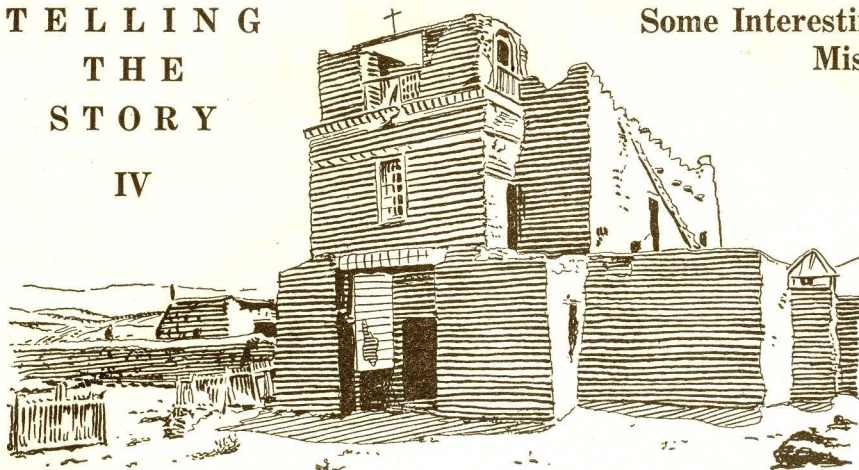


# TELLING THE STORY

## IV



## Some Interesting Notes from the Diary of a Missionary Catechist.

Mass for us. We do appreciate his thoughtfulness very much.

We are continuing our sewing classes and have sodality meetings regularly.

There is so much poverty among the people here. The other day we learned that just outside of town six Catholic children had been taken to a Protestant orphanage. We were heartsick when we heard of this. We have made every effort to get means to send these children to a Catholic orphanage. We communicated with Father Demarest as soon as we heard of the condition of these children, but their relatives gave them away on the strength of the promises made by the Protestants. The Protestant missionaries here are very active. In a neighboring school there is a Protestant teacher who is the daughter of a minister. She shows the greatest affection toward all her Catholic children, embracing them as they enter and leave the school every day.

We began the New Year (January 1, 1923) with Holy Mass and Catechism at the Village of La Parda. Upon our return our auto was held fast in the mud. We prayed to our Good Mother to help us and soon a team came to draw us out of the road, which seemed to have no bottom. We were covered with mud from head to foot.

The following week we again return for instruction to this distant Mission and decided to walk over the rocky hillsides in order to save our auto tires. Out here the sharp rocks jutting out of the road sides at times cut the tires like a razor.

On the thirtieth we visited the sanitarium at Valmora. This Sanitarium hidden away among the hills, is maintained by the big packers and department stores of Chicago for their tubercular employees. Everything is done here to make these poor patients comfortable, and their spiritual welfare is not neglected. Father Demarest attends the Catholic patients and about once a month offers up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in their hall.

On the occasion of a recent visit to the sick at Shoemaker we met with an unusual case. A young girl there was bitten by a pig. It was an ugly wound. We treated it as best we could, and it seemed our dear Lord has favored our treatment as the wound is healing nicely.

On Ash Wednesday we had the Stations and devotions in our church at Watrous. We are looking forward to the Mission which the Franciscan Fathers are to give here in the near future. We were rather surprised to discover three unbaptized children in town. We were under the impression that all the children here had been

baptized. We succeeded, however, in getting the permission of the mother to prepare the children for Baptism.

On the 27th of February we had a severe cold spell and many became ill. Catechist B. and I made eight visits to the sick.

On Thursday, March 1st, Father Barnabas, O. F. M., arrived to open the Mission. We were so happy to see all the people receive Holy Communion at the six o'clock Mass.

The next day Father accompanied us to LaParda and there examined

The native New Mexican makes a good, peaceful, law-abiding citizen. He loves his Country.



the children. Our good lay-auxiliary teacher, Miss Lajau, had assisted us and we had worked hard with these children. Father was extremely pleased to see that they knew their Catechism so well. As he left us he said: "I have never seen children so well prepared."

At Shoemaker the children scarcely know anything. We have a great field there.

We were so grateful to Father for offering up the Holy Sacrifice of the

### "EL CAMINO REAL"

New Mexico is the fourth largest state in the Union. It has an area of 122,580 square miles.

There are 170,000 Catholics in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico. This is a typical Mission country. Within the confines of this vast archdiocese, there are actually less than twenty Parochial schools. Churches are few and far between. Missionaries are scarce. A Missionary may have a parish as big as the states of Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Hampshire, combined. It takes at least 6,000 persons to provide even a very meagre support for a Priest.

With schools so pitifully few in number throughout New Mexico, how are the Poor Catholic children there to receive Religious Instruction? There is but one answer:—From the Missionary Catechists.

As usual, when business depression occurs the poor suffer most. Today the poor people have scarcely enough to eat. Thirty-seven out of every hundred children born in the State of New Mexico die before they reach the first year of age. Why? Because of under-nourishment.

