our daily perpetual Novena to Our Blessed Lady of Victory.

Save My Children

S.M.C.

CALIFORNIA

COLORADO

ARIZONA

NEW MEXICO

TEXAS

If it is not possible for you to give your active service in the Mission Field, you can at least support a Missionary Catechist by sending a small contribution, even though it be only one dollar a month, towards her support.

TELLING THE STORY

III

We were anxious to reach La Parda, one of our distant Missions, before the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. So on December 6th (1922), we started early in the morning for this Mission but when we were five miles out from our Mission Center we found the



"A romantic jewel of the brave old days when America was young and chivalric—the days of the First Frontier."

road impassable. We turned back and when we tried to ford the Mora River with our "balky Ford," the water flooded our engine and we were stuck in the middle of the stream. Finally we had to get a farmer to pull the car out of the water with his team of sturdy mules. Our wet feet and clothes made us very uncomfortable and it seemed hours and hours before we reached home. We are going to make another attempt to visit this Mission as soon as we can get through the roads.

On December 11th we made four visits to the sick. Catechist B. is nursing a woman who was badly burned. She is very poor and had no means for obtaining medical attention.

We visited the home of a very poor family and gave them shoes and clothes which we had received from one of our benefactors in Chicago.

On December 17th we had Mass and Holy Communion at Watrous and organized the Children of Mary Sodality.

As Christmas is approaching, we are making ready for the joyful Season. Catechist B. has solicited donations of candy, nuts and apples from the general storekeeper at Watrous. We are preparing 150 Christmas

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stockings for the poor children in the Missions.

We began our Christmas festivities at Shoemaker on the 22nd. At Tip-tonville, Mr. Frey took the part of Santa Claus. All the children enjoyed themselves immensely. We gave out Christmas pictures and gifts sent us by kind friends in the East.

Ours was the happiness of having Midnight Mass and Communion at Watrous. We had been looking forward to the great Feast for some time as were the children under our care. We were very happy and very grateful to Our Dear Lord and to Our Blessed Lady of Victory to see all the children of this Mission and most of their parents receive Holy Communion at Midnight Mass. We spent the day in visiting the poor and distributing Christmas gifts.

The "Mora Independent," a little paper published up in the mountains and the only newspaper in this vicinity, had some items concerning the Christmas doings at Watrous and commended the large attendance at Midnight Mass.

Requests for petitions in the perpetual Novena of our Catechists continue to come to us almost every day. We wish to assure all our readers that we shall be very pleased to include their intentions—both for the living and the dead—in the daily Novena we offer in honor of Our Blessed Lady of Victory.

With the December number of our MISSIONARY CATECHIST we begin our second volume. We would ask our readers whose subscriptions expire with this issue to kindly send in their renewals.

IN HIS STEPS

Continued from Page 3

amination regularly made during the day.

"I have already spoken to you, my dear children, about the wonderful means we have for acquiring Christian Perfection in daily Spiritual reading. It is of the greatest importance also, that we select a devout, enlightened Spiritual Director to whom we can make our spiritual manifesta-

SOME INTERESTING NOTES FROM THE DIARY OF OUR MISSIONARY CATECHISTS

tion and who will guide us safely along the path that leads to the highest Perfection.

"In the public and private devotions of Holy Mother the Church, such as the Rosary, Way of the Cross, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, Spiritual Communions, novenas, consecrations to the Sacred Heart and to Our Blessed Mother, together with devotions to the various Saints, we have many excellent means for advancing in the way of solid virtue.

"Finally, let us not forget that while it is an important principle of the Spiritual life that we must pray if we would wish to advance in virtue, there is likewise the equally important principle of Mortification, interior as well as exterior, which we must practice if we would sanctify our souls.

"In addition to these ordinary Instrumental Means of Christian Perfection, we have happily at hand a most wonderful means for easily and quickly reaching the highest Perfection. This means is a secret, unfortunately known to but few, even among devout souls. It is called by



"The sheep which feed the Southwest doze on the mesas, and where sheep are—is rest."

its author, Blessed Grignon de Montfort, 'The Secret of Mary' and consists in consecrating our life and the end of our life, unreservedly and forever, to Jesus through Mary. This we do by a solemn consecration which will bind us with the chains of love securely and perpetually to Our Divine Lord and to Our Most Holy and Blessed Mother."