

April 42

The Missionary Catechist





O Blessed Night

It is truly meet and just to proclaim, with all our hearts and all the affection of our minds, and with the ministry of our voices, the invisible God, the Father Almighty, and His only-begotten Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, who paid for us to His eternal Father the debt of Adam, and by His merciful blood cancelled the guilt incurred by original sin.

For this is the Paschal Solemnity, in which that true Lamb is slain, with whose blood the posts of the faithful are consecrated.

THIS is the night in which Thou didst first cause our forefathers, the children of Israel, when brought out of Egypt, to pass through the Red Sea, with dry foot. This, there-

fore, is the night which purged away the darkness of sinners by the light of the pillar. This is the night which at this time throughout the world restores to grace and unites in sanctity those that believe in Christ, and are separated from the vices of the world and the darkness of sinners.

This is the night in which, destroying the bonds of death, Christ arose victorious from the grave. For it would have profited us nothing to have been born, unless redemption had also been bestowed upon us.

O WONDERFUL condescension of Thy mercy towards us! O inestimable affection of charity: that Thou mightest redeem a slave, Thou didst deliver up Thy Son!

O TRULY needful sin of Adam, which was blotted out by the death of Christ! O happy fault, which deserved to possess such and so great a Redeemer!

O TRULY blessed night, which alone deserved to know the time and hour in which Christ arose again from the grave! This is the night of which it is written: And the night shall be as light as the day; and the night is my light in my enjoyments.

THEREFORE the sanctification of this night drives away all wickedness, cleanses faults, and restores innocence to the fallen, and gladness to the sorrowful. It puts to flight hatreds, it prepares concord, and brings down haughtiness.

—From the Ceremony of Blessing the Paschal Candle on Holy Saturday.

The Missionary Catechist

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Our Lady's Herald

THERE is no one factor which can contribute so much to the propagation of the True Devotion to Mary, as the canonization of its herald, Blessed de Montfort. That happy event is now assured. His Holiness, Pope Pius XII issued a decree *tuto* in the cause for canonization of Blessed Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort who was beatified in 1888.



High above the altar of our blessed Lady of Victory, in the chapel at Victory-Noll, Blessed de Montfort looks lovingly upon his "Good Mother."

ALTHOUGH Blessed de Montfort lived in the eighteenth century, he is a saint for our own day. His Treatise on the True Devotion is the basis of a virile and ever-increasing devotion to our Blessed Mother, which he predicted would herald the second advent of Christ. This devotion is now spreading among rich and poor, clergy and religious, men and women in all walks of life. It is the "secret of sanctity" in many a humble soul and the source of a deep, true happiness which sanctity always brings.

BLESSED de MONTFORT had two ambitions—to announce the Kingdom of God and to comfort human distress. His methods were the simplest. He would go from parish to parish preaching missions, catechizing the ignorant of all ages, feeding the poor, reconciling sinners, making repairs in the churches, decorating, setting up statues; and all this with no remuneration, no care about lodging, but living on the bread of the poor given in charity. He was a striking figure, full of fire and zeal; more at home in the open air and in the wide fields than in the trim French gardens of his day.

IN preaching his missions, De Montfort would divide the work among the missionaries who accompanied him, but he always reserved for himself the care, spiritual and temporal, of the poorest of the poor. All his missions were gratuitous and he left it as an obligation on his followers to observe the same disinterested rule. These followers he formed into the Company of Mary, a congregation of priests which he

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Joy in our Religion

by the Reverend George F. Fox, O.M.I.

"REJOICE in the Lord always; again I say rejoice." Phil. 4, V. 4.

Our Faith is one of joy and consolation. It is such because it is based on sacrifice, and sacrifice is the fruit of love. Love is something that man never tires or grows weary of; it is the unfailing inspirer of art, music and song. Ask the real soldier boy why he lays bear his heart on the field of battle; he will answer *love*, love of country. Ask those countless men and women who labor in pagan lands in the interest of immortal souls, why they sacrifice home and all they hold dear; their answer is *love*. If we could ask the Christian martyrs why they died on the sands of the Roman arena, at the hands of a blood-thirsty mob, they too would answer, *love*. Yet, this manifestation of love on the part of all these souls meant sorrow, sacrifice and suffering. Their sacrifices however were made with hearts overflowing with joy because of their faith in a cause.



TRUE it is, our Faith does mean sacrifice and at times great suffering. Why? Because our Great Ideal, Jesus, suffered and died. The disciple is not above the Master. Yet this suffering springs from love. The love of Jesus meant the redemption of mankind, yet His suffering was endured with joy, as the mother suffers when her child is born, but is happy because another child has been born into the world.

THE unbelieving world can not understand how suffering can be endured with joy, neither can it understand the Passion of Christ. The Passion of Christ brings us face to face with the great Mystery of Man's Redemption. It was a scandal to the Jews and a stumbling block to the Gentiles.

THE Jews could not conceive of their Promised Messiah as a Man of Sorrows. The Gentiles would not believe in a God Who would humble Himself to die on the Cross of degradation.

THE proud of heart have and always will question, how can a religion, founded on sac-

rifice and suffering, be one of joy? To them we say: You lack Faith in the Providence of God; you do not understand the reason for Christ's mission on earth. To those who will not accept the purifying power of pain and suffering, who can see no reason for its existence, who will not admit Adam's guilt, who even question the Divine right to punish, suffering must ever remain an unmixed evil. But to those who can pierce the dark clouds of trial and tribulation with the eyes of Faith, who are guided by a religion of a crucified Savior, affliction must appear not only as a misfortune of humanity, not only as a penalty of sin, but also as a means to chain us to the Cross of Christ. St. Paul tells us, "For the Word of the Cross to them indeed that perish is foolishness, but to them that are saved, that is to us, it is the power of God." Again, "For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so also through Christ does our comfort abound." 2 Cor. 1, V. 5.

THERE are in our holy religion, two kinds of mysteries. The first relates to God and His wonderful works, the second to man and his immortal destiny. Under the mystery relating to man and his eternal destiny we find the mystery of suffering. We know suffering exists, our individual testimony is confirmed by Holy Scripture. "Man born of Woman hath but a short time to live and is full of misery."

WHY does suffering exist? Because man sinned. Since that eventful day of rebellion, God has permitted man to suffer, to impress upon him that he has not been created for this life alone but for Eternity. Suffering, strange as it may seem, is the manifestation of God's love for man—directing him to eternal glory. St. Paul says, "If we endure suffering God deal-eth with us as His sons: for what son is he whom the Father chasteneth not."

WE often permit suffering to happen to those we love. The mother gives the bitter medicine, hands the child even to the surgeon with full knowledge of the pain and suffering to be endured. Love prompts her to act thus and save the life of her child. We deprive those we love of things which they desire, but which we know if they possess would injure, even ruin them. Is it not love that moves us?

THE man of Faith realizes that suffering will be his, but at the same time, joy and happiness fill his heart because having the Great Ideal, Jesus, before his mind, he sees the scourging at the pillar, the agony of Gethsemane, the suffering of the Cross springing forth into the glories of Easter Sunday, the redemption of man, the victory over sin and death.

JESUS teaches us that only through suffering was man's redemption made a reality. If we are to be like the Master, we too must suffer. "And whoever doth not carry his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."

ONLY through the cross of tribulation and sorrow will we be made worthy of the glorious Resurrection and enjoy eternal bliss with God.

SORROW and pain is our lot on earth. Do not look for it, but when it comes, embrace it with the spirit of Faith. Carrying the cross, joy can be ours. By suffering for Jesus we become like him, and through His suffering the closed gates of Heaven were reopened, and man's redemption was effected. "Consumatum est." Sin can no longer destroy and death has lost its sting.

THOUGH many of God's saints suffered greatly during their earthly existence, a smile upon their countenances manifested the joy abiding in their hearts. They were happy during life because their Faith taught them that Heaven



"The love of Jesus meant the redemption of mankind . . ."

was their home where death is no more and suffering is unknown. The Church teaches this doctrine. Even in death she warns those left behind not to mourn as those who have no faith. Thus she prays:

"Take away out of their hearts the spirit of rebellion and teach them to see Thy good and gracious purpose working in all the trials which Thou dost send upon them. Grant that they may not languish in fruitless and unavailing grief, nor sorrow as those who have no hope, but through their tears look meekly up to Thee, the God of All Consolation."



May our Eastertide, like that of the holy women on the first Resurrection Day, be characterized by an earnest seeking after Jesus.

IN the beautiful Preface of the Requiem Mass, the Church reminds us that our loved ones are not gone forever. "Vita mutatur, non tollitur." *Life is changed but not destroyed.* She teaches us that our loved ones, and we also, will one day arise glorious in the resurrection of mankind. Thus the man of Faith in Christ can suffer in life, yet joy fills his heart for he believes that the sufferings of this vale of tears are but transitory; that the time will come when the longing of the soul for happiness will be satisfied and he will enjoy the bliss spoken of by St. Paul: "Eye has not seen nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man, what things God has prepared for those who love him." 1 Cor. 2, v. 9.

"Dod's" Telephone

by Catechist Margaret Campbell

It was a summer night in rural Illinois. Out on a lonely dirt road a car raced with an electric storm and heavy rain. The young mother at the wheel was tense. One of the children spoke anxiously: "I wonder if anyone along this road has a telephone." A child of two years sensed the anxiety of her elders, and having learned that God can do all things, voiced her sentiments: "I wish Dod had a telephone."

God has a telephone. His telephone is PRAYER. God's telephone is always at hand, and always in order, when we choose to use it.

When lisping babes and little children are led to love, and live in the Presence of God, they talk to Him with an earnestness that seems to beguile God himself.

Bobby was convinced that God answers every prayer. He wanted a white rabbit. His parents refused it. He told them he would ask God and God would send it to him. Bobby prayed. Soon he got a beautiful white bunny. He won it at a theatre.

When the bunny had grown to be a big white rabbit it was killed by a box falling on it. Poor Bobby's sorrow was three-fold: loneliness for his cherished pet, grief at thought of the pain it had suffered, and most of all the thought that God was displeased with him for having the rabbit against his parent's wishes.

However, that experience has not hindered Bobby's confidence in God. Last year he pleaded earnestly for his beloved grandmother who was critically ill. She recovered...

ON a hot, dry, autumn afternoon in California we waited outside a public school. At the hour of dismissal the Catholic children joined us at

the gate and marched to the little church across the field for their weekly religion class. That day I sensed a sort of fear overcasting the happy, care-free spirit of these Portuguese children. A prevailing drought was causing great anxiety in their homes. When I asked if they had prayed for rain their answer was "Yes," but it had the ring of a rather hopeless attitude. I remarked emphatically that if they would all say the rosary that night, and mean it, they would get rain.

THE following morning we awoke to the comforting patter of an abundant rain.

ON the next class day a crowd of happy Portuguese boys and girls greeted us with, "We prayed the rosary and we got rain."

IN one outmission many of our Mexicans were missing Sunday Mass because they lived on distant ranches and had no means of transportation. A strong desire to assist at the Holy Sacrifice was aroused in the children and soon they began to ask our Lord to enable them to get to Mass on Sundays.



Every week, thereafter, there was interesting news from those whose prayers were answered. At last there remained only David who still was unable to get to Mass. He lived twelve miles from town and his father had no car. David remained after class and earnestly asked, "Catechist, what prayer can I say so that I can come to Mass, too?" I reminded him of the power of the Our Father and the Hail Mary, of faithful daily prayers, of work diligently done for God, and of kindness toward all for love of God.

About two weeks later David joyously announced that his father had obtained work near town and had rented a home only two blocks from the church.

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IN another of our outmissions the little Swiss children lived on dairy farms. There the morning chore of milking often prevented them and their parents from attending either of the Sunday Masses.

STIMULATED to pray for means of fulfilling their Mass obligation, the children were soon reporting happy arrangements. The first was from children running down the road to meet us with their glad tidings: Their father had just purchased a milking machine. Now they would get to Mass every Sunday.

WE were conducting a Religious Vacation School in a country parish in Indiana. The good people had asked us to prepare an appropriate program to celebrate their pastor's Silver Jubilee. The small parish hall was being used for the all-day benefit dinner. It would be necessary to give the program out of doors. That might have seemed impossible; it was raining daily. But the children, praying for the true success of their Religious Vacation School, were including their intention for their pastor's anniversary.

A stage was arranged on the church lawn. When the last rehearsal was in progress the daily drizzle began. The little ones, who had finished their practice, were getting restless, and even troublesome. I called them together and asked if they wished to do something special "right now" to make sure of a pleasant day and a successful program for Father. After their eager affirmative I called their attention to the threatening failure due to bad weather, lack of time, and traffic noises from the two U. S. highways on which the church was located. Only God could make their program a success, I said, and asked what they would do about it. Following their own suggestion they disappeared into the church to plead with God and His Blessed Mother.

THE rehearsal then proceeded in peace. Meanwhile, the drizzle ceased. Just as the rehearsal finished a jubilant crowd of little ones tripped out of the church. (We had forgotten about them, but would not have thought they were still praying) They called triumphantly, "We prayed and the rain stopped." Yes, the sun was shining.

EVEN the traffic interference was overcome. A loud speaking system was put up gratis for the day. After the successful performance the children offered hearty thanks to God and His Blessed Mother.

CHILDREN and youth delight in praying for special intentions. Many are the favors I have received through their prayers.

IF Tennyson could say "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of," what



can be said of the earnest pleas of candid innocent children whom Our Lord Himself received so lovingly!

CHILDREN readily grasp the idea of LISTENING to God, as well as talking to Him. I have asked kindergarten and first grade pupils what God might say to them if they gave Him a chance to do some of the talking. Some of the spontaneous answers have been: He'd tell me that He loves me. He wants us to love Him. Maybe He would say *Don't talk back to your mother and father*. Say your prayers every day. Be good to other boys and girls. Go to church and catechism class.

"NOTHING succeeds like success" so why not lead children to experience success in prayer.

Prayer

O Lord, graciously look down upon Thy people, and purge the same from all sin, for then shall no evil be able to hurt them, when no iniquity hath hold upon them. Through our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

The Easter State

FLORIDA is called the Easter State because it was discovered on Easter Sunday in the year 1513. Ponce de Leon, a Spanish explorer, was the man who discovered it. He called the new land Florida because in the Spanish language Easter is called Pascua Florida—"Feast of the Flowers."

His Story

by *Catechist Linnie Wade*

HE was an imp. Everybody admitted it. But all loved him. Everybody admitted *that*, too. There was something about him which drew hearts; whether it was his flashing smile, his engaging interest in all that concerned you, a certain sturdiness that seemed to emanate from him—nobody quite knew, for he certainly *was* an imp! Salvador (Savior) was his name, for Easter was his birthday. He seemed to have brought into this world a breath of the strong conquering joy of Easter. The Risen Savior, holding aloft His victorious banner, was his Patron.

CATECHIST Clark never quite knew whether to laugh or to cry over him. No one else could invent quite so much mischief to perpetrate in class, yet not one child had a better record for class attendance; not a child could outdo Salvador in punctual attendance at Sunday Mass. Even the children knew it—and children are not given to over-estimating their comrades and playmates. "Catechist," they sometimes said to her apart, admiringly, "Salvador is for Jesus, isn't he? He goes to Mass. He goes to doctrina." It was their tribute to his spiritual sturdiness, thought Catechist Clark. So she neither laughed nor cried, but simply prayed earnestly for him. "He will be either very good or very bad when he grows up," she told the Sacred Heart. "Keep him always Your Own."

THERE was much of deep entreaty in that prayer. Salvador was the child of a broken home. A mother's desertion when he was but an infant left him in the care of older sisters, scarcely more than children themselves. The father, a good, hard-working man, was a day-laborer. He loved his children, but could do little more for them than provide their daily bread. Salvador had been a child of six when the Catechists made acquaintance with the family. Immediately his good record for attendance at doctrina began. With interest Catechist Clark watched him through prayer class, first Communion class, post-Communion days. Always faithful, always that spark of Easter joy;

but always an imp, always "up to something!" So she prayed!

SOMETIMES she did more than pray for him. "Salvador," she said to him one Saturday after class, when he had stayed to weed the garden, "I have something for you to do."

"Yes, Catechist."

"Come into the clubhouse."

He came—to find Catechist Clark waiting for him with washbasin, towels, soap, brush, a bucket of warm water. "You are going to clean yourself up, Salvador," she told him.

"I washed my face this morning, Catechist," he informed her in surprise.

"Do you know your ears belong to your face?" she inquired seriously.

"My ears? My ears are not on my face, Catechist." He spoke in deadly earnestness.

"No, more's the pity," she replied. And Salvador gave her a puzzled look as she set to work. Face, arms, hands, feet—all came in for their share of attention with wash-cloth and brush as needed. It was minutes before the operation was completed, Salvador submitting patiently. Finally, his dusty locks disappeared beneath white lather, to emerge black and glistening.

"Now you stay outside in the sunshine for a while, until your hair is good and dry!" was Catechist Clark's farewell as the freshly-laundered cherub departed. She busied herself in the clubhouse for a time, and then returned to the convent, carrying the implements of her recent labors. Salvador, punctually obedient, was still sunning himself, sitting on a big rock near the driveway. He saw her going, and there was a world of pleased surprise in his voice: "Gee, Catechist," he sang out, "this feels GOOD!"

HE was seven then. First Communion Day came when he was eight. Spiritually he prepared well; but up to the last few days no material preparations had been made by the impoverished family. Salvador was worried. Then the sun shone again, for he confided to Catechist Clark that he had been "adopted," he had a "padrino," that is, a godfather for First Communion, who, according to Mexican custom, would furnish his clothing for the event.

On First Communion morning he appeared resplendent in white trousers, shirt, tie, new shoes . . . immaculate. Soul and body matched in purity as he came down from the altar with the Great Treasure in his heart. The Savior had come to Salvador. He was thoroughly happy.

THERE was catechism class the next day, after school, and Salvador was there. So was the new First Communion suit, but, oh, the change! Sand on the school playground, the fists of a few boys with whom Salvador had "mixed"



"The Risen Savior, holding aloft His victorious banner, was his Patron

during the day, leaves of the hedge through which he had crawled—all had left their mark, and now it was just another suit.

"But he has no mother," Catechist Clark sorrowfully tried to console herself, "and after all, it's better to have it outside than inside!" She knew that Salvador had quite determined that he was going to do his best to keep his *soul* as clean as clean could be!

ANOTHER year rolled 'round, and in January Salvador was missing from classes. Investigation revealed that he and an older sister had been confided to the care of another family in a town three miles away.

"I don't like it," soberly Salvador told his Catechist when they met one day. "I want to come back here so I can go to Mass and come to class again. There isn't any Catholic church over there."

He did manage to get to Mass occasionally. During May, Catechist saw him now and then at the daily evening devotions. And then—before the month of May ended, the children were, to their great relief, allowed to return to their own family. Again Salvador could go to Mass.

THE evening devotions continued during June, in Honor of the Sacred Heart. In May, little girls carried flowers to the altar of our blessed Mother between decades of the Rosary. Now in June it was the boys' turn to carry flowers to the altar of the Sacred Heart. There was democracy regarding wearing apparel. The little fellows who could do so, wore white; those who could not, came in ordinary school clothes. Salvador was there—blue overall pants, a blue shirt, shining black curls, smiling dark eyes—and a certain look of happy satisfaction on his face. Usually, boys of nine and ten grew somewhat bashful about carrying flowers and decided it was the *little fellows'* job! Not Salvador. Night after night he carried his roses and lilies and daisies to the altar of the Sacred Heart. He served the Savior with loyalty, and the Savior looked with love on Salvador.

MID-JUNE brought the closing of the yearly catechism classes. Early July brought the opening of the summer religious vacation school. Salvador was there—need we say it again! He missed once the first week. "We got to swim free over at the park," he explained. A typically Salvador-ian excuse, thought Catechist Clark.

He insisted on talking during the instructions, which earned for him a seat in the front row. When there was hoarding or throwing of crayolas during the coloring period, Salvador's name was invariably mentioned: "He's got mine!" "He threw it first!"

BUT again Salvador lived up to his anomalous reputation. For when Catechist Clark suggested a gift of Holy Masses to be offered during the second and last week of summer school, in thanksgiving to Jesus for all the good things He had given the third grade during the past year, Salvador was one of the few who remembered from Friday afternoon till Monday, and began his gift punctually on Monday morning of the last week. There were five teams, eight to ten children in each. By the end of the week the race for the best attendance at Mass was closed. And sure enough, Salvador was on the winning boys' team, St. Michael's. As a prize, each member of the winning team received a little holy picture. Then was announced a surprise award that left the third-graders oh-ing and ah-ing in delighted amazement—even those who knew that the good news was not for them. Two small statues were to be raffled off. All the girls, irrespective of teams, who had not missed Mass once during the week, were to draw for a statue of our blessed Mother. All the boys with the same qualifications were to draw for a statue of the Infant of Prague.

Ramona became the proud possessor of the likeness of Mary, and Salvador—well, Salvador

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Salvador was among the winners.



Around the baptismal font in the parish church, these little public school children of Santa Paula, California, learn about the wonderful Sacrament of Baptism.

His Story

(Continued from page 9)

won the statue of the Infant Jesus. Catechist Clark was conscious of a distinct twinge of disappointment. So many of the other boys had behaved much better; one good, faithful little fellow in particular, who had not been on the winning team, had hoped that perhaps he might at least win the little statue. But . . . the Savior had chosen Salvador. Right was right. Catechist delivered the image, its hand uplifted in blessing, into the waiting arms of the little boy.

SALVADOR asked her to keep the statue for him until after the party which was now to begin. "Tickets" (little squares of cardboard given according to good attendance, with which the children might "buy" orange-ade, ice cream cones, candy, religious articles, etc.) had just been distributed in preparation for the party. Catechist placed the Infant of Prague carefully

In The Home Field

Our Youngest Convert

We chanced upon him playing in an alley and stopped to ask his name.

"My name is Chuck," he answered promptly. "Now what's yours?"

It was thus our acquaintance began.



THE following day Chuck came to religion class, and listened attentively. Ever since he has attended regularly. It did not take him long to grasp what a wonderful privilege it is to learn to know, to love and to serve God.

CHUCK comes to Mass every Sunday morning. He slips into the seat beside Catechist, and watches very carefully so that he makes the Sign of the Cross as often as the BIG people. He is especially proud that he can make a little cross on his forehead, lips and heart at the Gospel.

UPON visiting Chuck's home we found that he was living with an uncle, who, although not a Catholic himself, was anxious that Chuck be baptized.

AT six Chuck is our youngest convert. Frequently in class, after the explanation of some truth of faith, he will ask his favorite question, "Is that for REAL, Catechist?" Now the most important thing in his young life is that when he dies he will SEE and TALK to God for REAL!

Catechist Mary McConville

ONE of the features different about Mary, Queen of Peace Mission is that it is in the same building as the chapel which serves as the church for Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish. As a result, the Catechists, at the request of the pastor, take the necessary information and make arrangements for baptisms.

To each person coming to arrange for a baptism is given a mimeographed paper entitled "Things to Remember When Preparing for a Baptism," and a list of Christian names. Besides admonitions as to sponsors, etc., the instructions include the responses to be made by the sponsors during the ceremony.

Catechist Dorothy Schneider

in the box with her left-over tickets. Three hundred children swarmed into the hall and merriment and gaiety held sway. An hour later, as Catechist Clark was busily presiding over the "sale" of holy cards and medals, Salvador came to claim his prize. He did not wait for her to disentangle herself from the rush of business, but started off toward the box. She went after him with speed, accelerated by a confidential whisper from one of Salvador's pals: "Catechist, Salvador says he's gonna take some tickets when he gets to the box." Of course she was sure that was just an idle boast . . . but then! She delivered the Infant Jesus personally, and put the tickets away in a safe place, just in case!

A FEW days after this vacation school ended, the Catechists of Our Lady's Mission went to the central house for their retreat. Retreat and its succeeding summer classes passed quickly. With delight Catechist Clark returned to her mission, eager to see again the little ones of her family, the ones who represented her work in the Mystical Body of Christ. Then the blow fell.

"Catechist, you heard about Salvador?" It was Ramona with the limpid eyes gazing up at her, eyes filled with a strange seriousness.

"No, I haven't seen him yet, Ramona, how is he?"

THEN the story came. Salvador taking his father's noon-lunch; an accident on the grounds; Salvador rushed to the hospital, both legs gone; a white-faced but calm Salvador receiving the Last Sacraments; a lingering until the next day. Then . . . the Savior had come for Salvador. And he had gone to Him with banners flying . . . his victorious Easter banner of strong conquering joy. Now, truly, Salvador was forever "His Own."

IN this strange way her prayer was answered. "And," Catechist thought with compunction of her own attitude of semi-regret, "how sweet it was of the Infant Jesus to place His image before the eyes of Salvador during the last few weeks of his life!"

WHEN you come to the little town of Cerritos, New Mexico, you are obliged to get out of your car and open a gate in order to enter the town.

One Hundred Per Cent

BLESSED Sacrament Parish of Albion, Indiana, is justly proud of its beautiful church, dedicated last spring. It can also speak with pride of its catechism class. We call it our hundred per cent class. In the small congregation there are only ten children, but they have been faithful in coming for religious instruction. When I return to our convent after the Wednesday class in Albion the first question asked me is, "Were they all present?" and the answer is nearly always: "Yes, all ten of them."

"And the altar boys?"

"A hundred per cent. Both were there."

Now we are looking forward to a happy event—the First Holy Communion of one of the ten. It will be the first of such occasions in the new church. Though the number of First Communicants could not be smaller, we are sure that the love and innocence of this one child will rejoice the Heart of Jesus and edify the happy congregation.

Catechist Mary Loretto Hall



"Come along; everything is biting!"



An Easter Welcome to Two Mission Bands

MICHIGAN A VISIT to Victory-Noll resulted in the enrollment of a Sodality among our Associate Catechists of Mary early this year. The Young Ladies Sodality of Downtown St. Mary's, Detroit, has adopted Catechist Badway, a former member, as their missionary. It is a pleasure to welcome these Sodalists, twenty-three in number, among our Associates. May you find added joy and spiritual blessings in this missionary adjunct to Sodality work.

ILLINOIS TWO letters from an Associate in Chicago tell their own story. The first was received at our A.C.M. office in January. It read: "The last time you heard from me was about two years ago. Since then much has happened. I was married and am now the mother of a beautiful five month old baby girl. I was Promoter of St. Mary's Band II, but though we disbanded some time ago I have never forgotten the Catechists in my prayers. Now I have made the acquaintance of some young married women like myself who are interested in forming a Band. As soon as I hear from you and have your permission to go ahead I will call the first meeting."

Early in February the second letter came, announcing the organization of a new A.C.M. Mission Band. "The first meeting of St. Raymond Nonatus Band was brought to order on February 2. And a grand meeting it was, too. All but one subscribed to the magazine. We chose the name of St. Raymond Nonatus because he is the patron Saint of mothers. We shall meet once a month at each other's homes and pay fifty cents dues. In addition small parties and raffles will be held to raise funds

for the missions. We shall do all in our power to make our Band one of the best you have, and hope we can make you real proud of us."

Mrs. Kathryn Quinlan is Promoter of this newest A.C.M. Band. A hearty welcome to each member. We are happy to have you among "Our Associates."

NEW YORK ONE of the most successful card parties of the past season was held by **Our Lady of Victory Band**, Brooklyn. Catherine Binz, Promoter, gives simply the reason why it was so. "I am sending a check for \$200 towards the Burse of Catechist Mary Anna Binz. This sum is the result of a card party held for our Catechist's benefit. You can see it was a splendid success, thanks to prayer. Yes, Our Lady of Victory Band did work very hard to make it so successful; thanks to them also."

In return, we pray our thanks by remembering your intentions in all the community devotions of our Society.

WISCONSIN EARLY in the New Year came welcome word once again from our **St. Jude Band** at West Allis. Mrs. E. J. Polakowski, Promoter, sent a generous gift for the Precious Blood Burse of their adopted Catechist. It was indeed a pleasure to learn that these mission friends are continuing their good work, and in return we were happy to send them news of their missionary, Catechist Brohman, who is at Indiana Harbor Mission.

CHICAGO WE are happy to include in our "Happy Easter" number the long-promised account of a mission-benefit party held by **Little Flower Mission Circle** last fall. The members sacrificed much of their time planning and preparing for it, as we learned personally when speaking with them while in Chicago. Miss Veronica Foertsch, Promoter, kindly sent prompt word of the result of their efforts, and a very successful affair it was. The proceeds were slightly more than a hundred dollars. Part of this amount was donated to the new St. Jude Church for the Colored at our Indiana Harbor Mission, for a stained glass window. A very large amount was likewise applied towards Catechist Siegfried's Burse. "We know that our success is due to the prayers behind the lines," Miss Foertsch wrote. "The prayers offered for our intentions are greatly appreciated, and we feel that many of our wants are realized." We are glad and grateful to make this partial return for our benefactors' goodness to us.

Ave Maria Convent
Ely, Nevada

Dear Catechist,

Greetings from Our Lady of the Snows' territory.

Just a bit of A. C. M. news about the girls who do such splendid self-sacrificing work for us.

The Marians, Chicago, have sent huge mission boxes to Grants Mission and here, in addition to a donation for candy, and beautiful new religious articles and rosaries. They also sent us two dozen Sodality pins for which our Sodalists are working. Our Sodalists in return sent the Marians a box of desert holly corsages and are finding it very interesting to correspond with them.

All of us received a delightful surprise the other day when a quiet looking box arrived from St. Jude Thaddeus Band II, of Chicago. On opening it I found a veritable avalanche of purses. All contained a donation and a card telling who was responsible for each gay little purse. Mrs. Angeline Drankie is Promoter of this mission club. Both groups have been very generous in their contributions towards our work.

Catechist M. Gabrielle Skupien

ILLINOIS OUR Lady of Perpetual Help Band II, Evanston, is another mission club carrying on quietly and faithfully for the mission cause. Every letter from Miss Celia Henrich, Promoter, brings a substantial gift for the Burse of their adopted missionary, Catechist Eleanor Gerhart, Superior of our Elko, Nevada, Mission.

Not only are the members among the leaders in our A. C. M., but they likewise lead in the number of members who make the Annual Retreat at the Academy of Our Lady each year. Spring turns our thoughts to the approach of summer, and we hope many more of our A. C. M. members in and near Chicago will be making the retreat with us this year. Now is the time to plan it as a part of your vocation program.

THE ASSOCIATE CATECHISTS OF MARY, CHICAGO AREA, will hold a Reception in the Roosevelt Room at the Morrison Hotel, Sunday afternoon April 19, from 3 to 6. Missionary Catechists from Victory-Noll will be present. Mrs. Mary Staley is General Chairman. Cards will be played and refreshments served. Tickets, fifty-five cents.

Happy Easter

Associate Catechists of Mary

IN the early Church the Christians used to greet one another on Easter morning with the words "The Lord is truly risen, Alleluia."

WITH these same words the Church invites the whole world to share in her blessed joy. May your heart overflow with joy, too. In your charity for His missions and missionaries you have a splendid gift to lay at the feet of our Risen Savior.

ST. JOSEPH BAND, Chicago, with Mrs. M. McNamara Promoter, began this A.C.M. season with a new plan for carrying on their activities for the missions. Each member is now privileged to have her turn as hostess at a monthly meeting. Friends are likewise invited to attend, and thus a substantial amount is raised for the Burse of their adopted missionary, Catechist Rose McBride. The members of this mission club are among the most devoted friends of our mission work, having given us their generous aid almost since the very beginning. Surely their reward for such constant charity will be very great.

WHEN we welcomed the Promoter of Kateri Tekakwitha Band, Mount Healthy, as a postulant in our Society last fall, the

members quickly proved by action their happiness and pride in her holy vocation. Elvira Kessler has undertaken the responsibility of Promoter for this mission club. They have asked to adopt their former leader as their Missionary, and plan to send a donation regularly towards her Burse. A pair of vases was raffled to realize the first amount for this cause.

Mission boxes likewise have a big share in Tekakwitha Band's activities. Doll cradles were made from rolled-oats boxes, and together with some books made a welcome box for Bingham Canyon Mission. The members are now working on First Communion dresses for the little ones in the Catechists' classes in Utah.

A. C. M. Band Donations

January 27 to February 27

Adrien Club, Chicago, Miss Florence Dietz	\$25.00
Archbishop Stritch Band, Chicago, Miss Helen Gaethke ..	10.00
Charitina Club I, Chicago, Miss Catherine Hennigan	13.00
Charitina Club II, Paris, Ill., Miss Mary C. Gibbons	2.85
Guadalupe Band, Dayton, Miss Rose Marie Heier	2.25
Holy Family Band, Chicago, Mrs. Wm. Murphy	7.75
Immaculate Conception Band, Detroit, Miss Lillian Dunn ..	15.00
Little Flower Band II, Chicago, Mrs. Helen Garrity	25.00
Little Flower Band, Pittsburgh, Miss Catherine Lippert ..	2.50
Queen of Angels Band, Los Angeles, Mrs. C. J. Sauthier ..	5.00
Queen of Poor Souls Band, Los Angeles, Mrs. Anna Meng ..	5.00
Srillianes, Cheviot, Ohio, Miss Rita Busche	1.00
St. Agnes Band, Martinsburg, W. Va., Miss G. I. Atkinson ..	3.00
St. Bridget Band, Bellevue, Ky., Miss Grace M. Kern	1.00
St. Elizabeth Band, Dearborn, Mich., Miss Clea Schneider ..	27.00
St. Helen Band, Dayton, Miss Margaret Karas	3.00
St. Irene Band, Chicago, Miss May Walsh	4.00
St. Irene Auxiliary, Chicago, Miss Madeline Sebraska	3.00
St. Joseph Mission Club, Baldwinville, N. Y., Miss Margaret Bochino	6.97
St. Katherine Band, Chicago, Mrs. K. Hammer	5.00
St. Mel Band, Chicago, Mrs. L. E. Lopez	17.00
St. Raymond Nonatus Band, Chicago, Mrs. Katherine	3.00
Quinlan	3.00
St. Thomas Aquinas Band, Chicago, Mrs. M. B. McDnald ..	26.00

Our Lady's Herald

(Continued from page 3)

founded to be "true servants of the Blessed Virgin, who like St. Dominic and his priests, will go up and down the world armed with the gospels and the rosary."

HE also founded a congregation of women, known as the Daughters of Wisdom. Both congregations began to flourish at St. Laurent-sur-Sevre where de Montfort died and where his tomb now receives the homage of devout pilgrims.

THE life of this servant of Mary is a record of unusual trials borne bravely, of heroic zeal in the fight against Jansenism. He was persecuted and calumniated as few men have ever been. Even after his death he was persecuted in his works. As late as 1870 his Treatise, which had recently been translated by Father Faber, was attacked by certain English Clergymen who overlooked the fact that it, together with other of his writings, had been examined by the Congregation of Rites and declared free from anything contrary to faith or morals, or to the Church's common sentiment or practice.

THESE persons were still tainted with Anglicanism that would honor the Son but not the Mother. Blessed de Montfort calls such the "scrupulous devotees" who fear to dishonor the Son by honoring the Mother. He refutes them by saying: "The Church, with the Holy Ghost, blesses Our Lady first; and Our Lord second: 'Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.' It is not that Mary is more than Jesus, or even equal to Him. That would be an intolerable heresy; but it is that, in order to bless Jesus more perfectly, we must begin by blessing Mary."

BLESSED de MONTFORT foresaw that he and his work would be subject to severe criticism. "I clearly foresee," he wrote, "that raging beasts shall come in fury to tear with their diabolical teeth this little writing and him whom the Holy Ghost has made use of to write it, or at least to smother it in the silence of a coffer, that it may not appear." As a matter of fact, that is exactly what happened. The Treatise was concealed from the time of his death in 1716 to the year 1842, an interval of one hundred and twenty-six years.



Blessed Louis Marie de Montfort, whose feast day occurs this month, April 28. Members of the Confraternity of Mary, Queen of our Hearts, look forward to renewing their consecration to Mary on that day.

THE practice of the True Devotion advocated by Blessed de Montfort is not a mere habit of piety that can be taken off and resumed at stated times. It is a consecration of ourselves and of all we possess to Mary in order that we may belong entirely to her Son. The essence of the True Devotion consists in this consecration of all that we have and all that we are, to our blessed Mother.

THIS generous offering will not go without its reward, for Mary will be our guide and will undertake, as it were, our spiritual education. She will enlighten us and will keep our merits safe for us. By the path of Mary we will proceed more gently and more tranquilly on the road to perfection.

Are you collecting and saving cancelled stamps for the missions? We shall be happy to receive them at Victory-Noll. Address: Missionary Catechists, Huntington, Indiana.

A Bit of Beginning

by Catechist Elizabeth Kiefer

THIS story should begin: *It was a typical Mexican mission.* But this time I cannot assure you that it was a typical mission for it was the first one I ever saw.

IT all started several months ago when the pastor of Blissfield asked us to work among some members of his parish, in the Mexican colony. "La Colonia" is on the outskirts of the city across the proverbial railroad tracks. Most of the families come from Texas, numbering nearly sixty during the summer but dwindling to about twenty-nine after the beet season is over. Of all these baptized Catholics there are few who have been instructed in their religion. The two forces which hold sway at present in the colony are the movies and the Methodist worker. The worker has been conducting services in the mission, as he calls it, for the past fourteen years. Those who have resisted the temptation of being taught how to find passages in the Bible seem content to do without any religious guidance in their lives.

THE first Sunday we taught in La Colonia, the novelty of it all enticed several youngsters to come, but this was only a handful. It was enough, though, to initiate me into some of the ways of missionary life.

THE pupils having made their appearance, all we needed was the trivial item of a place to teach. Two homes were offered. My share of the teaching quarters was the bedroom of a three-room house chosen because it had the most available floor space.

ON returning to the car after my class I saw several children who I knew should have been present. After a bit of questioning I was invited to be chief spectator while they performed. I could not resist, and was treated to the extraordinary feat of everyone jumping off a low porch. After much applause, I inveigled one



little fellow into promising to come to the next class. His name was Gilbert and thereby hangs a tale.

NEXT Sunday afternoon Gilbert, with a little persuading, condescended to attend class. Let it be known that his reputation as a shrewd fellow was at stake, for he was not of the church-going variety, having evidently made the weighty decision to abstain from such goings-on at the accumulated age of nine summers. Our class for the day was about the creation of the angels and their trial. Also Heaven and hell proved most enlightening subjects to our star pupil. Just as an illustration, I drew devils and flames and a little door. At the door was Lucifer, himself, showing to one of his best seats a fictitious character named Gilbert. The story developed that this terrible Gilbert had spent all his life misbehaving, missing Mass and doing



terrible things. Lucifer welcomed him as a real friend. My class absorbed this story with eyes wide open, and as it was time for dismissal, we stopped right there.

EVERYONE wanted to carry something to the car. Providentially, Gilbert picked up the blackboard with the drawing and the name *Gilbert* printed under the unfortunate fellow burning in hell. As he went toward the door several boys and girls from the other class saw the picture and exclaimed, "O, look at Gilbert in hell." With a quick look at the board he hastily retreated, and running up to me as I was finishing the chore of gathering my things, he said, "Quick, I need the rag to erase all this."

BLISSFULLY ignorant of the reason for his return, I assured him that he need not bother. We were going home and I would take care of the board there. He shook his head resolutely, and erased with great energy, declaring, "I don't want them to think that I'm going to hell." Joyfully I whispered to myself, "Me-thinks, Gilbert, that you are not such a hard egg after all."



Dear Loyal Helpers,

A parade of happy memories helps to make this a "Happy Easter" for me. As I write we have just returned to our motherhouse, Victory-Noll, after visiting the boys and girls in a number of schools in one of America's big cities.

It was on a wintry morning in February that four of us Catechists boarded a train for Detroit, the scene of our "lecture tour." We had been invited by Father De Barry, Director of the Propagation of the Faith, to talk to the students in the grade and high schools about our Society's home mission work. Early on the morning after our arrival we opened the doors of the first school on our schedule. As we made our way down the corridor, watching for the principal's office, we passed the open door of a classroom. "It's the missionaries!" a young boyish voice called out. A happy smile lit up our faces. There could be no doubt that missionaries were welcome here among the mission-minded boys and girls of this thoroughly American school. Such a spirit is largely due to the Sisters, here and everywhere, who pave the way by their generous efforts to instill mission zeal into the hearts of our Catholic youth. God bless and reward their kindness to us and all missionaries!

WE approached a school on another day as the children were forming ranks to return to their classrooms. A little miss of perhaps seven looked up at us with a cherubic smile and asked, "Are you two Sisters?" We smiled down at her and replied, "Yes, we are. We aren't called Sister though, but Catechist, because we belong to the Society of Missionary Catechists." She looked surprised at this, for it was

altogether new to her. We found it was likewise a surprise to all the other boys and girls in grade and high school to whom we spoke. None of them had ever seen or heard about Catechists before, and they listened with a kind interest that made our opportunity to speak to them all the more enjoyable.

WHEN the youngsters of a not-well-to-do section of town heard that missionaries were coming, they asked Sister if they might have a gift ready for us. Sister heartily approved, and so one young fellow asked if each might give his own offering to the missionary. The following week after they had heard the story of our mission work, each boy and girl came up and put his penny or two or five into the Catechist's hand. When added up they made not the largest gift it is true; but this offering touched the hearts of the missionaries, and was the most pleasing of all. Surely it was every bit as precious to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, for whose missions it was given.

THE students of nearly all the schools were every bit as thoughtful in remembering the needs of the missions. Their gifts of money and cancelled stamps help us greatly to carry on for Christ and for souls. They truly showed us how they take to hear the earnest plea on a poster seen in one of the schools, "Have a Heart for the Missions!" Already forty-eight of these Detroit boys and girls have written to ask if they may be enrolled among Mary's Loyal Helpers, and may have a Sunshine Bag. There isn't space enough in these columns to print the names of all, much as I should like to do so. But I am



The mission zeal of the Youth in our Catholic Schools

sure you will join me just the same in a chorus of welcome. These new young missionaries unite with us in praying for the missions and the Catechists. Of course, we're glad too that they want to give us a helping hand as we merrily gather our Mile of Sunshine Pennies.

With the C. Y. O.

ABOUT three years ago the C.Y.O. was organized at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish for our high school and out-of-school Mexican youth. We were elated over the number of boys and girls who joined. In the first few meetings officers were elected, plans were made—what matter if somewhat vociferously!—and the last Sunday of the month was agreed upon as C.Y.O. Communion Sunday. The weekly Thursday evening meetings were in the form of a study club, and with accustomed boisterous energy the young people took up the study of the Mass.

Interest was keen and all went well until the last Sunday of the month arrived. At the C. Y. O. Communion Mass we were very much disappointed to note that only a few boys and two or three girls had courage enough to take their places in the front of the church. The number increased only slightly during the following months. Then, when Easter and their Communion Sunday chanced to fall on the same day, it seemed the fitting occasion for special "doings." A Communion breakfast was planned, the first of its kind ever to be held by the youth of our Mexican parish. The boys and girls really worked hard preparing for it. With all their artistic talent called into play, the decorations for the gala affair were nothing if not colorful and elaborate.



to Mary's Loyal Helpers
In Chicago



In Kansas

and Everywhere
in our Grand America!

On Easter Sunday morning as we Catechists took our places in the choir, we could have sung an Alleluia of joy. There in the front of the crowded church we counted 77 C.Y.O. boys and girls! All received Our Lord in Holy Communion during the Mass. We felt that the Heart of our Risen Savior rejoiced that day, for some among them were sheep who had been away from their Shepherd for a long, long time.

EASTER is a time to begin. It is the beginning of a new life for Jesus, the glorious risen life which we all hope to share with Him in Heaven someday. It was the beginning of a new happiness for Mary who had suffered so much and wept so many tears during the Passion of her Son. What a new beginning it was for Mary Magdalen, and John, and the other Apostles who had thought everything was over, that there was no hope for them, when Jesus died on the Cross.

It is the beginning of a new life for many Catholics who have been away from Christ and His Church for many months, even many years. The gladness and joy of Easter draws them back to Mass and Communion, and they can almost hear the words of Jesus, "Peace be to you," as life begins for them all over again.

Loyal Helpers, let's make Easter time a new beginning for us, too. Let's begin anew to pray, to sacrifice for the Catechists' missions and mission children by gathering Sunshine Pennies, and saving cancelled stamps. On Easter Sunday morning will you remember us when you receive your Risen Lord in Holy Communion? Neither shall we forget you. God bless you all!

Catechist Schneider





View of the Wabash river which flows below the Knoll on which Victory-Noll is located.

PLEASE send your mission boxes directly to one of our centers listed below:

- Refuge of Sinners Mission, 512 Soldano Avenue, Azusa, California.
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission, Box 1356, Brawley, California.
 Good Shepherd Mission, Box 335, Coalinga, 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.
 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 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.

BOOKS

PROGRESS IN DIVINE UNION by the Reverend Raoul Plus, S.J., translated from the French by Sister Mary Bertille and Sister Mary St. Thomas, Sisters of Notre Dame of Cleveland, Ohio. Order from FREDERICK PUSEY CO., Inc., 14 Barclay St., New York, N. Y. \$1.50.

This volume provides ideal spiritual reading for persons earnestly striving to put more of God into their lives.

IN MEMORIAM

Rev. J. F. Hanak, Caldwell, Texas
 J. A. Hoffman, Toledo, Ohio
 Miss C. F. O'Neil, Providence, R. I.
 Miss Terese Mailand, Los Angeles, Calif.
 Joseph Buser, Wichita, Kansas.
 Mr. L. Buettner, Chicago, Ill.
 Catherine Preschinger, Wisconsin.
 John Bulger, Chicago, Ill.
 Mrs. Mary K. Scheuer, Chicago, Ill.
 Anthony Bourk, St. Louis, Mo.
 Kate McGuire, Chicago, Ill.
 Margaret Rowley, Chicago, Ill.
 Olive Hayes, Chicago, Ill.
 Irene Schneider Tromley, Detroit, Mich.
 Harry Melke, Dayton, Ohio
 Mrs. M. H. Hayes, Beaumont, Calif.
 Mrs. Mary Hierholzer, Celina, Ohio

May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Mission Intention for April

by the Right Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. McDonnell

For Native Clergy in Indo China and Siam

WITH war interest centering upon events in the southern peninsulas of Asia it seems providential that the prayers of the faithful should be requested during the month of April "for native clergy in Indo China and Siam." While the two countries are geographically side by side there is a wide divergence in their political and religious beliefs. Indo China has won for herself an enviable place in the annals of Church history. Her Catholic people have withstood some of the most severe persecutions ever recorded with the courage and fortitude of the early Christian martyrs. Furthermore she has developed a native priesthood which today outnumbered the foreign missionaries nearly four to one. By contrast Siam, or Thailand as it is now called, is a stronghold of Buddhism and the tenets of that religion are firmly interwoven into the life of the nation.

Historical Backgrounds

UNDOUBTEDLY the secret of Indo China's right to glory is to be found in the blood of her martyrs which nurtured so carefully the seed of Faith that succeeding waves of persecution were powerless to kill it. It proved also the stimulus for the fostering of an indigenous clergy which "in the judgment of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda is first both in number and quality among all the mission countries." By contrast Siam did not offer the same governmental tyranny regarding the teaching of Catholic doctrines. In many instances the kings were definitely friendly in their relations with the missionaries and the sporadic persecutions which occurred from time to time were instigated by local mandarins or invading Burmese.

ALTHOUGH mission activity was begun in Indo China and Siam during the 16th century by Franciscans, Dominicans and Jesuits,

local antagonism resulted in the expulsion of missionaries particularly in the former country. It was not until the foundation of the famous Society of Paris Foreign Missions in the 17th Century that continued and concentrated mission activity was undertaken in this southern peninsula. From the quiet confines of 128 rue du Bac in Paris came the tillers who pledged to resign from the harvesting as soon as native workers were prepared to assume the responsibilities of the apostolate. Their strict adherence to the admonition of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda was to make history in the Far East, especially in Indo China. "Instruct young natives and spare neither pains nor labor to form them and render them suitable for the priestly state," they were told, "for if you ordain twelve good native priests you will render a greater service to the Church than if you baptized twelve thousand idolaters."

Trite but True

SUPERFICIAL study of the history of these two countries would seem to indicate that the possibilities for the spread of Christianity were much greater in Siam than in Indo China. Yet subsequent events prove the truth of Tertullian's words "the blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church—we increase in proportion as you cut us down." From 1666 until 1885 both clergy and faithful in Indo China suffered the most cruel persecutions. The infamous edict of January 6, 1833 alone caused the death of 90,000 Indo Chinese Christians. However the future seemed bright in both countries prior to the extension of the war into this territory. There were 1,376 native priests laboring among the inhabitants of this peninsula and it is in their behalf that the Society for the Propagation of the Faith solicits the prayers of the faithful during the month of April.

War



**brings added responsibility to missionaries at home
as well as abroad.**

But

**New responsibilities become fresh opportunities
for practicing the charity of Christ and thus winning
souls for the Kingdom of Heaven.**

**Help the Missionary Catechists extend their activi-
ties for God and for America in the Home Mission
Field.**

Dear Catechists:
Victory-Noll
Huntington, Indiana

Here is my offering (\$.....) to help the Catechists
carry on their work for the spiritual welfare of America.

Name

Address

.....