

May 39

# The Missionary Catechist



MAY

1939



# Our Lady of the Smile

Frater Herbert Gross, O. Carm.

LITTLE Therese Martin knew nothing of the Battle of Lepanto or of the singular part that Our Lady of Victory played in it, but she had learned from her dead mother that Our Lady of Victory never failed to help those in need. Here she was, a girl of ten years, about to be snatched from life before she had even made her First Holy Communion. That little French girl who was later to become one of the greatest of Saints, the Little Flower of Jesus, stricken with some strange illness, lay in a hopeless state, her delicate frame overcome with fever and delirium. She had been sick now for quite some time and it seemed to all, her father and sisters, that the end was approaching slowly. Therese herself, when she was not weaving little garlands of flowers at moments of less acute pain for Our Lady's statue beside her bed, was harassed with strange fears inspired by the devil, seeing things in the room as ghastly monsters, which caused her to cry out in terror. Yet amidst all this suffering she never lost her reason and fought the ravages of body and soul with the aid of her whose foot was to crush the serpent's head.

It was May, Mary's month, a time of blooming flowers and a warm sun, but neither Mary, spring nor sun seemed to revive that withering Little Flower. Mr. Martin, almost despondent, came into her room one morning and went up to Marie, the Little Flower's eldest sister whom she cherished dearly, bidding her to write to Paris for a novena of Masses to be said at the shrine of Our Lady of Victories for the little one's recovery. It was done immediately.



St. Therese of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face.

Sunday came and Therese seemed to be getting worse. She suddenly began calling for Marie and when Marie entered the room the calling did not stop. Perceiving that Therese was at the crisis of her illness when she failed to recognize her own sister, Marie fell down in tears at the foot of her bed. She turned in a most fervent prayer to Our Lady's statue imploring her intercession for the life of the Little Flower. The other sisters joined in the prayer also. The feverish little face turned to the statue to breathe its almost breathless prayer but suddenly a change came over it. St. Therese writes of the incident: "Suddenly the statue became animated and radiantly beautiful—with a divine beauty that no words of mine can ever convey. The look upon Our Lady's face was unspeakably kind and sweet and compassionate, but what penetrated to the very depths of my soul was her gracious

smile. Instantly all my pain vanished, my eyes filled, and big tears fell silently, tears of purest heavenly joy. Our Blessed Lady has come to me; she has smiled on me! How happy I feel! But I shall tell no one, for if I do, my happiness will leave me."

MARIE perceived that a miracle had taken place, that Therese was cured of her illness, but also that she had been granted some hidden grace. St. Therese admitted that the cure "was wrought, and my recovery made complete, by the intercession of Our Lady of Victories." Unfortunately, after persistent enquiries from Marie, Therese revealed her secret to her, and in spite of the inexpressible joy and gratitude of the whole family, the Little Flower passed into a state of sorrow which remained with her until she visited the sanctuary of Our Lady of Victories in Paris four years later. Strange, this incident in the life of the Little Flower—that having been cured of a bodily illness, she passed into a spiritual one. Human as all of us, she realized that this affliction had come upon her innocent soul as an aid against the pride of having won Our Lady's favor, in which she might readily indulge if not checked.

This is but a glimpse of the devotion that St. Therese, inspired by her parents and fostered by her sisters, had to Our Lady of Victory. During the last year of her life she wrote a poem to Our Lady of Victory in a burst of love that had grown throughout her short life. At the very portals of eternity she stretched her hand out to the Lady who "smiled" and found a true Mother who helped her to her ardent wish to be a saint.



# For This Month

**D**URING May we celebrate the feast of Our Blessed Lady of Victory (May 24) and the anniversary of the canonization of St. Therese of the Child Jesus. Appropriately then, **Frater Herbert** gives us "a glimpse of the devotion that St. Therese had to Our Lady of Victory." The author is a student at the Carmelite College in Washington.

**Father Ronald's** description of St. John Lateran Basilica is especially timely this month, for on the Feast of the Ascension, May 18, Our Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, as Bishop of Rome, will take possession of it, his own Cathedral.

**Fray Angelico**, whose story "Mana Seda" appears this month, needs no introduction to our readers. Busy as he is with his priestly duties, he manages to find time to devote to both literature and art. His murals in the Franciscan Church at Pena Blanca, New Mexico, are becoming famous.



Fray Angelico

Members of the **National Council of Catholic Women** will be grateful for the practical suggestions that are contained in the article in this issue. The writer, who has had much experience in N. C. C. W. activities, will be glad to give further help to anyone interested. Address: N. C. C. W., Care of **THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST**, Victory-Noll, Huntington, Indiana.

Several months ago we had an article in **THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST** on the Portuguese in California. The author mentioned their devotion to the Holy Ghost and the customs arising from that devotion. Now, in this month in which we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, **Father Culleton**, chancellor of the Diocese of Monterey-Fresno, describes in detail that devotion and its origin.

# The Missionary Catechist

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# Saint John Lateran

Ronald Murray, C. P., S. T. L.

**W**HEN, on Ascension Thursday, Pope Pius XII comes to take possession of his cathedral, Saint John Lateran's, and from the loggia gives his blessing to Rome and the world, there will be repeated in miniature the marvellous spectacle seen at his coronation. While the crowd of five hundred thousand which filled St. Peter's Square and stretched down to the banks of the historic Tiber some half-mile away to witness his coronation will be somewhat diminished because of the lack of space here, yet, it will not be lacking in fervor. From at least a hundred thousand throats the cry, "Viva Il Papa" will welcome the Pope to this stately edifice which bears upon its facade the proud title: "Omnium Urbis et Orbis Ecclesiarum, Mater et Caput," the Mother and Head of all the Churches of Rome and of the World.

The archbasilica of Saint John Lateran is the Pope's Cathedral as Bishop of Rome, and ranks first in dignity among all the Churches of the world. Here, until September, 1870, the Pope officiated on many of the more solemn feasts, Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday and Saturday, Easter Monday, Pentecost, and a few others, and it is the fervent hope of many Romans that these papal functions will be reintroduced.

The story of the Lateran basilica takes us back many centuries. The site on which it was built was in ancient times occupied by the palace of the noble family of the Laterani, and the place still preserves their name. By marriage, it became the property of the Emperor Constantine, who, in the beginning of the fourth century donated it to the Church. Every child-student of Church History knows how, in the year 312, Constantine won the celebrated victory over Maxentius at the Milvian Bridge. While advancing into Rome against Maxentius, Constantine and his entire army saw a brilliant Cross in the heavens, encircled by the words: "In hoc signo vinces"—In this Sign, thou shalt conquer." He had a representation made, and using it as his standard, inflicted a crushing defeat on his adversary near the Milvian Bridge. The Church, which up to that time had been subjected to the most violent persecutions, and which had been confined to the catacombs, hidden away in the bowels of the earth, was now granted liberty. Constantine annulled the penal laws

against the Christians, permitted them to worship openly, and one of his first acts was to present the Lateran Palace to Pope Saint Melchiades to be used as Papal headquarters. From then until 1300 A.D. the palace attached to the basilica was used as the Papal residence. When the Pope returned from Avignon, the Vatican was chosen for the Papal palace, and the former residence has become a museum.

The basilica itself has had a checkered history. Sacked by Genseric and his Vandals, destroyed by an earthquake, almost completely ruined by fire on various occasions, it was repeatedly restored by princely donations and the zeal of the Sovereign Pontiffs, culminating in the restoration and enlargement of the tribune by Leo XIII in 1896 at the cost of nearly a million dollars.

The east front presents a noble appearance. It is from the loggia over the main entrance that Pius XII will bless Rome and the world on the glorious feast of Christ's Ascension.

The interior is disappointing, for the baroque artists of the seventeenth century robbed it of much of its beauty. Only the choir and apse remain to tell of former splendor, and in restoring the mosaics there, Leo XIII did not destroy in his efforts to enhance the beauty of Constantine's basilica, as earlier artists did. The mosaic pavement and the carved and richly gilt ceiling however, are really worthy of the Papal Cathedral.

Enclosed in the Papal altar is one of Rome's most precious treasures, the wooden portable altar used by Saint Peter when he offered the Holy Sacrifice in the house of Pudens, the Roman Sena-

tor who sheltered him. It is the only wooden altar in the world, for Mass, according to the law and tradition of the Church must be celebrated on an altar of stone; or if the structure be of wood, it must contain an altar stone on which Mass is said. In a splendid Gothic canopy above the altar, in silver reliquaries studded with precious stones, are preserved the heads of Saints Peter and Paul.

Above the altar of the Blessed Sacrament in the left transept, is preserved what is believed to be the table of the Last Supper, on which Christ instituted the Blessed Sacrament.

**C**LOSE by the Lateran palace is a sanctuary jealously guarded by the Passionist Fathers whose life work is the preaching of "Christ and Him Crucified." The sanctuary is called the "Scala Santa" or, Holy Stairs, as it contains the twenty-eight marble steps which tradition states to have been those of Pilate's palace, and which were ascended and descended by Christ during His Sacred Passion. They are said to have been brought from Jerusalem by Saint Helena, the Mother of Constantine. The steps themselves are enclosed in wood and throughout the year, but especially during the Fridays of Lent, large pilgrimages ascend the steps, always on their knees, meditating meanwhile on the Sacred Passion, the necessary condition for gaining the many indulgences. Through small panes of glass let into the woodwork, can be seen spots of blood, and the kneeling faithful fervently kiss these forceful reminders of Christ's Love.

On the other side of the basilica are the medieval cloisters, world-renowned for the architectural beauty of the twisted columns inlaid with mosaic. They are a silent tribute to the Benedictine monks who, at one time in its long history, chanted the solemn prayers of the Church with liturgical perfection, in the first Church of Christendom. Should one happen to visit the basilica now when the Divine Office is being performed, the raucous chanting of the canons is enough to force one to offer a fervent prayer that the former glory might return, and that monks from Solesmes or some other famous Abbey would be allowed to function here, in the Mother and Head of all the churches of Rome and the world.



NEELSON

WHITE





"It was the custom in May to bring flowers to the Holy Virgin."

THE campo santo of El Tordo sleeps with all its inhabitants or what little is left of them, on one of the mountain slopes surrounding the adobe mission and the brown huts nestled about it. It lies open to winds that rush up against the mountain and are broken into whirls of dust. Its blanket of sand is ruffled in places by the uneven mounds of recent burials, and torn for the most part by ancient graves that have sunken in. Hiding some of the reeling crosses, sparse clumps of sage draw a drab life from the dead.

Candido the goat-herder, who dreams all day with his capricious charges outside the graveyard walls, and should long ago have retired with his contemporaries within, leaned over the crumbling adobe tapia and pointed with his whiskered chin:

"The grave in this corner, where the wall is higher, it is different. You find no chamiso on it. The others, they have some, but no flowers. In May this grave is covered with wild flowers."

Strangely enough, on this spot were crowded patches of verbena and disks

of daisies, with a slender slip here and there of bluebells. I gave Candido an interested glance.

"Here rests Mana Seda. I never knew her real name. Women in my time said she was called Mana Seda, Sister Silk, because she was so neat. But I used to think she got the name because she looked to me like a spider. You see, she was very much hump-backed, and always wore a black shiny dress and shawl. And she moved very swiftly and noiselessly. Si, señor, like a black widow.

"But you wish to know about the flowers on her grave. Here in El Tordo it was the custom in May to bring flowers to the Holy Virgin. Every evening a young girl, whose turn it was to be queen, carried a crown of flowers and candles to the altar while the people sang. To get so many flowers, the girls had to do much begging in homes. Housewives used to tend their window geraniums proudly and promise them to some one while they were still buds. But none had such windows full as Mana Seda, who also kept a small garden for this purpose. This not being nearly enough, she scoured these slopes for wild daisies and

## Mana Seda

Fray Angelico Chavez

Indian paintbrush. Many a time I met her coming from the forest, with her short-stepped spider run, her arms loaded with wild iris and cosmos and mariposa lilies from the pine shadows. So long as she lived, the girls had little trouble getting flowers.

"One day I found her picking verbenas, just over yonder. Playfully I told her that for all her work she ought to be chosen queen for one night. She did not get angry. She never was known to get angry, even when uncouth boys made fun of her figure. Unlike other women, she spoke little, and then her voice was smooth and somewhat tingling, like the touch of silk on rough fingers like mine. She peered up at me with her dried, sharp face and said she always had wanted to be a May queen but was never chosen. Which was strange, I told her, since she must have been a pretty girl in her day.

"'No, Candido,' she answered. 'I was not so beautiful. I was not pretty at all. Still, some girls uglier than myself were queens many times. I was not chosen—because of this!'

"The old lady patted her shoulder, all the farther she could reach to her bulging back. Her nurse, she said, dropped her on the hard dirt floor when a baby, and so she had grown up in a ball. As a girl she had yearned, when May came around, to march in the old mission church in white dress and veil with a gift of flowers. 'I was never asked,' said she. 'And I never asked. One year I felt bitter. I would not go to the May devotions anymore. I would kill myself. But something inside told me I would please the Lord better if I provided flowers for other girls more fortunate. Candido, I have been doing this for fifty-seven Mays!'

"THAT evening after I had milked my goats, I brought the Padre his daily bucket of milk. Next to his prayers and his painting, old Padre Miguel loved goat-milk. In fact, that was all he could take, he often told me, saying that his life depended on me and my goats. I found Padre Miguel sitting with a bunch of brushes in one hand before a picture of the Guadalupe. He looked very much dissatisfied.

"'Come in, Candido, and see this,' he spoke, without looking up. 'All day I have tried to paint this veil on the most holy Mother, but it will not set right. It makes her look hunch-backed—like dear



old Mana Seda!"

"Which was not true, I thought, for the picture looked most graceful. But I said nothing about it only repeated what Mana Seda had told me that afternoon. Right away Padre Miguel's face brightened. He laid down his brushes reached for the bucket in my hand and took a long drink and then looked at his painting, at the ceiling, at me, like one who is drunk or dazed. 'Candido,' he murmured, with the voice he used in praying the rosary. 'You and I are unworthy, but it shall be done.'

"WE made plans for the closing of May when a whole string of queens carried a garden of flowers and orchard blossoms. Mana Seda herself worked very hard that day to help so

many girls with their baskets. That day, too, Padre Miguel sent to Las Vegas for roses the like of which I had seen only on a Santa Rosa de Lima which he painted above the altar. And when all the bells began to ring, and the people strolled to the church in the cool of the evening, the Padre waited at the door and stopped Mana Seda as she slid in.

"He took off her black shawl and over her grey head and hunched form draped a precious veil of Spanish lace. Into her hands he pressed a candle-crowned basket brimming with those roses, and he told her gently that she was to lead all the queens. When she tried to protest in her amazement, the Padre urged her on, told her that it was the holy Mother's own wish. And so Mana Seda led all the

queens that night, slowly and smoothly, not like a black widow now, but like one of those little white moths over alfalfa fields in the moonlight. It was the happiest day in her life, we could see. I expected her to die for pure joy.

"No, she did not die then; she lived for several years after. But toward the last she could not plant any more flowers, much less gather the wild ones up here and in the forest. They buried her in this corner, and the following May the flowers came up on her grave. They have been doing it for years."

As the goat-herder spoke, a dust-whirl came up and danced among the less-sheltered graves, sweeping off the lighter grains of sand and whatever wild seed might have fallen upon them.

## Our Blessed Lady of Victory

Feast Day May 24

Remember, O Creator Lord,  
That in the Virgin's sacred womb  
Thou wast conceived, and of her flesh  
Didst our mortality assume.

Mother of grace, O Mary blest,  
To thee, sweet fount of love, we fly;  
Shield us through life, and take us hence  
To thy dear bosom when we die

O Jesu, born of Virgin bright,  
Immortal glory be to Thee;  
Praise to the Father infinite,  
And Holy Ghost eternally.

Hymn for the "Little Hours"—Office of Our Blessed Mother.



we obtain the remission of sins. Hail, then, O Mother! Cease not to pray for us to thy Son and Our Lord Jesus Christ, that through thee we may find mercy in the day of judgment, and may be able to obtain those good things which God hath prepared for them that love Him, by the grace and goodness of Our Lord Jesus Christ; to Whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be ascribed all glory, and honor, and power, now and for ever and ever. Amen. (St. John Chrysostom).

Sixth Lesson at Matins—Office of Our Blessed Mother.

O Glorious Lady! throned on high  
Above the star-illumined sky;  
Thereto ordained, thy bosom lent  
To thy Creator nourishment.

Through thy sweet Offspring we receive  
The bliss once lost through hapless  
Eve;  
And Heaven to mortals open lies  
Now thou art Portal of the skies.

Thou art the Door of Heaven's high  
King,  
Light's Gateway fair and glistening;  
Life through a Virgin is restored;  
Ye ransomed nations, praise the Lord!

All honor, praise, and glory be,  
O Jesu, Virgin-born, to Thee;  
All glory, as is ever meet,  
To Father and to Paraclete.

Hymn for Lauds—Office of Our Blessed Mother.

Antiphon: Holy Mary! Help the afflicted, strengthen the weak of heart, comfort the sorrowful! Pray for the people, intercede for the priesthood, be surety for all devout women! Let all who ask thy help feel the strength of thy aid!

Versicle: Vouchsafe that I may praise thee, O holy Virgin!

Response: Give me strength against thy enemies!

Let us pray: O Almighty and Merciful God, Who for the defence of the Christian people has in a marvelous manner raised up a perpetual help in the most Blessed Virgin Mary, mercifully grant that we, being protected by her defence in the warfare of this life, may in death obtain the victory over our malignant foe. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who with Thee liveth and reigneth in the unity of the Holy

Ghost, God, for ever and ever.

Response: Amen.

SHE is the Mother of Him Who was begotten of the Father before all ages, and Who is acknowledged by angels and men to be Lord of all. Wouldst thou know how much nobler is this Virgin than any of the heavenly powers? They stand before Him with fear and trembling, veiling their faces with their wings, but she offereth humanity to Him to Whom she gave birth. Through her



# The National Council of Catholic Women

## What the Council Can Do for You

## What You Can Do for the Council

Catherine Skidmore

**V**ERILY, the Pope is dead.

Thus was first announced the passing of a Pope who had made greater effort for the **cause of peace** than any other Pope in history.

Pope Pius XI, the Pope of Peace, the Pope of Catholic Action, who called all the laity, both men and women, to the actual participation in the **cause of Catholic Action**. Called them to be assistants to the Hierarchy in this most worthy of all works, this establishing and re-establishing of Catholic attitudes, Catholic principles, and peaceful conditions in an over-wrought, over-anxious, chaotic world.

The lay-women of the Catholic world have been given a real task. Although our Pope Pius XI has been called to his reward, our task still remains, an assignment given us by him. The very least we can do is to work with renewed zeal to give proof to our fellow women, our clergy and our present Holy Father, Pope Pius XII that we were and are sincere when we accepted this duty, this assignment.

The work of the National Council of Catholic Women is broad in its scope. It is wisely directed by the National Catholic Welfare Council with headquarters in the Capital City.

Men and women of vast experiences, clergy and lay-women are at the helm suggesting programs of action, materials to be used, departments of service, that the work of the N.C.C.W. may be adjusted to meet all needs from the smallest mission to the largest parish.

That the work may be more uniformly conducted there are suggested programs for parish, district, deanery and diocese. Under eleven department headings the work has been so outlined as to

meet the needs and requirements of every type of group be it large or small, rural or urban. Unless the work is practical and practicable in your particular parish, district, deanery, or diocese it is not fulfilling its real purpose, and it is an injustice to the women who are giving their time and effort without the desired results.

We hope the women who have time to give will **choose** their department of service and co-operatively carry on the work that is so very essential in the world today. We hope that through this medium of Catholic Action we Catholic women can give to the world a real Catholic influence. Consult with your pastor, or the pastors of the district, or deanery, and help decide what departments are essential and helpful to your particular groups and then work with definite plan to promote this chosen department.

All Catholic women are members of the National Council of Catholic Women by virtue of the fact that they are members of their own parish and are thereby members of their Diocesan Council of N.C.C.W.

All Catholic women are welcomed workers, giving whatever time and effort that they may have to give. All work is volunteer service. The many fields, or departments cover such a wide scope of activities that there is work for each and all. Choose work in the department you most desire. Each department is as vital, as important as the other. **NONE** are superior. All are united in the great work of making our Catholic people more Catholic - minded, Catholic - conscious; making our world safer and better.

The **pastor** is the key person in any parish, or mission given into his charge.

The **pastor** knows the needs, the requirements of his flock; he knows where best you can serve his needs, and with this in mind the first work of any lay-woman in the cause of Catholic Action, is to consult the pastor. Learn from him where best we can co-operate in the **cause of Catholic Action**. Too frequently the good effect of the work of the lay-woman is lost because she has made the wrong approach, or has not properly explained her cause.

Our world of today has changed so greatly, conditions are so different from those of a generation or two past that there is real need of 'outside-the-family' contacts in the field of Catholic Action. Against our desires we are constantly meeting 'outside-the-family' conditions in many other fields, and many of these other fields are sadly in need of Catholic influence.

**W**E, the members of the N.C.C.W., have a duty to perform in giving this Catholic influence. It is our obligation. It is the legacy left us by Pope Pius XI of blessed memory.

One of the fundamental duties of the members of the N.C.C.W. is understanding, and giving to others the understanding of the real worth and meaning of the work of the National Council of Catholic Women. Have and give an understanding that will make of our organization a practical and practicable help in all times of need, in all missions, parishes, districts, deaneries. Be true lay apostles.

We invite you, as Catholic women, to do your bit. Do your share in the **CAUSE of CATHOLIC ACTION** as desired by our late Holy Father and as directed by the members of the National Catholic Welfare Council in their comprehension of the needs of the present day.



## The Home Field



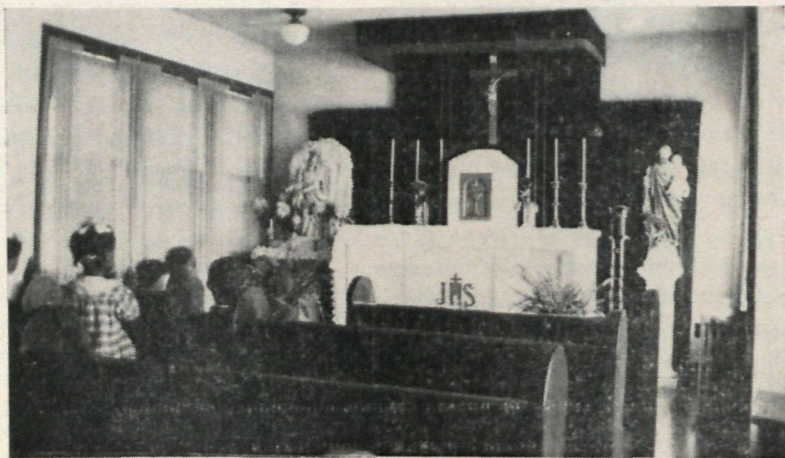
### LUNCH HOUR

In the Los Banos cotton camps we teach at the noon hour. We can have only a short class; then we have to dismiss the children for lunch.

At the house where class is held, there are six children in the family. They range in age from seven to seventeen, but not one has made his First Communion. The other day when class was dismissed, these children lingered in the room after the others had gone. When we told them that it was time to have their lunch, they said that they could stay the whole hour, for they had nothing to eat in their home. Their father has been ill for a long time and is unable to work. It was inspiring to see the children's ambition to learn their religion in spite of all their hardships.

Catechist Josephine Cima  
Los Banos, California

We have a twentieth century Tobias at one of our missions. The other evening he came to serve for Benediction. He went to the back door of the priest's home and asked the housekeeper for two caskets. She asked, "Whom are you going to bury?" Mike answered, still not realizing he had used the wrong word, "Joe and myself."



The colored children at Gary like to visit Our Lord in the Catechists' chapel.

### PICTURE OF THE FORTY DAYS

The other day I gave holy pictures to some little girls. They were very happy to receive them and were quietly examining them when one of them cried out, "Oh mira! El santito de las quarenta dias, de las quarenta dias! Mira!" (Oh look! The little picture of the forty days, of the forty days! Look!) It was a picture of the resurrection of Our Lord. I had told them that Our Lord spent forty days on earth after He arose from the dead.

Catechist Genevieve Vasquez



Now the Indians of the Torres-Martinez Reservations have a church of their own once more. The original church burned fifteen years ago. Since then their "church" has consisted of a few poles covered with palm branches. We wanted so much to take some pictures on the day Bishop Buddy dedicated the new church. Some one had borrowed our camera, so we borrowed another one that morning, but alas we could not open it. When we finally succeeded in getting it open, we discovered that the film did not fit. So we had to content ourselves with these pictures, taken a week later after Mass. Standing in the doorway, at left,



is Chief Levi of the Torres Reservation. At right is part of the congregation. The middle picture is of one of our faithful old women at Coachella who brings a dish pan full of flowers every evening during the month of May for Our Blessed Mother's altar.

Catechist Juliana Schmitt  
Coachella, California

### GOOD SCOUTS

On Boy Scout Day our two troops with their Scout Masters, Lieutenants, and Patrol leaders, attended the children's Mass in a body. They marched in like soldiers, carrying their flags, and all received Holy Communion. Three Scouts made their First Communion. These two troops receive religious instruction on separate evenings during the week, and we appreciate the cooperation extended to us from the scout leaders.

Catechist Agnes Kozla  
El Paso, Texas

### A BEAUTIFUL CUSTOM

Since Christmas, two of our Sodalists walked down the aisle to receive the Sacrament of Matrimony. All the Sodalists at Grants received Holy Communion in a body during the Nuptial Mass and attended the wedding of the bride all day. The Sodalists of San Rafael also attended Mass and received Holy Communion in a body for the intentions of their former Sister Sodalist. As is our custom the Bride's Sodality medals were removed by the Prefects and given to their Mothers immediately after the marriage ceremonies. A few flowers were taken from their bouquets and given to Our Blessed Mother—a gift to their earthly and spiritual Mothers.

Catechist Mary Louise Wilbers  
Grants, New Mexico

### EVERYBODY'S HAPPY

Our Crusaders are increasing. After the last reception, Communion breakfast was served in the church hall. The Captain was asked for a speech, and he complied very seriously. Then he said: "Now, I want each of you new members to make a speech. You first Joel!"

And so each of them had to say something. Most of them said, "I'm glad I'm a Crusader." Finally the Lieutenant stood up and said, "Well, I'm glad that everyone is glad." And so were we.

We have started to train the smaller boys now and they are all very much enthusiastic over the fact that they can be Crusaders, too.

Catechist Margaret Harrison  
Santa Paula, California

### "WHAT SHALL THE OWNER DO TO REDEEM IT?"

The choir girls had their Easter party and treat Easter Sunday afternoon. While playing games all were to go through some performance. One of the First Communicants is a member and when it came her turn she said the "Hail Mary." It surely must have pleased Our Blessed Mother.

When visiting we find some good old people. An old woman ninety-three years old said she would not kiss her granddaughter's year-old baby until it is baptized.

Catechist Sophia Renier  
Monterey, California



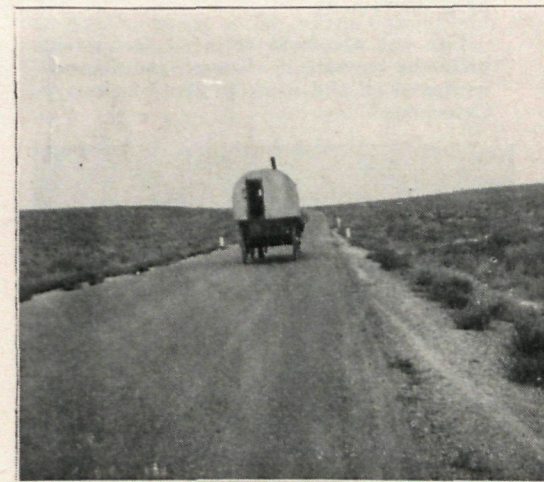
And now Catechist Seewaldt has sent us the sequel to the story of the banana man. She writes: "Here is the wagon of the good banana man. I shall always be grateful to him for illustrating the catechism lesson. I had just finished telling the class of boys how they could show their love and respect for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament by raising their hats when passing the church, when along came this good man, passed the church, and raised his hat. The boys never forgot the lesson. One day we stopped him and bought a few dozen bananas. When he saw us giving them to some children, he gave us several more dozen. When we asked to take a picture of his wagon, he was a bit bashful; he got off his wagon and stepped aside, leaving his youthful driver with the reins."—El Paso.

### POVERTY NOT BASHFULNESS

We are very busy with First Communion classes, and soon we shall begin our Religious vacation schools. At Storrie Project we have quite a number for First Communion, some fifteen years old, as this is our first year there. In our visits to the homes, we find some very poor families; at one place three curly heads smiled at us from the corner back of the kitchen stove. I thought this was due to bashfulness, until the mother explained that their clothing was so badly torn that they dared not show themselves.

Catechist Edna Like  
Las Vegas, New Mexico

It is not the will of your Father who is in Heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.—St. Matthew xviii: 14.



No, not 1849, but 1939. This picture was taken near our mission at Winnemucca, Nevada.

### THEY ASK FOR CLASS!

Besides the large number of children confirmed by Bishop Buddy at Chino, there were forty-three adults, sixteen of whom made their First Communion the same day. Among those who were confirmed was an old man, eighty-two years old.

We have two more out-missions added to our list, Alta Loma, and Rochester Camp. We visited Rochester Camp for the first time on a Saturday. The people did not know that we were coming, but the word spread through the Camp quickly, for we had scarcely stepped through the door of the very first house when behold, all the children of the Camp walked in—small, medium and large. They sat on anything they could find and asked for class. We did not come prepared to teach, but we could not disappoint them; so a class we had and they were satisfied.

These poor people have never had Sisters teach them. They are happy to know that from now on they will receive instructions. There are thirty children in the Camp, and only one of them has made her First Communion.

Catechist Bertina Espinoza  
Ontario, California

One of the Catechists was telling a class of little ones the story of the miracle of the loaves and fishes. They listened with attention and at the end of the story, inquired wonderingly how such a large number of people could hear Our Lord without the aid of loud speakers. Modern youth!



# Associate Catechists of Mary

## Mother's Day Is Every Day

An Every Day Gift for your beloved Mother, whether living or dead, would be the beautiful spiritual flowers of loving prayer, offered for her by consecrated Religious and Our Dear Lord's needy and most beloved little ones. It would be the precious flower of Holy Mass, the sacrifice offered by Our Divine Lord Himself.

Give your mother this beautiful gift this year. Associate her with our work by enrolling her as a Perpetual or an Annual Member of the Associate Catechists of Mary. See our back cover for complete details.

We shared with the Ellen Lemm Catechist Circle, Chicago, their pleasure over the success of their first party for the benefit of our missions. It was held on March 7, and proceeds amounted to \$40. The members of the Circle worked hard to make the party a success, and we are as happy as they over the crowning of their first mission efforts.

This Circle has an interesting history. It is composed of members of Auburn Circle No. 29, Daughters of Isabella, and is named in honor of Mrs. Ellen Lemm, formerly a National Director of the Daughters of Isabella, and a co-worker with our good friend, Mrs. Minerva C. Boyd. Before her death last year, Mrs. Lemm had been a gracious friend of our work, and had been anxious to extend it among her own circle of friends. Although Our Lord's call prevented her from carrying out such plans, the memory of her charity and kindness is now being perpetuated in the most beautiful way possible, we think, for her associates in Auburn Circle have chosen her name for their mission club.

We congratulate Mrs. Gertrude Murphy, Promoter, and every member of the Ellen Lemm Circle, on the success of their efforts. We are grateful to the Reverend A. L. Girard, Chaplain of Auburn Circle, and to Miss Carmen White, its Regent, for their encouragement of the work.

Our mail brought us a pleasant surprise recently in the form of a check for our work in the amount of \$30, from the members of the Little Flower Circle, Chicago. This generous offering was raised by a card party given by the members, Tuesday, March 14. Mrs. George Loerzel acted as Chairman, assisted by Mrs. Hedstrom, Mrs. Weber, Mrs. Kiley, Mrs. Cella and Mrs. Lakofka. We are sincerely grateful for their efforts; their gift will do much good among our dear poor, and we know it will gladden the hearts of our good friends to realize this. A fervent "Gracias!" to each and every member.



This little note of gratitude was brought to Victory-Noll by the Catechist who received it in California last year. It is written with pencil in legible but somewhat labored handwriting, on a piece of child's note-paper:

Dear Catechist Sister:

I am glad that you have helped me with the clothes you sent me for the Communion of my girls. I gratefully appreciate your help. Please receive many thanks and God bless you now and for ever.

Sincerely yours,  
R. B.

The following is an extract from a paper given at a Catholic Students' Mission Crusade discussion in the East:

In those districts where the Catechist labors today we will have churches and priests and Sacraments tomorrow. Can anyone estimate how much the Catechists have done to stop the leak in the Bark of Christ? We have thirty million homes in America today. Imagine what it would mean if each were a Christian home where the Name of God was loved and revered.

As infants we were received into the Church by means of a Sacrament. At the close of our life we will be comforted by a Sacrament.

Can we, who have received such great gifts, be content if through indifference we leave all the work to the Missionary Catechists?



Members of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Club, Newark, N.J., seem to enjoy their mission work! This is their fourth year of enrollment as an A.C.M. Band.

## Special Notice—Chicago

A luncheon party for the benefit of the Missionary Catechists will be sponsored by Our Lady of Loretto A.C.M. Club at the Gray Institute of Home Economics, 111 W. Jackson Blvd., Friday, May 12, 1939. Cards and Bunco. Tickets, 50c. Call Mrs. Alice Cleary, Kedzie 0510.

## Odd Odds and Ends!

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Club, Rochester, New York, is a Techny Club who generously donate much of their meeting time to handwork for Catechist Dean. Last fall Catechist wrote us of her gratitude:

"I thought you might like to know some of the things that the members of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Band are doing. Since we became acquainted a few months ago, they have sent three boxes, and the fourth will be here before you get this letter. Most, if not all that they send, are things they themselves make during their meetings. Holy pictures, medals, dresses, an altar cloth, and oh, yes, here is something special. For vacation school I asked them for a piece of red felt that could be used to make Sacred Heart badges. Miss Entress looked all over town without success, and at last bought a red felt hat. Imagine her courage to do this in the middle of the summer! And the nice part was that there were exactly enough pieces in the hat for the number of Badge backs and fronts we had."

We had intended to use this story in our Easter number, naturally associating hats and Easter. Perhaps it was providential that we saved it, though, for it may introduce you more suitably to the "oddities" of vacation school and to our request for the following articles for our vacation school work this year, if you have any on hand:

Empty: face powder boxes, medium size  
tin typewriter ribbon boxes  
small or medium sized lotion or perfume bottles.  
Must be leakproof, and preferably ornamental.  
tin candy boxes, two- or three-pound size, and preferably those with hinged covers.

Also small, medium or large pieces of fine white linen; and medium and large pieces of cheaper white material.

In vacation school this year our mission boys and girls will transform these homely articles into neat and attractive sick-call outfits. Further details will be given in our June magazine, but in the meantime we should greatly appreciate it if you will send any of these articles to any of our missions listed on Page 12. DO NOT send to Victory-Noll, but direct to the missions, please!



## Welcome!

A hearty welcome to four new Bands who began work as our Associates during the past fall and winter, two in California, and two in Illinois—halfway across the continent.

Miss Lucy Rojas is promoter of St. Theresa Band, San Bernardino, California. The girls live on a ranch near San Bernardino, and although the Band is small, boasting of only four members, they haven't missed a single month in sending a dollar for the support of their Catechist. They have adopted Catechist Catherine Larsen, and are fortunate in having her personal direction in their activities, which include sewing and mounting holy pictures. The work of this club could be easily duplicated by many small groups of girls throughout the United States. Who has the necessary "pep" and zeal for souls to start another one?

Santa Margarita de Cortona Band, San Fernando, Calif., chose their name in honor of the patron Saint of their Catechist, Catechist Mary Margaret Gutierrez, San Angelo, Texas. "I am enclosing the names of those who have started the Band with us," wrote Miss Lucille Gutierrez, Promoter. "It makes us happy to think that we may be able to help in the good cause the Missionary Catechists are striving for." Later their Treasurer, Miss Tillie Daniels, added, "I am very happy to say we are going ahead with a bang!" They are applying their offerings to the Precious Blood Burse of Catechist Gutierrez, and are also helping her mission in other ways. At Christmas time a collection made by the members provided a new candle extinguisher for the church at San Angelo. We hope Santa Margarita de Cortona Band will have a long life and continued success in its activities.

St. John's Band, Peoria, Illinois, began its mission work last fall. Miss Mary Margaret Scott was elected Promoter, and she reports a gratifying interest and cooperation among the members. Besides their regular dues, which they apply to the Burse of Catechist Bridie O'Sullivan, the Band sponsored a collection at Christmas time and sent a nice donation to Catechist O'Sullivan, and to Catechist Catherine Leven at Redlands, for the poor under their care. Both the Catechists in the field, and we, are grateful for the interest of St. John's Band; we hope it is the forerunner of other clubs in Peoria. We are grateful, too, for the kind cooperation of Father William O'Brien, Pastor of St. John's Parish, who has generously permitted the members to have their meetings in the parish hall. "Ad multos annos" and many blessings to St. John's Band!

An interesting letter from Miss Mary C. Gibbons, Promoter of our Charitina Club No. 2, Paris, Illinois, tells us that a chance meeting with Catechist Julia Doyle and Catechist Blanche Richardson some years ago first aroused her interest in the work of our Society. Reading THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST increased her interest and last fall she wrote us: "There are eight of us who wish to do a 'little extra' for the Catechists and

(Continued in Column Three)



## What One Promoter Told Us

Her club consists of twenty girls who meet once a month and have dues of 25c in order to send a Burse contribution of \$5 each month. They are very much interested in their Catechists. The club practice is to offer the little A.C.M. "Prayer for My Missionary Catechist" together before each meeting.

We have nearly 100 percent attendance at meetings. We told the girls frankly, when we began, that if they didn't want to come to the meetings, they shouldn't join. And do they come!

You ought to see them watch that \$5. They have to have that FIRST—then the other things. We collect dimes from our friends for the postage on packages we send to the missions, so that's taken care of without using the Burse dues.

A party just wouldn't be a real party without good coffee, so we felt justified in spending \$1.50 to have our coffee made by a woman who runs a tea-room, when we gave our first large party for our Burse. That was the only expense we had. Our grocer gave us pickles in jars and we used them for table prizes. Had lovely door prizes. We cleared \$35. We are planning to have some other parties later on and so we're hoping that all our guests will return and bring others to enjoy our good coffee—AND to help the missions!

At the office now the girls don't throw away a scratch pad or a pencil stub of any decent size. "The Catechists can use that" they'll say, and bring them down to put in our mission box. We get some nice things.

They'd all been working pretty hard over the party and Christmas boxes and all, so I told them I thought they deserved some reward, and next time I'd stand treat and give them a party. We decided on a hard times party. You should have seen some of the costumes! We were playing cards when somebody wanted to know if we weren't going to say the Catechist prayer. I told them it was a party, not a meeting, and we didn't need to. Then somebody else wanted to know why we didn't say our prayer. Finally somebody says, "Well, even if it is a party, I think we could say the prayer," so the end of it was we all stood up, said the prayer for our Catechists, and then we went on with the party in peace!



## Questionnaire

Must a Band raise its Burse offering in any special way?

No, each Band is perfectly free to adapt its plans to the circumstances of its members. In fact, this is the only way it can hope to be successful.

What is the usual method of raising funds?

Probably our Bands who have been most successful are those who have card parties every two weeks or so, each member entertaining the others in turn. Twenty-five or thirty-five cents is charged; the hostess donates refreshments and simple prizes. Now and then when possible, a larger party is sponsored and a substantial amount raised for the Burse.

If your friends do not care for cards, you may plan your meetings and dues in just the same way, simply arranging for other social or mission activities. Some clubs vary their activities by having one business meeting and one social meeting a month; others have a business meeting first and then a social hour at each meeting. Many clubs enjoy sewing or doing handwork for the missions. We can give many detailed suggestions for this if you are interested in it.

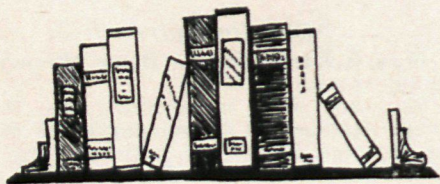
## Band Contributions

MARCH, 1939

The Ellen Lemm Catechist Circle, Chicago, Mrs. Gertrude Murphy	\$40.00
Little Flower Circle, Chicago, Mrs. George Loerzel	30.00
St. Mary's Band, Chicago, Mrs. Annie Hansen	30.00
St. Sabina Band, Chicago, Marie Dwyer	25.00
St. Philomena Mission Club, Chicago, Mary Mary Schaefer	18.50
Mother and Daughter Club, Chicago, Mrs. M. Luetkenhus	15.00
St. Joseph No. 2, Chicago, Lucile David	15.00
St. Patrick's Band, St. Louis, E. and Ann Byrne	12.00
Dolores Band, No. 2, Chicago, Mrs. Anna Bechtold	10.00
Our Blessed Lady of Victory Band, Chillicothe, Ohio, Mrs. N. M. Clifford	7.00
The Charitina Club, Chicago, Katherine Hennigan	6.00
The Holy Family Club, Chicago, Mrs. Mary Murphy	5.50
St. Valentine Band, Chicago, Mrs. M. Rauwolf	5.00
St. Margaret Mary Band, Omaha, Mrs. Katherine Shields	5.00
Our Lady Queen of the Poor Souls Band, Los Angeles, Mrs. Ann Meng	5.00
St. Helen's Band, Dayton, Margaret Karas	3.00
Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Band, Newark, N.J., Emily Nies	3.00
Y. L. S. of St. Casimir's, Detroit, Elizabeth Bien	3.00
Charitina Club No. 2, Paris, Ill., Mary C. Gibbons	2.40
St. Conrad's Band, Cincinnati, Aurelia Niehaus	2.00
St. Theresa's Band, San Bernardino, California, Lucy Rojas	1.00

their missions. We hope to meet twice a month and follow a plan similar to the one adopted by Mrs. Meng and her Holy Souls Band in Los Angeles as described in the September MISSIONARY CATECHIST. (Mrs. Meng had written of meeting twice each month, and having dues of 15c at each meeting, to make up a monthly Burse donation). Miss Gibbons and her friends have carried out their plans faithfully, and have our sincere gratitude for their regular offerings. We hope their interest will increase, and that God will bless their charity with much personal joy as they continue to help the poor and needy.





**THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST IN THE MODERN WORLD** by Rev. Denis Fahey, U.S. Sp., D.D. Browne and Nolan, Dublin, 8s.6d.

In this work the author gives us a synthetic view of the real conflict going on in the world for and against the Mystical Body of Christ. The modern revolt against the divine plan for the organization of human society dates from the so-called Reformation, and so after explaining this organization of society, the author begins with the Lutheran revolt. As Dr. Fahey writes in his Foreword, the book "is not meant merely to open the eyes of the Catholics to the realities of life. It is intended also to stir them to take their part in the struggle by a full-hearted acceptance of Christ Crucified."

**AN AMERICAN WOMAN** by Leonard Feeney, S.J. America Press. \$2.

This life of Elizabeth Seton is undoubtedly one of the most fascinating biographies ever written, even in this age when authors have so far departed from the conventional style followed by the old hagiographers. Parts of the book, for instance, the exquisite description of a nun, might well be published apart from the rest of it. We hope that the versatile Father Feeney will give us more and more books.

**ST. JOSEPH COTTOLENGO** by Rev. H. L. Hughes. Herder. 90c.

"The Good Canon," as he was called, was a contemporary of St. John Bosco, and like him, practiced complete abandonment to the Will of God. His Little House of Divine Providence of Turin, housing some 10,000 inmates, still stands, a testimonial to the faith of the Saint and his practice of abandoning himself to the Will of our Heavenly Father.

**OF CONVERSION. A Sermon to the Clergy** by Saint Bernard of Clairvaux. Translated by Watkin Williams. Burns Oates. 2s 6d.

Mr. Watkin Williams, the greatest English authority on St. Bernard, has made this new translation of his famous sermon, "De Conversione." He has written a scholarly introduction and supplied all necessary notes.

### A SPIRITUAL "ROUND-UP"

Many of our readers are doubtlessly fond of the folk-lore of the great Southwest, with its stories of roving cattle, cow-punchers, annual round-ups, etc. You may tune in your radios to the plaintive cowboy songs with guitar and banjo accompaniments.

You may be interested to hear that a series of spiritual round-ups are being planned this year, in the way of regional retreats for the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine teachers in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Since most of the teachers are Spanish-Americans, these retreats will be preached in the Spanish language. Meals and beds must be provided for groups of forty-five or more at a time, and no fewer than four retreats in different locations are planned. Many of the catechism teachers will not be able to attend these retreats if they must pay their board while they are with us. A two-dollar donation will provide such poor but deserving workers with the opportunity of making a retreat. Having replenished their own spiritual resources, they will be better equipped to return and dispense spiritual nourishment to the poor children under their care.

Does a worthy cause like this appeal to you? If so, how many Catholic workers will you send to our retreats?

**Catechist Blanche Richardson**  
**Box 1546**  
**West Las Vegas, New Mexico**

A subscriber wishes to publish her thanksgiving for a favor received through the intercession of Brother Mai, the saintly Franciscan.

Perhaps you have a sum of money set aside from which you must draw for certain living expenses, educational purposes, etc. Why not invest this money in one of our Annuities? You will receive interest regularly and will have the consolation of knowing that after your death your money will be used to help spread the Kingdom of God in the hearts of His poor. Moreover, both during your life and after your death your intentions will be included daily in the prayers of the Catechists and of the poor under their care.

Write for free booklet explaining our Annuity Plan. Address:

**Superior General**  
**Victory-Noll**  
**Huntington, Indiana**

**THE** addresses of our mission-centers are:

Refuge of Sinners Mission, 512 Soldano Avenue, Azusa, California.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission, Box 1356, Brawley, California.

Good Shepherd Mission, Box 336, Coachella, California.

Little Flower Mission, Box 325, Los Banos, California.

Mary Star of the Sea Mission, 598 Laine Street, Monterey, California.

Box 272, Ontario, California.

Queen of the Missions, Box 46, Redlands, California.

St. Peter the Apostle Mission, 536 O'Farrell Street, San Pedro, California.

Precious Blood Mission, 222 South Eighth Street, Santa Paula, California.

St. Joseph Mission, 120 South F Street, Tulare, California.

Mount Carmel Mission, 3868 Block Avenue, East Chicago, Indiana.

Sacred Heart Mission, 4860 Olcott Avenue, East Chicago, Indiana.

Our Blessed Lady of Victory Mission, 2324 Monroe Street, Gary, Indiana.

Our Lady of the Snows Mission, Box 172, Winnemucca, Nevada.

Nazareth Mission, Anton Chico, New Mexico.

Souls in Purgatory Mission, Box 223, Cerrillos, New Mexico.

Our Lady Help of Christians Mission, Cleveland, New Mexico.

St. Coletta's Mission, Grants, New Mexico.  
Blessed de Montfort Mission, 514 Valencia Street, Las Vegas, New Mexico.

Cristo Rey Mission, Box 154, El Paso, Texas.  
St. Francis Xavier Mission, 3816 East Sar Antonio Street, El Paso, Texas.

Holy Family Mission, Box 1317, Lubbock, Texas.

Queen of Angels Mission, 27 West Avenue N., San Angelo, Texas.

### Blessed are the Dead

Most Rev. Alban Goodier, S.J., England.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. P. J. Dunne, St. Louis.

Rev. Sebastian Schaff, O.M. Cap., New York.

William Carroll, Cincinnati.

Patrick F. Cramer, McCracken, Kansas.

George E. Clote, Tulsa, Okla.

Mrs. Annie Campbell, A.C.M., Chicago.

Mrs. M. Clueserath, A.C.M., Fort Wayne.

Daniel P. Cronin, Chillicothe, Ohio.

Edward C. Gaffney, Chicago.

Gertrude Giese, New York.

William G. Gude, Lafayette, Indiana.

Mrs. Gertrude Freistroffer, A.C.M., Fort Wayne.

Hippolet Karas, Dayton, Ohio.

Catherine C. Kelly, Waterbury, Conn.

Miss Lena Krull, A.C.M., Fort Wayne.

James T. Malone, St. Louis.

Mrs. Agnes Marron, San Pedro, Calif.

Mrs. Frances Meteko, Detroit.

Stella O'Brien, El Paso, Texas.

Barbara Rubner, Peru, Indiana.

Margaret Schlett, Washington, Ind.

Mrs. Mary E. Tesch, Chicago.



**D**ID you read the story on our Home Field page this month of the children who trooped into the house where the Catechists were making a call and demanded a class in religious instruction? Rather unusual, isn't it? At least it sounds unusual to you whose children have the opportunity to attend parochial schools and receive instructions from Sisters. But the children of the poor living in these camps and in the scattered mission districts have no such opportunity. Yet they appreciate the value of their religion and are anxious to learn it, as this episode—and it is not an isolated case—proves.

To bring the Faith to such children is the Catechists' privilege. But we cannot do it alone. For our support we are dependent upon your charity. Small as well as large donations are welcome. All who contribute receive a special remembrance in our prayers.

Last month we began an intensive drive for subscriptions. Our little magazine is practically the only means we have of making known our work; so you see how necessary it is for us to increase our circulation. Have you done your part to make this drive a success? Show this magazine to a friend and ask him to subscribe. Or you yourself subscribe for a relative, a friend, a library, or school.

On the twenty-fourth of this month we celebrate the patronal feast of our Society, the Feast of Our Blessed Lady of Victory. It will be preceded by a novena in Our Blessed Mother's honor. We invite you to join us, to unite your prayers with ours. The novena begins May 15.

Dear Catechists,

Please include my intentions marked x on list, in your perpetual novena in honor of Our Blessed Lady of Victory:

- ..... Salvation of souls
- ..... greater holiness
- ..... vocation to holy priesthood
- ..... religious vocation
- ..... happy death
- ..... souls in purgatory
- ..... employment
- ..... successful operation
- ..... recovery of lost or stolen articles.
- ..... success in studies



### True Devotion to Mary

**T**O understand the True Devotion we must understand the Divine plan, God's plan when He created us. And to understand God's plan, we must turn to St. Paul who never tired of setting forth this eternal design to his converts.

"God," says the Apostle, "chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and unspotted in His sight in charity. Who hath predestined us unto the adoption of children through Jesus Christ unto Himself, ac-

cording to the purpose of His Will: unto the praise of the glory of His grace, in which He hath graced us in His beloved Son." (Ephes. i:4-6).

"... that we should be holy..." All are called to holiness of life. Again and again Holy Scripture exhorts us: "Walk before Me and be perfect." (Gen. xvii:1). "Be ye holy because I am holy." (Lev. xix:2). "Be ye perfect as also your Heavenly Father is perfect." (St. Matt. v:48). "This is the Will of God, your sanctification." (1 Thess. iv:3). In what does holiness consist? The holiness to which we have been called is a **participation in the Divine life brought to us by Jesus Christ.**

God wills to make us sharers in His own life through Divine adoption. We become "partakers of the Divine nature." (2 St. Peter i:4). We call this mysterious share in His nature, **grace.** This was God's plan from the beginning. To Adam He gave this grace which made Him a child of God, but by his sin, he lost it for himself and the whole human race. Through the mystery of the Incarnation, God restored this grace to mankind. Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, the Word of God, became Man and reconciled us with the Father. He became, as St. Paul says, our Mediator. "For there is one God, and one Mediator of God and men, the Man Christ Jesus." (1 Tim. ii:5).

"The Divine design is to constitute Christ the Head of all the redeemed in order that by Him, with Him, and in Him, we may all arrive at union with God, and realize the supernatural holiness which God requires of us." (Abbot Marmion, 'Christ the Life of the Soul'). St. Paul gives the same thought in these words: "Whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be made conformable to the image of His Son; that He might be the Firstborn amongst many brethren." (Rom. viii:29).

This then is the Divine plan—that we should find our holiness in our conformity to Jesus Christ. We must become other Christs. That is the real meaning of the word "Christian." We must participate in the Divine life through Jesus Christ. For it is through Christ that God adopts us, makes us partakers of His nature. "No man comes to the Father except through Me." (St. John xiv:6).

"O Mother of grace, so shape my soul that I may be a living, striking image of your 'Firstborn,' the Son of the Eternal, the perfect 'Praise of the glory' of His Father."—Sister Elizabeth of the Trinity.

### What the 2500 Club Is

An association of charitable persons who promise to pray for the success of our labors among the poor, and who send us at least **one dollar** every month. This obligation is not binding should you wish to discontinue your membership at any time.

### What It Does

It supports the Missionary Catechists in their charitable labors among God's poor. Your extra dollar will keep a Catechist in the missions for a day.

### What Membership Means to You

A share in the Masses, prayers and good works of the Catechists, and the consolation of knowing that you are helping save the souls of the poor so dear to the Heart of Our Divine Lord.



# Mary's Loyal Helpers



## Loving Gifts to Our Blessed Mother

Although Ruth and Nora Shea, Gladwin, Michigan, are busier 'n bees with their many school studies and activities, they don't know how not to be Mary's Loyal Helpers! Their last mite box had \$5 in it—\$1 for a subscription to THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST and \$4 for their Burse. Roseann, who made her First Holy Communion just last year, helps to fill the mitebox too. And when Grandpa gave a penny to Donald, who is only three years old, Ruth tells us, "he carried it around for a while and then came up to me and said, 'Guess I'll put this in the mite box for the Catechists' little babies.' He didn't say it quite that plain but that is what he meant. He hears us children talk about the missions and all the little boys and girls so he said he wanted to help the little babies." LOYAL Helpers, all!

We enjoyed receiving a special letter from the Little Flower of Jesus Band, Dearborn, Michigan, at Christmas time. Each member wrote a little note and signed it, so that it became a nice long letter by the time all had written. They raffled a doll and so raised \$5 for their Burse, while \$2 that they had in the treasury went to Catechist Mary Dolores Schneider at Indiana Harbor for Christmas Cheer for the poor. The Little Flower Band are quite proud of "their very own" Catechist, who is a sister to their Promoter, Delphine Schneider. They have a new member, Rose Seewald and are all anxious to do more than ever for the missions this year.

Another new Helper, a member of Victory-Band, is Judith Karl of Peoria, Illinois. "My mite box is going up," Judith wrote us a short time ago. And if you knew Judy as we do, you'd know that by that short statement she means business! We know she will be a loving, faithful Helper.

## Coronation March

THESE are princes approaching, they're marching in twos,  
With their princely hair brushed and a shine on their shoes;  
There are princesses, too, and Their Highnesses sing  
All together, a song of the court of a King.

*Mary, we crown you with blossoms today,  
Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May.*

Here's a prince whom you've seen playing ball on the lot,  
Here's a princess who keeps a rag doll in her cot.  
They come from the grade school and seem very small,  
But there's heavenly height in Their Highnesses all.

*For the Queen whom they're crowning with blossoms today  
Is Mary their Mother, the Queen of the May.*

There's Dan and there's Pudsy, there's Kitty and Rose,  
The boys and the girls that the neighborhood knows,  
But their rank is right royal and proudly they're seen  
With a Queen for their Mother, their Mother for Queen.

*Your children are crowned in your crowning today,  
Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May.*

The princes are marching, decked out in their best,  
The princesses follow, in snowy white dressed;  
On the crown that they're bringing, a Sister spent hours,  
And Our Lord up in Heaven, He made all the flowers.

*Mary, we crown you with blossoms today,  
Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May.*

*Mother most Queenly, help us to stay  
Loving and loyal through years full of May.*

—Nanky Poo in The Far East.



Ruth and Dorothy Feik have moved from Ordway, Colorado, to Las Animas, Colorado, but we know they will keep on being just as faithful little missionaries in their new home. Their "birthday gift to the Infant Jesus" amounted to \$2, the sum of many little sacrifices made to fill their mite box—and we do not think the Infant Jesus could have liked any "gift box" so well as this one from Dorothy and Ruth.

Another new helper is Catherine Rousan of St. Louis. Catherine goes to St. Andrew's school and although she is only in the third grade, she wrote this nice letter to Catechist Rose Kaiser, Anton Chico, New Mexico: "Your lovely letter was received and we were glad to hear from you. It made us happy that the things we sent made other children also happy. We would like to visit you with our teacher in an airplane, but as this is not possible we will sometimes do it in spirit. We will say a Hail Mary for you every day that God may bless you and all the dear little boys and girls in your class. Sister often reads stories from your Missionary paper and we love to hear them."



# The Spirit of Peace

James H. Culleton, D. D.

EVERY Catholic people has one religious festival which it celebrates in a way peculiar to itself and to which it is greatly attached. All festivals of this nature have an ancient and interesting history. The descendants of these old Catholic races have brought many of their traditions with them to California, and in our diocese there are several festivals peculiar to localities in the old world, which have taken root in this soil.

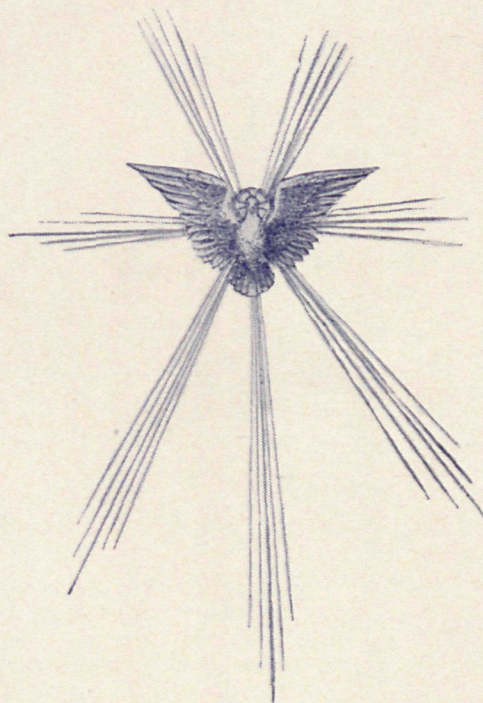
The most important and widespread of these is the annual Portuguese festival in honor of the Holy Ghost. Practically all of our Portuguese settlers are from the Azores islands. The festival itself, however, originated on the mainland of Portugal long before the discovery of the fertile islands in the midst of the Atlantic.

The great Queen Isabel, or, as she is called in English, Elizabeth of Portugal, daughter of Peter III, King of Aragon and of Constantia, daughter of Manfred, King of Sicily, was born in the year 1271. From her earliest youth she had shown evident signs of great sanctity. At the age of twelve, she was given in marriage to Diniz (in English, Denis), King of Portugal. They had two children, Alphonsus and Constantia.

The son Alphonsus, when grown to manhood married the Infanta of Castile and soon thereafter, revolting against his own father, put himself at the head of an army of malcontents. St. Elizabeth had recourse to tears, prayers, fasting, and alms-deeds. She exhorted her son in the strongest terms to return to his duty, and begged her husband at the same time to forgive their erring child. Certain court flatterers, however, whispered to the King that she was suspected of favoring her son. Jealousy thus made the King credulous and he banished his Queen to the city of Alemquer.

The Queen received the disgrace with admirable patience and peace of mind. In her forced retirement she redoubled her austerities and devotion.

The son persisted in his enmity and drew up his troops on the banks of a brook called Alemquer in the plain and near the town of the same name in which his mother had been exiled. King Diniz with the royal forces proceeded against him, determined on the extermination of the entire force. The Queen, unable to permit the battle, went secretly to the place of combat. She first asked her husband to cease hostilities against his son and then, entering the other camp, succeeded in convincing Alphonsus to submit to his father. Through her efforts



the reconciliation was made effectual and permanent and the malcontents, who made up the army of the son, convinced of their folly, returned to their several businesses to give no further trouble in the kingdom. The King, however, came to his senses, recalled Elizabeth to court, and showed her greater love and respect than ever before.

The joy of the Queen knew no bounds and in her gratitude she determined to erect a church on the spot at which the reconciliation had been made. In all her trials, the good Queen was in the habit of having recourse to the Holy Ghost for light and guidance. This devotion had been instilled in her from early youth. St. Peter Nolasco had been the instructor of her grandfather, James I of Spain, and the devotion which he had learned at the feet of this great saint bore its full fruit in his sainted granddaughter. What was more natural, therefore, than that the Queen should have the church dedicated to the Holy Ghost?

When the church was completely built and finished, its solemn dedication was ordered by Her Majesty, and neighboring kings, queens and other nobility were invited to the services. Elizabeth felt that her banishment had temporarily removed from her head the crown of the kingdom and that, through the grace of the Holy Ghost, the reconciliation which had recently taken place, had restored it to her. She therefore placed her crown in the sanctuary at the Solemn Mass of

dedication, and after the Mass, kneeling, received it from the hands of the celebrant, it being for her a second coronation.

The religious ceremonies over, a great banquet was spread. That for the nobility was held in a nearby palace, but St. Elizabeth, whose deep love for the poor was one of her outstanding characteristics, invited all the common people of the neighborhood to a magnificent feast, which, by reason of the multitude that came, was held in the open. Thus the first feast in honor of the Holy Ghost was celebrated by the Portuguese.

So impressed was the entire Portuguese nation by the goodness of their Queen and by the aid which she constantly received from the Holy Ghost, that throughout the length and breadth of Portugal festivals of faith and charity, similar to that instituted by Elizabeth, sprang up, and were celebrated on the mainland.

When the Portuguese immigrants settled in California, they brought with them their catholicity and their devotion to the Holy Ghost. In Monterey is still preserved the first crown brought to California, and Monterey has the honor of being the first town in California where the Holy Ghost celebration was held. At the present time, the celebration is held in every Portuguese community in the state.

THERE are four essentials in the festival of the Holy Ghost. There must be a Solemn Mass with sermon. There must be a crown with its scepter. There must be a queen and there must be a free banquet to which all are admitted, irrespective of race or condition. We can see therefore, that the elements as given to the feast by St. Elizabeth 600 years ago, are conserved to this day. The young lady who is chosen as queen represents St. Elizabeth. The crown at the present day is surmounted by a dove, symbol of the Holy Ghost. The crown of St. Elizabeth was not so surmounted until after the reconciliation that she had effected between her husband and her son, but at that time she ordered a golden dove made and placed on the summit of her royal diadem.

It is to be hoped that the celebration in honor of the Holy Ghost will continue long in California and that the descendants of the Portuguese people will remain most faithful to the traditions of their race and especially to their devotion to the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity.



## Our Ideal

*Never to grow weary,  
never to grow cold:*

*To be ever patient, sym-  
pathetic and cheerful:*

*To hope always—*



*—and love forevermore:*

*Faithfully holding to our  
purpose of a life of service*

*In behalf of our fellow  
creatures: and ALL*

## For the love of Jesus and Mary

We extend to you, Catholic Laymen and Laywomen of the United States, a pressing invitation to share our sublime vocation. According to your zeal, generosity and good will, we ask the assistance of your prayers and alms for our work.

*In particular, we need Associate Catechists of Mary  
to help each Missionary Catechist of Mary*

## Join Our

### A. C. M. MISSION CLUBS

The support of a Catechist is \$1 a day. Club members work together to support their Catechist for one day or more each month. Now and then when circumstances permit they give a larger benefit party for her support. They sometimes take a direct share in her work by sewing and mounting religious articles for her classes and needy poor. Each club is privileged to adopt its own Catechist and thus has a real personal interest in her and her labors in the missions.

### A. C. M. PERPETUAL MEMBERS

Individual Perpetual Members make a minimum offering of \$10 toward our Poor Souls Burse. A minimum offering of \$25 is required for Family Perpetual Membership, which includes the parents and children of any one family. The Poor Souls Burse, when completed, will support a Catechist in perpetuity. Both living and deceased Perpetual Members may be enrolled.

### A. C. M. ANNUAL MEMBERS

Friends of our Society who have not the opportunity of forming a club, nor of becoming Perpetual Members, may associate themselves with our work as Annual Members. The requirements are 50c dues a year, a daily prayer for your Catechist and whatever other help you find it possible to give to the missions during the year. A special help would be trying to get more Annual Members. Dues paid by Annual Members helps to build Our Blessed Lady of Victory Burse.

### SPECIAL BENEFITS

The following spiritual benefits accrue to all members: A daily remembrance in the Masses, Holy Communion and prayers of the Missionary Catechists and in their Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Blessed Lady of Victory. A weekly remembrance in a Holy Mass offered for the intentions of the Society. A monthly remembrance in a Holy Mass offered each First Friday for the intentions of our Associate Catechists of Mary. A memento in Holy Mass at death. Likewise, a grateful remembrance in the prayers of their Catechist and of the poor whom they help.

Dear Catechists:

Please send me further information about A.C.M. Mission Clubs.

Please enroll me as an A.C.M. Perpetual Member. Offering (or installment) enclosed.

Please enroll my family as A.C.M. Perpetual Members. Offering (or installment) and list of names enclosed.

Please let me share your great work as an A.C.M. Annual Member. Offering enclosed.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_