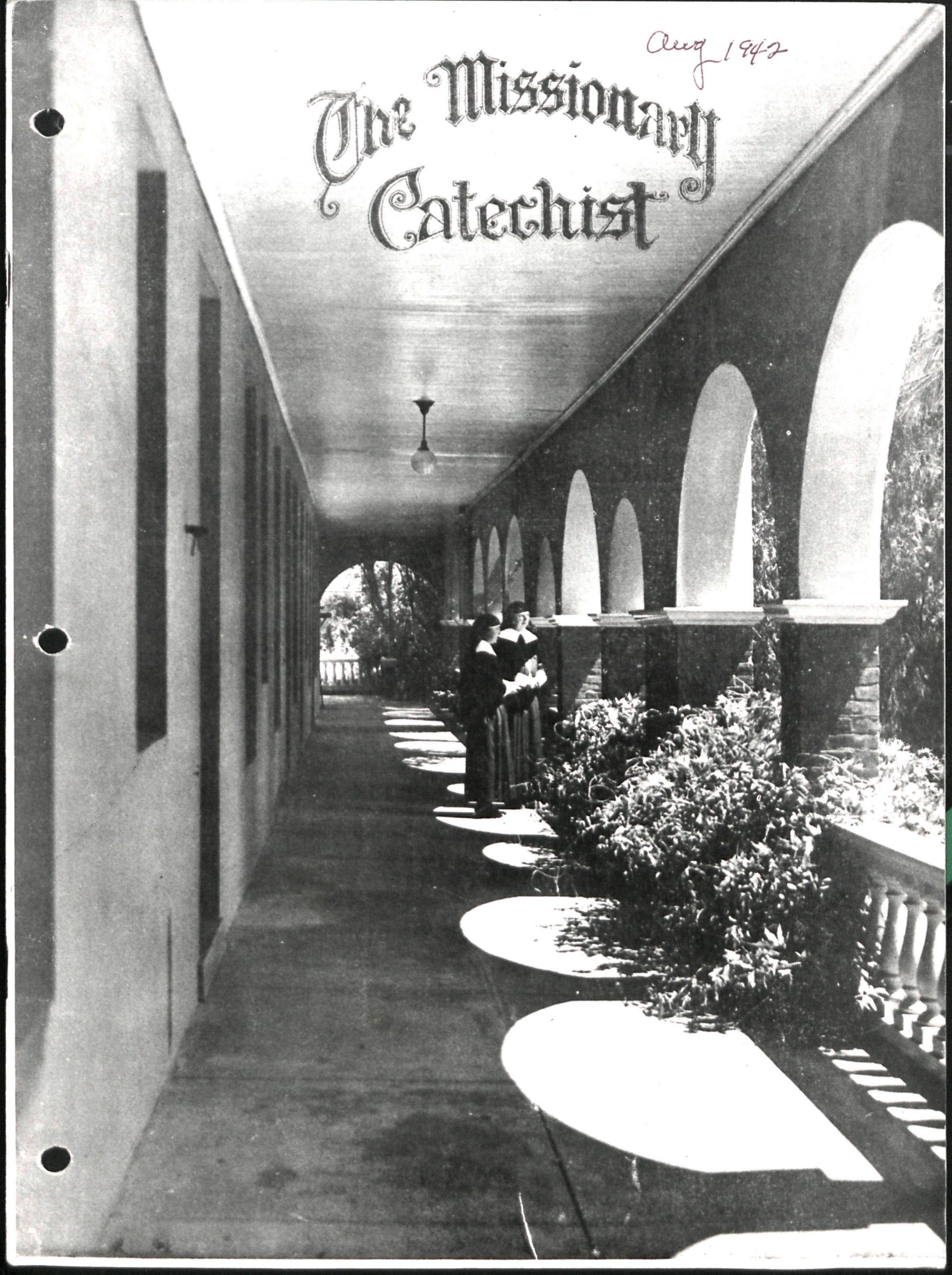


Aug 1942

# The Missionary Catechist







The house at Spur where Mass is celebrated on the third Sunday of each month and part of the congregation.

## Spur

by Catechist Eleanor Clements

THERE is no mission chapel in the district of Spur, Texas. When Father goes there on the third Sunday of every month he says Mass in a private home. His congregation is composed, for the most part, of families who come in from the ranches, some so far as twenty or thirty miles distant. These poor people make great sacrifices to attend Mass and receive the Sacraments and God is blessing their generosity.

IT is eleven thirty before Father arrives at Spur; he first says Mass at Raton, eighty miles away. But there are usually a few who wish to receive Holy Communion even at that late hour. Last month a woman sixty four years old received Our Lord for the first time in twenty-seven years. Although there were two or three chairs in the room where Mass was celebrated, she would not sit down but knelt all the while.

AFTER Mass at Spur the whole congregation is invited to dinner. The people don't all fit into the kitchen—which is also the dining room. They eat in shifts. This dinner is really a parish affair because every family brings along a supply of foodstuffs.

WE also go to Spur on the third Sunday of the month to give religious instruction to children and adults. The adults are as eager as the children to attend their classes. Speaking for the group, one elderly gentleman told me: "We don't know much, Catechist, but we want to learn."

EVERYONE seems to enjoy that parish get-together on the third Sunday of each month at Spur. We in particular are happy to be there among those good people who are so grateful, and responsive to the graces God is showering down upon them.

# The Missionary Catechist

Vol. 18

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No. 9

## Our Cover

OUR cover picture was taken in Redlands, California. Catechist Catherine Olberding, Superior General of the Society of Missionary Catechists, (right) and Catechist Catherine Leven, superior at Redlands, are admiring a glorious sunset from the arched veranda of "Queen of the Missions," the Catechists' convent home.

THE Missionary Catechists now have ten centers in California staffed by seventy-four Catechists. Naturally, that number of Catechists cannot be brought back to Victory-Noll each year for their annual retreat and for summer courses. Until recently, the problem of securing suitable summer quarters for the Catechists was a perplexing one. Last year it terminated in a happy solution: Friends of the Community purchased a large mansion on an old estate just outside the city of Redlands. The building stood in need of many repairs which understanding friends also provided for.

DURING the school year, only part of the large house is used by the eighteen Catechists stationed at Redlands. But when time for the annual retreat draws near, the spacious rooms are thrown open to welcome the missionaries from all our California centers. Located as it is in a secluded spot away from the noise and bustle of the work-a-day world, "Queen of the Missions" is an ideal place for missionaries to rejuvenate their spiritual and physical life in preparation for another year of strenuous labors for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

## A Prayer

For our Country  
In Time of War

O GOD whose might outweighs all force of arms and whose protection strengthens unto victory the defense of those who trust in Thee, stretch forth Thy hand in mercy to Thy servants, give us Thy strong help to repel the assaults of our enemies, and we shall ever thank Thee and praise Thy Hoily Name.

Amen.

—From the Missal

To Christ—

"Thou hast on earth a Trinity:

Thyself, my fellow-man and me;

When one with him, than one with Thee;

Nor, save together, Thine are we."

—Father Tabb

HEAVEN is heaven because God is so beautiful in the light, and earth is the factory of Saints because God is so beautiful in the darkness.

—Father Faber

BETTER to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and to remove all doubt.

—Abraham Lincoln

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# Society of Missionary Catechists

THE Society of Missionary Catechists is a religious community of women founded in Chicago by the Rev. John J. Sigstein in 1921. Like all religious communities its final end is the personal sanctification of its members. Its secondary end is the imparting of religious instruction to children living in poor, distant or scattered mission districts and settlements. Parochial schools are out of the question in these places and so the children are in danger of losing their Faith through lack of religious instruction.

The Motherhouse and Novitiate of the Society of Missionary Catechists is at Huntington, Indiana. It is called Victory-Noll in honor of the patroness of the Society, Our Blessed Lady of Victory; and Bishop Noll, the Society's greatest friend and benefactor.

The Catechists at Victory-Noll are first of all well grounded in the principles and practices of religious life. They also study Christian doctrine, catechetics, Spanish, music, social service, and home hygiene and care of the sick.

The Catechists make no discrimination of nationality, race or creed in their charitable labors. They have, notably, a predilection for Our Lord's "least brethren," those who are most abandoned and neglected.

THAT part of the Catechist's day which is not spent in teaching is largely devoted to visiting the homes of the poor and the sick. These visits disclose great material poverty and many instances of greater spiritual poverty. In systematic home visiting, census is taken, fallen away Catholics are discovered and reclaimed, converts are won; and adult Catholics, who have missed their opportunity for Catholic instruction, are taught the truths of Faith and prepared for the Sacraments.

In teaching religion to children who do not attend Catholic schools, the Catechists are obliged to find time outside

of school hours, and often to provide classrooms other than those of the district schools. Church basements, empty stores and dance-halls, abandoned shacks, and comfortable spots along the roadside, are frequently chosen as the scene of the interesting and effective instruction delivered by the Catechists.

The Catechists' work is primarily that of giving religious instruction. They teach the prayers and truths of religion, and prepare for the Sacraments not only children but adults as well.

By looking after the humble mission chapels, taking care of the vestments and altar linens, and by training altar boys and choirs, Catechists add beauty and dignity to the fervor of divine worship.

Although the Catechists do not conduct hospitals, they make frequent contacts with the sick and handicapped through their home visits. In many cases they are able to bring underprivileged children to the attention of the proper authorities, and by holding free clinics and dispensing medicine, they bring relief to the sick poor.

BY providing material aid such as food and clothing, the Catechists are able to win the love and confidence of the poor, and to draw them back to the Faith that has been neglected. They carry on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy by visiting the prisons, poor houses, and state charity hospitals, bringing to unfortunate souls words of encouragement and cheer, as well as the consoling truths of religion. This important work of social service results in brightening many lives, and saving immortal souls for Heaven.

\* \* \*

Correspondence is invited. Write to:

Society of Missionary Catechists  
Victory-Noll  
Huntington, Indiana.

*The Missionary Catechist*



# Twenty Years Of Service

**AUGUST 5, 1942**, marks the twentieth anniversary of the arrival in New Mexico of Catechist Julia Doyle and Catechist Marie Benes who established the first foundation of the Society of Missionary Catechists of Our Blessed Lady of Victory.

**WHEN** these two pioneer Catechists began the work of the infant Community, they did not realize the significance of their initial efforts. With no thought for the future, humbly and cheerfully they devoted themselves to teaching



Catechist Marie Benes



Catechist Julia Doyle

catechism to poor children and to relieving the needs of indigent families. The rapid development and success of the home missionary program which they inaugurated can be explained only in the guiding light of Divine Providence. Today the Society numbers 220 members and has twenty-seven foundations scattered throughout seven states. The latest records show nearly 27,000 children receiving religious instructions from the Missionary Catechists.

**CATECHIST** Julia Doyle has spent the greater part of her twenty years of missionary life in New Mexico. At the present time she is laboring in Las Vegas, New Mexico.

**CATECHIST** Marie Benes has done missionary work in both New Mexico and California. She is now in Redlands, California, the Society's largest foundation.

**WE** congratulate these zealous pioneers of the Society of Missionary Catechists and ask our readers to pray with us that God may grant them many more years of fruitful service.

All for Jesus through Mary.



# San Ramon Nonato

by Reverend Serapio Gonzalez, O. de M.

UNTIL recent years, the devotion to Saint Raymond Nonnatus as patron of expectant mothers was comparatively unknown in this country. Only among our Spanish people of the Southwest could be found homes which enshrined his picture, surrounded by his pious clients.

THE centuries-old Order of Mercy, in which this great saint won his triple crown of virgin, confessor, and martyr, was not established here until lately, but now that its members are active in a few American cities the devotion to Saint Raymond is being spread rapidly.

THE origin of the great faith placed in his intercession, principally by expectant mothers, is found in the fact that Saint Raymond himself was not truly born, but was miraculously brought to the light of life two days after the death of his mother.

AFTER a holy childhood and youth, he entered the newly-founded Order of Our Lady of Mercy for the redemption of captives. Later, according to the vow of the Order, he gave him-



This picture of St. Raymond Nonnatus (San Ramon Nonato) is a favorite among our Mexican people. It is found in many of their homes.

self as a hostage to ransom captives. The barbarous treatment he received from the Mohammedans entitled him to a martyr's crown. Nominated a Cardinal of the Church, he died at the age of thirty-seven, on August 31, 1240.

SAINT Raymond is invoked not only by those about to become mothers but also by childless couples who desire children, and by parents who encounter difficulties in providing for the material and spiritual welfare of their large families.

THOSE unfortunate wives who suffer from the faults, vices, and unfaithfulness of their husbands, ask God through the intercession of St. Raymond, to restore peace and happiness to their homes and to renew their marital love. Husbands also invoke him, if they have the misfortune of seeing their wives depart from the sanctity of Christian marriage.

IN those countries where the devotion is well known and practiced, countless graces have been obtained. Even here in the United States where its spread is so recent, the list of favors obtained through the intercession of St. Raymond is truly impressive. St. Raymond's Guild was founded in Milwaukee five years ago, and its archives contain hundreds of testimonials of favors obtained, some of miraculous aspect. The letters from grateful mothers are deeply touching.

THE Mercedarian Fathers of Milwaukee publish a pamphlet called MAGNIFICAT in memory of the canticle in which the Most Blessed Virgin expressed her great joy at becoming the Mother of God. Every Catholic mother would welcome among her prayer books a copy of MAGNIFICAT with its consoling and inspiring prayers in honor of St. Raymond.

BESIDES the special prayers pertaining to this devotion, there are specially blessed candles to be burned during the dangerous time of childbirth, and holy water blessed in honor of St. Raymond, to be taken for any sickness. The blessings for these articles are found in the Roman Ritual, having been reserved to the Order of Our Lady of Mercy for many centuries.

THIS devotion to St. Raymond Nonnatus, together with other devotions for mothers growing daily more popular, will be a source of great benefit for Christian home life—something so greatly in need today, when a crass, materialistic world belittles and destroys motherhood. The appreciation of the glory of motherhood by Christian women can alone counteract the suicidal influence of the world, which prostitutes the sanctity of marriage and poisons the source of human life.

FURTHER information about this devotion may be obtained from the Mercedarian Fathers, St. Raymond's Guild, 719 South 5th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



# The Miraculous Staircase

by C. Chavez Lowe



GROWING in interest as a mecca for visitors to Santa Fe is the "Miraculous Staircase" in the chapel of Our Lady of Light, the chapel of the Loretto Nuns in Santa Fe.

THE legend is, that after the structure was completed in 1878 it was found that the stairs to the high choir loft had not been built. The funds for the building had long been overdrawn, and the height to the choir loft made it necessary to give more space to the staircase than could be spared. The architect who had designed the chapel was the same who had come from France at the request of Bishop Lamy to design and build his beloved Cathedral. The architect was also an expert stone mason and had become "stone blind" while building the Cathedral.

THE Nuns despaired of their beautiful chapel's being finished. They offered prayers and novenas and implored the aid of Our Lady of Light, the Patron Saint of the chapel.

ONE morning an old man with a long white beard, carrying a box of carpenter tools, knocked at the convent gate. He asked to see the Mother Superior. Being taken before Mother Mary Magdalen he said he had come to finish the stairs to the choir loft of the chapel. The Mother explained to him that they had neither funds nor material for its erection. The old man said he

would build the stairway and the reward for his labor could be made later. He took his tools into the chapel and closed the doors. Neither sound of hammer nor saw was heard as the work progressed. In a very short time the workman had completed his task, a circular staircase thirty inches wide, in five spiral turns, containing thirty-three steps. Perfect in its mechanical balance, the stairway is a masterpiece of craftsman's art. It is constructed throughout of a dark highly polished wood. The balustrade on each side is waist high and the handrail flows in an unbroken sweep from the protecting rail of the choir loft. The tradition is that it is built without brace or nails. When the stairs were completed the old craftsman gathered up his tools to depart. As he was leaving Mother Mary Magdalen asked his name that they might, at some later date, reimburse him for his labor. His answer was "Soy el Carpintero," and legend has it that this beautiful staircase was built by the holy Carpenter, Saint Joseph.

"EL Carpintero" had never been seen in the town before he appeared and offered to build the staircase. He left as mysteriously as he came, the Nuns never saw or heard from him again.

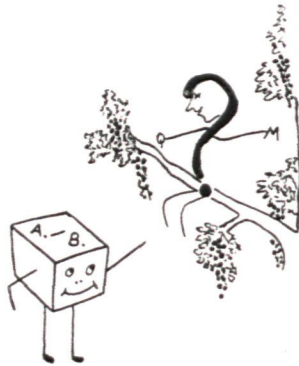
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# Why

by a Missionary Catechist

"Why," asked Question Mark, peering down through the graceful fronds of a roadside pepper tree, "have I seen FIVE cars of Missionary Catechists going along this California highway today? Usually there are not so many together."



"Because," replied Answer Box, perched on the twig beside him, "it is time for their annual retreat. They are going to Queen of the Missions Convent, Redlands, California. The children's religious vacation schools are over. The Catechists from all the missions nearby will be here today or tomorrow. Some have already come. Their retreat will start tomorrow July 27, and end on August 5."

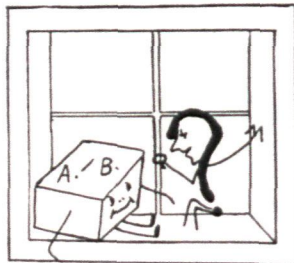
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"Why," asked Question Mark, skipping up the convent steps, "do the Catechists seem so excited and pleased about being here?"

"Because," replied Answer Box, walking sedately beside him, "this is the family home-coming. All the Catechists from the Southern California Missions are here. Some have not seen each other since last retreat. All have been busy all year long; now all are thrilled at the prospect of retreat and pleasant days together before they separate again to continue the Master's work."

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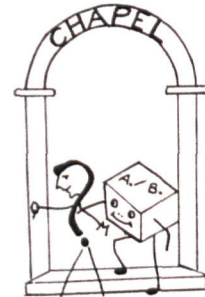
"Why," asked Question Mark, peeking in through the kitchen window some days later, "is that Catechist peeling so MANY apples? She's already finished a bushel!"



"Because," replied Answer Box, climbing up on the sill beside him and gazing with hungry eyes, "tomorrow is the Feast Day. A Feast Day is a *feast* day. And you must peel a lot of apples before you have enough for apple pie for seventy-five people. With the Bishop and other guests, and all the Catechists, there will be more than seventy-five here. It will be a great feast day!"

\*\*\*\*\*

"Why," whispered Question Mark, as they quietly left the chapel, "is that Catechist praying so devoutly this afternoon? I have never seen her so utterly absorbed."



"Because," replied Answer Box, tiptoeing beside him, "tomorrow is the Feast Day. Tomorrow is the Feast of Our Lady of the Snows. Tomorrow that Catechist will make her Perpetual Vows. She will be the Bride of the King of Kings forever and forever. She will belong to Him in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, to do His work until He calls her home. And she is glad. That was the holy light you saw about her face."

\*\*\*\*\*

"Why," gasped Question Mark, concern filling his voice, "are so many Catechists taking bandages to the patio? Has there been a major disaster? Are many injured?"

"Because," replied Answer Box, calmly sitting down, "the summer courses for the Catechists have begun and this year they are taking the Red Cross First Aid Course. It will serve them well in their work during the year and they will be ready if our country needs their services. They will spend two hours a day on this course during their vacation."



"Why," groaned Question Mark, turning over for the 589th time, "won't they let a body sleep in peace? Why this uproar at such an hour? And why don't they talk English? At least I could understand them then!"

"Because," replied Answer Box, peering over the patio bannister on which they were enconced for the night, "this is the hour for Spanish conversation. I TOLD you seven o'clock was too early to go to bed. The Catechists also study Spanish two hours a day during their vacation time. At recreation they practice what they learned during the day and have a grand good time doing it. That's what you hear now."

\*\*\*\*\*

"Why," asked Question Mark, "does everyone seem to have such an expectant air on this Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady?"

"Because," replied Answer Box, "the Catechists know that when they go to the chapel this morning each one will find her appointment for the year in a little envelope at her place. 'In the names of Jesus and Mary' it will tell her to what Mission the Master is calling her for the ensuing year, to labor among His little ones and His poor."

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"Why," asked Question Mark two weeks later, strolling among laughing groups on the patio, "have the Catechists been singing so much at the evening recreations these last few days?"

"Because," replied Answer Box, looking up at the outdoor statue of our blessed Mother, "they like to sing and make merry, when they can, as



becomes all God's children. Soon they will be separated again for another year, now that classes are over, appointments made, and their missions waiting for them. Tomorrow the first groups will leave. Hark! Listen! This is the Farewell Song."

Question Mark and Answer Box stood still and listened, there on the hill-top where tall cypress trees were dimly silhouetted against the far-off lights of the city below them. Then up, through the soft darkness, to the low-hanging stars of the summer night, the voices of the Catechists rose in exultant tribute to Mary, patroness in years gone by, patroness in years to come. Their hymn of greeting was their hymn of farewell:

All hail to thee, O Queen of the Missions!

O Maria!

As patroness to Christians given,

O Maria! O Maria!

Ah, exult, ye Cherubim; sing, rejoice, ye Seraphim!

Salve! Salve! Salve, Regina!



### Mary, Queen of All Hearts

**M**ARY is the Queen of heaven and earth by grace, as Jesus is King of them by nature and by conquest. Now, as the kingdom of Jesus Christ consists principally in the heart or the interior of man—according to the words, "The kingdom of God is within you"—in like manner the kingdom of our Blessed Lady is principally in the interior of man, that is to say, his soul. And it is principally in souls that she is more glorified with her Son than in all visible creatures, and so we can call her, as the saints do, the Queen of All Hearts.

—From the book, "True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin."  
by Blessed De Montfort.



## In The Home Field



Even the dog seems happy.

NANCY wanted to know the name of her guardian angel. She was disappointed to learn that each of us calls his angel simply "Guardian Angel."

"But don't they have any real names, Catechist?" she insisted.

To satisfy her Catechist explained that we do know the names of several angels—Gabriel, Raphael, Michael. Nancy's face was a study as she exclaimed, "All boys!"

IT is Tony's duty to watch the twins after his return from school. Tony wants to attend catechism class at that time, so he kills two birds with one stone. He squeezes the twins into a paste-board box—they fit so snugly that they could not possibly fall out. Then he ties a rope around the box, drags it to the shady spot where the class is taught, and seats himself so that he can keep an eye on the babies. If the twins whimper or grow restless he gives them a stone to play with. At last, from sheer exhaustion, they fall asleep.

### Not Too Many

A WIDOWED mother lay dying of cancer in the County Hospital. When the Catechists visited her for the last time she whispered, "Catechist, please take care of my nine children and don't let them be separated."

Catechist consulted other social workers who were all dubious about finding a home in which nine children could be placed as court charges. An uncle and aunt of the family, parents of eight children, came to the rescue. They offered to take the nine orphans into their own clean, well-regulated home. A nearby cottage was rented for extra sleeping quarters. This family now numbers nineteen—seventeen youngsters growing up happily in an excellent Catholic home. One of the older girls remarked to the Catechists, "We set three tables for meals at our house, so we have a party every day."

AFTER reading the Gospel during children's Mass, Father questions the children. Eight-year-old Raymond's version of last Sunday's Gospel was: "Jesus said to the man whose son was sick, 'Go on home, your son is O. K.'"

Part of the Sodality which forms the choir. (Several members were absent when the picture was taken).—Azusa, Calif.



Officers of the Sodality.



A New Sodality Reports

ST. Frances of Rome Sodality, Azusa, California, was organized in November 1941 under the guidance of the Catechists. Its members, young men and women, are striving to attain and maintain the important goal of the organization, which is to become exemplary Catholics and to stimulate Catholic Action.

SINCE membership in the Sodality implies the companionship of our blessed Mother, we have tried to spend our time in activities, which, in some way or other, show our devotion to our patroness and promote honor to her.

OUR Sodality started with fifteen members; now it numbers sixty-five. Our meetings are

held at the Catechists' convent—on Tuesday nights for the girls, and on Wednesday nights for the boys.

DURING the year we sponsored three Jamaicas (Bazaars), one for the benefit of the parish church, and two to raise funds for the blue silk capes and caps worn by the girl sodalists, and for the blue sweaters selected by the boys. Our Sodality also presented a successful Christmas play and formed a choir which sings regularly at all church services.

ON May 24, fifty-nine young men and women were formally received into the Sodality at a very impressive ceremony. On May 31, the sodalists had the privilege of crowning our blessed Mother. The procession of such a large number of sodalists was a beautiful sight. They marched in single file, girls and boys alternating. The girls wore their beautiful blue sodality capes and caps, and the boys wore their sweaters. Each one carried a lighted candle.

THE Prefect crowned our Queen in the presence of a large congregation. She wore a long dress and flowing veil, and was accompanied by two attendants. Five small ladies-in-waiting, all wearing long dresses, preceded her, and two tiny pages, dressed in blue velvet, carried her train.

REPORTS submitted by the chairmen of the various committees are gratifying: Our Blessed Mother's Committee has helped to clean the church on special occasions. The Apostolic Committee has visited the sick of the parish. The Publicity Committee produced the first issue of the Sodality paper in May. The Social Committee was responsible for several successful social gatherings.

THOUGH our Sodality of St. Frances of Rome is just beginning, we feel that we have made a good beginning, and we are grateful that the Sodality has been organized in our parish.

by Isabel Cruz, Sodality Prefect



### Chicago, Ill.

A FITTING sequel to last month's account of the activities of Dolores Band I, Chicago, is this public expression of our gratitude to the equally zealous members of **Dolores Band II**. In May a welcome letter came from Mrs. Anna Bechtold, Promoter, telling us of their "dairy tour." There are ways and ways of helping the missions, and raising funds for the Burse of an adopted Missionary Catechist. But this way is a popular one with the Dolores Band members.

"The tour used to be a visit through the plant, but the government does not permit that now in war time. Moving pictures were shown instead, and afterwards we were served refreshments. Cards and bunco were played in the dairy's lovely guest rooms, and during the games we were served once again with ice-cream and cookies. Each table got a jar of cottage cheese for table prize, and butter, eggs and cream were given as door prizes, and at no expense to the club. It is a very nice way to raise funds, and interesting."

May God be good to you for taking advantage of every means, even those which modern advertising offers, to aid our mission work.

### St. Joseph, Mich.

IN addition to offerings for the Burse of their missionary, Catechist Josephine Miller, **St. Anne's Band**, Mrs. M. M. Wright, Promoter, is one of our most active clubs when it comes to project work for

First Communion remembrances. Catechist sent us a sample of type-written leaflets to be given to the children. The Sisters at school were very sweet and generous in helping us, having the copies typed in the typing class. Religious calendars are another project that we like very well."

In her letter of acknowledgment to the club Catechist Miller told the members how welcome these articles are for mission work. She mentioned that other mission centers would very much appreciate receiving them as well. Mrs. Wright kindly sent directions for making the calendars, and a letter of inquiry to Victory-Noll will bring them to anyone who wishes to spend leisure moments in this pleasant work, so profitable to the missions.

### Chicago, Ill.

Catechist Eva Keiskopf took advantage of a flying stop at Victory-Noll when traveling from Mission Center to Religious Vacation School to tell us her delight over the work of "her" Band, **St. Mel's**. Mrs. L. E. Lopez is Promoter, and recently the members sent a goodly amount for Catechist's Burse. In addition a donation gift has gone to Catechist. Our grateful thanks!

### Attention, Retreatants

WE have been informed with deep regret by the Sisters at the Academy of Our Lady, Chicago, that due to the uncertainty of present conditions it will be impossible to sponsor the Annual A. C. M. Labor-Day Retreat this year. We wish to express our gratitude to the Sisters for all their past kindnesses, and know that the Retreatants will miss greatly the pleasure of being with them at the Academy this year. May we urge you who have looked forward to this Retreat and planned to make it again, to take advantage of the Retreats sponsored at the Convent of Our Lady of the Cenacle, 513 Fullerton, Chicago. Write for information, or telephone Lincoln 9725.



mission boxes. "Our favorite project is mounting medals and holy pictures," Mrs. Wright told us. "The ladies especially like this because it gives them an opportunity to do something different, thereby getting relaxation. We have mounted several hundred medals and pictures, and made about 200

### A. C. M. BAND DONATIONS

May 15 to June 29

Annunciata Band, St. Louis, Misses Evelyn and Margaret Walker	7.00
Archbishop Stritch Band, Chicago, Miss Helen Gaethke	12.00
Dolores Band II, Chicago, Mrs. Anne Bechtold	10.00
Florentine Mission Society, St. Louis, Mrs. Katherine Krueger	15.00
Holy Family Band, Chicago, Mrs. Wm. J. Murphy	7.50
Holy Ghost Band, Elkhart, Ind., Miss Mary E. Nye	22.50
Immaculate Conception Band, Detroit, Miss Lillian Dunn	15.00
Little Flower Band, Chicago, Mrs. Helen Garrity	
Little Flower Mission Circle, Pittsburgh, Miss Catherine Lippert	7.50
Marians, Chicago, Miss Margaret Daniels	50.00
Mary Band, Chicago, Miss Helen Pidgeon	7.00
Mother Cabrini Band, Chicago, Mrs. Mary Goodman	21.25
Our Lady of Guadalupe Band, Dayton, Miss Rose Marie Heier	2.75
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Band I, Chicago, Mrs. Fred Ahner	25.00
Our Lady Queen of Angels Band, Los Angeles, Mrs. C. J. Sauthier	9.00
Our Lady Queen of Poor Souls Band, Los Angeles, Mrs. Anna Meng	9.00
Poor Souls Band, Berwyn, Illinois	5.00
Sacred Heart Mission Society, Newark, N. Y., Mrs. Sue Albanese	5.00
St. Bridget Band, Bellevue, Ky., Miss Grace M. Kern	1.00
St. Elizabeth Band, Dearborn, Mich., Miss Cleta Schneider	17.00
St. Helen's Band, Dayton, Miss Margaret C. Karas	30.00
St. Irene Auxiliary, Chicago, Miss Madeline Sebraska	3.50
St. Joseph Band, Baldwinsville, N. Y., Miss Margaret Bocchino	11.35
St. Joseph Band, Baldwinsville, N. Y., Mrs. Albert Zahn	9.32
St. Jude Mission Society, Fort Wayne, Mrs. Mary Noll	24.00
St. Jude Thaddeus Band, Chicago, Mrs. C. J. Fiala	10.00
St. Justin Martyr Band, Chicago, Mrs. Fred Kiefer	5.50
St. Katherine Band, Chicago, Mrs. Katherine Hammer	5.00
St. Margaret Mary Band, Omaha, Nebr., Miss Helen McAuliffe	10.00
St. Mary Sodality Band, Detroit, Mrs. Peter Pink	5.00



## A.C.M. Raffle Report

A LONG-standing promise is fulfilled in this report of the very successful raffle sponsored by the Chicago Bands on the occasion of the Reception held in April. The raffle was in the charge of Mrs. Fred Kiefer, who together with Mrs. Mary Staley, General Chairman, sent us the following report. The proceeds amounted to \$163, a substantial help indeed in times like these. Our heartfelt gratitude to the Promoters and members of the Bands who contributed to its success, and to all who filled raffle books on the day of the Reception itself, whose names are not available: Adrian Club, Charitina Club, Christ the King Band, Dolores Band I, Dolores Band II, Elizabeth Ann Seton Band (Villa Park), Ellen Lemm Circle, Holy Family Band and Good Shepherd Band; Immaculate Conception Band, Les Petites Fleurs Club, Little Flower Mission Club, and Little Flower Band II; the Marianians, Mother and Daughter Club, Our Lady of Loretta Band, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Band I, Our Lady of Sorrows Band, St. Gemma Galgani Band and St. George Band; St. Irene Band, St. Irene Auxiliary, St. Joseph Band I, St. Jude Thaddeus Band I, St. Justin Martyr Band, St. Luke's Band, St. Mary's Band, St. Raymond Nonatus Band, St. Mel's Band, St. Sabina Band, St. Thomas Aquinas Band, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Band II (Evanston), Poor Souls Band (Berwyn), and St. Philomena Band (Lombard); Mrs. Alice Cleary and Miss Marie Knuth.

God bless you and reward you, each and every one!

Villa Park, Ill.

WELCOME word came to us early in June of the reorganization of **Elizabeth Ann Seton Band**. Mrs. Mary Staley founded the club several years ago, and continued as Promoter even after moving out of Villa Park until travel restrictions made that im-

possible. Now we are happy to welcome Mrs. H. Sinnott among our A.C.M. leaders, as Promoter of the Band. The members sponsor Catechist Louise Wilbers by contributing towards her Burse, and by sending mission boxes to Grants where Catechist is Superior.

Martinsburg, W. Va.

ANOTHER missionary who recently expressed her heartfelt gratitude for the help given her during the year by an A.C.M. Band was Catechist Agnes Ganse. **St. Agnes Band**, through Miss Gertrude Atkinson, Promoter, in return often express their gratitude for the opportunity to work for and with Catechist in her missionary activities. The members send a regular monthly offering for Catechist's Burse, and have been a big help to the Catechists in San Pierre ever since the opening of the mission two years ago. Their friendly, mission spirit has been a constant source of encouragement to us. It is our fervent prayer that they may be blessed and rewarded a hundred-fold.

Chicago, Ill.

THOUGH we do not hear from **St. Luke's Band** as often as

from some of our other clubs, the members more than make up for the lapse of time when they do write. Mrs. W. Maxwell is promoter of this group of twelve members. Several months ago a very substantial donation was sent to us through Mrs. Katherine Vaughn for the Burse of their missionary, Catechist Bridie O'Sullivan, who has been in the California missions for several years now. May the many years in which you have shared the work of our Society bring you an eternal reward in Heaven.

AMONG the "Always Faithful" clubs is **Holy Family Band**, Mrs. Wm. J. Murphy, Promoter. Word of their monthly activities comes regularly through Joseph Walz, secretary. The club is truly a "family affair" as its name suggests. The members are nearly all relatives of their missionary, Catechist Mary Rose McBride. May the cheer which you have brought us by your gay spirit of sacrifice reflect in your own lives through the rich blessings you receive in return.



CATECHIST Dean sent us this picture of the members of **Our Lady of Perpetual Club**, Rochester, N.Y., and their pastor, Father Wurzer, with this note: "They have been most generous, devoting their time and talents during 'Novena night' meetings to sewing, doing paper art work, or in general, fulfilling our 'orders'. All this, in addition to similar kindnesses to a priest in China and two other missionaries."



# Eternity Van

UNLESS one has traveled extensively throughout our great country, one can hardly conceive of how truly "missionary" certain sections of the United States are.

THE Missionary Catechists now have twenty-seven foundations in seven states—in Indiana, Michigan, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Nevada, and California. Each territory in which a center is located has its own peculiar problems and needs, and is rich in spiritual possibilities. But none of the various regions in which the Catechists labor can be more truly characterized by the term "missionary," as it is commonly understood, than Eastern Nevada. Writing for the NEVADA REGISTER, John Bibelow gives some idea of conditions there in a brief sketch of Father Smith, pastor of Elko, and his *Eternity Van*. He writes:

FATHER George Smith and his "Eternity Van" serve a parish of 19,000 square miles in the hills and deserts of Eastern Nevada, one of the largest parishes in the country.

FATHER Smith was out from his Elko home one day on a routine trip to a remote parishioner. If you have ever traveled the open spaces of Nevada, you know that there are many roads

and few signposts. The country is so flat in many areas that a driver can make a new road whenever the notion strikes him.

FATHER Smith came to a fork in the road, took the wrong turn, and shortly found himself near the chuck wagon of a Basque shepherd. The Basques, of French and Spanish origin, are shepherds who have come to southern Idaho, Nevada, and Colorado in great numbers.

FATHER Smith asked the Basque, who was cooking for other shepherds in the hills: "How long has it been since you went to Mass and received the Sacraments?"

"TWENTY-ONE years, Father," the Basque replied as if he had been keeping count.

WHEN the priest asked him why it had been so long, the shepherd told him: "We get to town perhaps once a year with the boss, and we are in town for only a few hours."

"WOULD you go to Mass if you had the chance?" the priest asked.

The sheep man nodded.

THE result was the Motor Chapel of St. Jude—the *Eternity Van*.



Looking across a stretch of Nevada desert to the beautiful Ruby Mountain Range.



NOW the priest travels thousands of miles a year to take the Church to isolated members of the parish. He thinks nothing of going a hundred miles or more to say Mass for one family, nor do the five Missionary Catechists working in his parish hesitate to travel that distance to teach catechism to two or three children.

IN Elko itself, a little mining-farming town, the missionary work is no less urgent. St. Joseph's Church is housed in a former Presbyterian edifice, bought and remodeled.

OF his male attendance at Mass when he first went there, Father Smith said: "When I saw two men in church on Sunday, I thought I was seeing double."

THE pastor—a husky six-footer—approached the male population with the idea that vir- tue and virility are masculine attributes. Now, the head of the Nevada CYO, he organized Cath- olic athletic groups and many study clubs. The barriers were difficult. One time the board of education requested him to change the night of

his study club because the high school coach wanted the boys for basketball practice.

FATHER Smith is one of the few priests in the United States working in two dioceses—Reno and Salt Lake. Wendover, Utah, near the Ne- vada line, has a rapidly expanding army air corps bombing range, but the little railroad whistle stop has no resident priest. Although it is one hundred miles from Elko, Wendover is closer to this Nevada town than to any Utah city with a resident priest.

THE Reverend Patrick Maguire, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Salt Lake City, laid the foundation of Father Smith's parish eighteen years ago when Elko was the Utah priest's first assignment.

FATHER Smith is now in the Archdiocese of New Orleans seeking to raise funds that will enable him to carry on his work. Before long he will come back to the nooks and crannies of the West and go to work again with his "Eternity Van."



HELEN lived on a ranch and had no way of get- ting to town for the special instructions be- fore First Communion. After much coaxing, she received her mother's permission to ride to town with certain neighbors, if they should offer to take her along. But they didn't offer. Helen waited two days and then sat by the roadside and laboriously wrote a note to the neighbors asking that they invite her to ride to town with them.

Helen received her First Holy Communion.

Maria: Catechist, I will come to class next Wednesday if I am still alive.

Catechist: Oh, what are you expecting to happen?

Maria: Well, the paper said we are going to have an air raid on Sunday. The Japs are getting mad at the way we are fighting them. They are going to get back at us. But if they don't get here, I'll be at class.

Maria came to class the following Wednes- day.

"No, Sister, I am not Catholic but I have a friend who is. She sends her children to the *Consumption Sisters' School*."

"CAN I be a Catlick?"

Those were the words that greeted Cate- chist as she answered the doorbell on a quiet Sunday afternoon.

The inquirer, a lad of nine, explained fur- ther: "That preacher over there," meaning our pastor, "told me to come here."

Catechist talked to him for a while and showed him the classrooms.

Finally he volunteered: "I knew you were awful kind, 'cause there was a party here one time, and I didn't have any money. I started home and he—" pointing to the rectory again "he gave me a lot of money. I went in and had a good time."

"What does your mother think about your being a Catholic?"

"She doesn't like it very much, but," his face brightened, "I want to."

"Have you ever been in our church?"

"Oh, yes! Hundreds of times. I go there to pray and things."

We hope this lad will continue to cooperate with the grace of God and some day be a real Catholic. As for us we feel more and more humbled and awed at the marvelous workings of God's grace in the souls of His creatures.





*Dear Loyal Helpers,*

Who does not thrill to a story of bravery, to a tale that rings with truth of the soldiers' heroic deeds for country and flag. There are plenty such stories today in a war-filled world like ours. But instead of writing to you about our nation's brave army, I should like this month to tell you about another army—the Army of Christ the King.

### What Are The Crusaders?

Catechist Marcelina Montoya, one of our New Mexico missionaries, asks this question; and she answers it for us in the brave, confident words of the Crusader's song:

*We are an army of boys  
Fighting for Christ the King;  
We dare to do right  
We dare to be true  
We dare to stand  
By the Red, White and Blue!*

The Crusaders of Christ the King is not merely a club in the ordinary sense of the word. It is a real army of boys, loyal to their King, and fighting under His banner. In true army spirit, the Crusaders are organized into companies of forty-seven boys, each in the charge of a Captain. The Captain has under him two Lieutenants, four Sergeants, eight Corporals, and their soldiers. This enables the Captain to have all his men in orderly arrangement when in church, or wherever army discipline is in order.

THE Crusaders are taught to march like real soldiers. While standing at attention the right hand is kept over the heart, reminding them of their silent prayer:

*"My hands are Yours,  
My heart is too;  
Oh, may they do  
Great things for You!"*

ON the day of their reception into the Crusade army, the boy recruits to be received as cadets enter the sanctuary at Communion time. At a given signal they kneel, and solemnly make their pledge to Christ the King, "to observe faithfully the discipline of the Crusade Army and to fight with all their strength the battle of their King against Communism." They then make their profession of Faith and receive their blessed shield, a small red silk one, worn on the left arm.

After being received into the army, the cadet must work for his merits in order to become a private and receive the first white cross on his shield. According to his merits and efforts depend his promotion to higher offices. Every loyal Crusader respects these offices and works for them with a will.

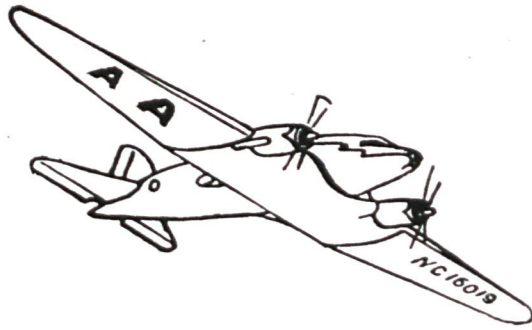
The banner of the Crusaders, as well as their signal flag, is white with a red Cross. As it is explained to the newly received cadets, the white stands for purity and strength, for if the Crusader's heart is pure "his strength is as the strength of ten." The red signifies love and sacrifice and shows that a Crusader is ready to sacrifice himself even to the shedding of his blood for love of his King.

### Real Americans All

CATECHIST Montoya goes on to give us these character-glimpses of the Crusaders themselves . . .

On Sunday morning the doorbell rings. Who can it be? We Catechists all guess right; it is Don Baca. "Catechist, who is supposed to carry the signal flag?" Usually it is someone who has not yet appeared, giving us some anxious moments. But sometimes it really is Don's turn; then he is happiness itself.





The doorbell rings again. This time it is Jackie Molerac. He is having trouble with the boys. The shields on their arms are either upside down or the boys are putting them on the wrong arm.

Again the doorbell rings. This time Billie Daley is the excited inquirer. It is nearly time for the last bell to ring, and no one has yet been appointed to give the military commands.

When the last bell rings for Mass, the Crusaders stand at attention in army-straight file, two by two. They march into church, are signaled to genuflect and then take their places. The boys love to march.

### Their Patron

AFTER the lives of several different Saints had been read to the boys, they were given the privilege of choosing a patron for their Battalion. Without exception they voted for St. Ignatius of Loyola, because "he was a soldier and now he is in Heaven," Elias Martinez explained.

Every Crusader adopts spiritually one of our American men in service, soldier, flyer or marine.

Esiquiel McBride was worried over this possibility during one of the boys' discussions of the present war. "If we lose the war," he said, "it seems to me that we might lose the Catholic Church too." His point of view was corrected by another Crusader when Charlie Martinez declared, "That is not true. Jesus said to His Church, 'I will be with you till the end.'" Our Crusaders are proud to be Americans, and to do their part for peace.

Crusader Albert Tadey wants to "Keep 'Em Flying." On a Sunday poster he uses the rubber airplane stamp to gauge the Crusaders' spiritual progress. Every boy who offers his Holy Communion for our American Army Air Corps pilots may write his name on the airplane he chooses. Junior Pearley did not wish to be outdone. He is a young Navajo who lives eighteen miles from Grants. Each day he comes to school in Grants on the San Mateo bus. He and his little brother would love to come to church for Mass on Sunday as well, but the bus does not come to Grants on that day. Their desire cannot be fulfilled, for it is too far to walk. But Junior circulates "Go to Church Sunday" stamps to encourage others to do what he wants to do but can't.

On First Fridays, dedicated to the Sacred Heart, the Crusaders make use of their Pacific Ocean Chart. Each one present at Mass may write his name on one American ship.

Pat Sanchez gives the secret of the Crusader's loyalty and success in the words of America's motto when he says, "Above all, in God we trust."

LOYAL Helpers, with your prayers and pennies to help us, the Catechists can make loyal Crusaders of all the boys who live "across the tracks" and still do not know how much the Great Captain, Christ, wants them in His army. Write me a little note saying you will help us help them, won't you?

God bless you!

*Catechist Schneider*



"While standing at attention the right hand is kept over the heart"



## THE ASSUMPTION

**P**ICTURES of the Assumption of our blessed Mother often represent the Apostles as kneeling or standing around an open tomb. The traditional story is this:

**W**HEN the Mother of Jesus was about to die, the Apostles were scattered abroad, fulfilling the command of their Master "to teach all nations." By revelation they learned that Mary was about to leave this earth, and the power of God carried them to Jerusalem that they might see her and bid her farewell. Tradition has it that Thomas reached the Holy City too late; the Apostles had already buried their Mother and Queen. His grief was so great that it moved the hearts of the others and they determined to open the sepulcher so that Thomas might have the consolation of looking upon the dear face of his Mother once more. They rolled back the stone from the sepulcher and they found, not the precious remains of the Blessed Among Women, but only fresh lilies and roses. The body of the Blessed Virgin had been taken to Heaven.

August 15 is the Feast of the Assumption of our blessed Mother, a holy day of obligation.



**T**HE formation of clubs providing educational and recreational activities for the poor is an important feature of the Catechists' work. Mothers' clubs are organized to bring about better home conditions, and the Catechists conduct classes in cooking, sewing, home management, and the care of infants. Older boys and girls derive much benefit from study clubs, while younger children receive valuable training for their future position in society through the organization of their own groups. In all, the Catechists strive to accomplish lasting results, and to raise up worthy citizens of our country, and of the kingdom of Heaven.

By cooperating with such national organizations as the Girl Scouts, the Catechists provide for their young charges an excellent opportunity of preparing to meet the exigencies of life.

**W**HEN some men discharge an obligation you can hear the report for miles around.

—Mark Twain

**O**UR Catechists in the missions welcome mission boxes. Heading the list of requests from our centers are Catholic books and pamphlets, and school supplies for religious vacation schools. Send your box to **THE MISSIONARY CATECHISTS** at one of the addresses listed below:

- Refuge of Sinners Mission, 512 Soldono Avenue, Azusa, California.
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission, Box 1356, Brawley, California.
- Good Shepherd Mission, Box 336, Coachella, California.
- Little Flower Mission, 1143 Fifth Street, Los Banos, California.
- Mary Star of the Sea Mission, 598 Laine Street, Monterey, California.
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission, 537 East G Street, Ontario, California.
- Queen of the Missions, Box 46, Redlands, California.
- St. Peter the Apostle Mission, 563 O'Farrell Street, San Pedro, California.
- St. Joseph Mission, 120 South F. Street, Tulare, California.
- Precious Blood Mission, 222 South Eighth Street, Santa Paula, California.
- Mount Carmel Mission, 3868 Block Avenue, East Chicago, Indiana.
- Sacred Heart Mission, 4860 Olcott Avenue, East Chicago, Indiana.
- Our Lady of Victory Mission, 435 Guadalupe Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- Holy Ghost Mission, 416 S. Third Street, Goshen, Indiana.
- All Saints Mission, San Pierre, Indiana.
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help Mission, 720 Court Street, Elko, Nevada.
- Our Lady of the Snows Mission, Box 172, Winnemucca, Nevada.
- Ave Maria Mission, 551 Murray Street, Ely, Nevada.
- St. Coletta's Mission, Grants, New Mexico.
- Blessed De Montfort Mission, 514 Valencia Street, Las Vegas, New Mexico.
- Our Lady of Lourdes Mission, Box 671, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- Holy Family Mission, Box 1317, Lubbock, Texas.
- Queen of Angels Mission 27 West Avenue North, P. O. Box 1125, San Angelo, Texas.
- Mary Queen of Peace Mission, 524 West Fourth South, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Holy Trinity Mission, Ida, Michigan.
- Immaculate Conception Mission, 1001 East San Antonio Street, El Paso, Texas.
- Holy Rosary Mission, Box 209, Bingham Canyon, Utah.

### IN MEMORIAM

- Rev. R. Murphy, Uxbridge, Mass.
- Mrs. Frances Barton, St. Louis, Mo.
- Mrs. Frances Freeman, St. Louis, Mo.
- Mrs. Mary Shine, A.C.M., Los Angeles, Calif.
- Mrs. Christina Klug, A.C.M., Fort Wayne, Ind.
- Mrs. Ellen Carney, Chicago.

**W**E appreciate the prompt renewal of your subscription to **THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST**. It means time and money saved for our missions.

**Y**OU are not poor if you can still laugh heartily.

*The Missionary Catechist*



# Mission Intention for August

*by the Right Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. McDonnell*

*For Native Clergy of the Oriental Rites in the Near East*

AT the conclusion of the last war interest lingered for a time in the plight of the peoples of the Near East, many of whom were starving and homeless because of invasion and pillage. Gradually, however, our concern lessened and we lapsed into indifference from which we are now suddenly jolted by the imminence of today's struggle for the natural resources of this same Near East.

IN order, therefore, to have a better understanding of the Holy See's request for prayers for the native clergy of this district, let us define exactly what is meant by the "Near East." Actually, it comprises the territory which formed the cradle of Christianity and may be said to reach from the Adriatic to the Arabian Seas, with certain sections of India included. It extends across Bulgaria, Greece, Albania, Jugoslavia, Roumania, the Ukraine, Russia, Turkey, Armenia, Syria, the Holy Land, Mesopotamia, Arabia, Persia, Egypt, Eritrea, Abyssinia, as well as those parts of India where Catholicity dates from Apostolic times. It embraces the lands once hallowed by the Physical Presence of the Redeemer and now become strongholds of Mohammedanism. According to statistics furnished by the Near East Association in New York there are in the area some 160 million Christians, only eight million of whom are united with the Church of Rome.

THE majority of these eight million Catholics belong to the oriental rites, which, in most instances are more ancient than the Roman rite to which we belong. As Right Rev. Msgr. Bryan J. McEntegart, National Secretary of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, informs us these oriental rites may be divided into five main groups: Alexandrian, Antiochean, Armenian, Byzantine and Chaldean. In 1862 Pope Pius IX created a special department in what con-

stitutes the papal cabinet, to be known as the Sacred Congregation of the Oriental Church. Our present Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, is Prefect of that Congregation with His Eminence, Eugene Cardinal Tisserant, Secretary.

PERHAPS it would be both timely and interesting at this point to explain just what we mean by the term "rite." Actually it means the manner in which the Church carries out Her functions—the ceremonials connected with the celebration of Mass, administrations of the Sacraments, etc. In all these acts one part is essential, the other secondary. In the offering of the Holy Sacrifice there can be no deviation in the words of consecration nor in the use of the requisite bread and wine, but there may be divergence in the secondary ceremonials as well as in the language used. Therefore when one attends Mass in one of the oriental rite churches he must not expect to hear the familiar Latin, but he may be assured that he is taking part in services as entirely and uncompromisingly catholic as was the Church before the schisms. Members of the Uniat Oriental Church accept the whole Catholic Faith and the authority of the Pope as visible head of the Church as did St. Anthanasius, St. Basil, St. John Chrysostom.

THE fostering of vocations, the careful training of aspirants, and the watchful guidance as well as monetary aid to the priests of these rites are of paramount importance particularly at the present time. A mere reading of the names of the countries where these rites flourish will furnish the clue for the Holy See's request for the prayers of the faithful. The Balkans, the Ukraine, Russia, Northern Africa, Iran, Iraq, Transjordan, Coastal India! Certainly the native Catholic priests in these territories need our prayerful intercession now and during the trying days ahead.



*Vacation*



Unhappy  
ending!

*at*

*Home*



Each year some of our friends sacrifice a little of their vacation pleasure and send an offering of \$5.00 to Victory-Noll for the Catechists' mission work. They call this "Vacationing With the Catechists."

There will be little talk of vacationing this year, but the missions need your help more than ever.

You are promoting the glory of God and the welfare of our beloved Country when you help bring Christ to spiritually poor Americans. Send a vacation offering to the Catechists for their Home Mission work.

Bridgeport, Iowa

For God and For Country

Dear Catechists:

In THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST magazine you made an appeal for a small contribution from one's vacation fund, so you could carry on your work. I think you have every right to ask such a contribution, for on a vacation one does spend money foolishly. So I am enclosing a money order for \$5.00. I hope others have joined with me.

Sincerely,

Mr. C. T.

Victory-Noll  
Huntington, Indiana

Dear Catechist,

Enclosed is part of my "vacation money." Use it where the need is greatest.

Name .....

Address .....