

Volume I

Victory-Noll, Huntington, Indiana, April, 1925

Number 5

### MISSIONARY CATECHISTS TO OPPOSE PROTESTANT PROPAGANDA!

Bishop of San Antonio, Texas, Calls Catechists to Diocese—Will Help Hold 250,000 Spanish-speaking Catholics to Their Faith.



## Diocese of San Antonio

238 Dwper Abenue

San Antonio, Texas, 2/19/25

My dear Father Sigstein:

I am so glad to see that you held on to your glorious plan as you unfolded it some years ago and that full success has come to reward your perseverance. You have started a work which is bound to be of untold benefit to our poor Mexican missions. Our Mexicans are religious and Catholic by natural instinct; it's in the marrow of their bones. Their great handicaps are dense ignorance, dire poverty, enormous distance in many cases from school and church. Worst of all they are preyed upon by legions of rich and persistent proselytizers. These are everywhere at work. It is amazing the money and the men which the Sects have at their command.

I hail your "Missionary Catechists" as one of the most effective means to counteract Protestant propaganda; to supply the awful dearth of Priests and parochial schools; to instruct our poor people and keep them in the Faith of their Fathers. We have the Far-East as an example. The Church in China owes much, perhaps most of it's glorious extension, to the faithful work of the bands of devoted Catechists. What's good for the East will not be bad for the West, and I expect much from your trained, zealous, devoted Catechists.

May God Bless your work, fructify it and increase it

a hundred-fold. Yours in Xto., Arthur Drossaerts, D. D.
Bishop of San Antonio

# To Prepare The Way

Over in Spain they are educating forty young men as Miss.onary Priests for the needy Spanish-speaking Missions of the United States. After their ordination these self-sacrificing young Missionar.es will labor exclusively among the poor Spaniards and Mexicans. They will come as Other Christs to preach the Gospel of

Other Christs to preach the Gospel of love and of hope to these Spiritually starving Catholic people. No one can doubt in the least that these "Other Christs" will, like the Good Shepherd, seek out the lost ones of the flock and feed them with the bread of the Word of Eternal Life.

Now just as Jesus Christ had a precursor in the person of John the Baptist, to go before Him and prepare His way by preaching and teaching,—so these "Other Christs" will likewise have precursors in the Missions of the Southwest. These precursors are the Missionary Catechists. As true auxiliaries to the new Missionaries they will prepare their way sionaries they will prepare their way among the poor, neglected little ones of the flock. They will teach them their Catechism. They will prepare them for the Reception of the Sacrathem ments. They will nurse them in homes where "poverty reigns supreme".

where "poverty reigns supreme".

Such is the glorious apostolate of the Missionary Catechists. It can only be fully realized if our subscribers pray fervently to the Divine Shepherd of Souls, begging Him to call and prepare devout, humble, self-sacrificing souls to associate themselves with our Catechists in seeking out the neglected and lost ones of the flock.

-0-If one may judge by the constant

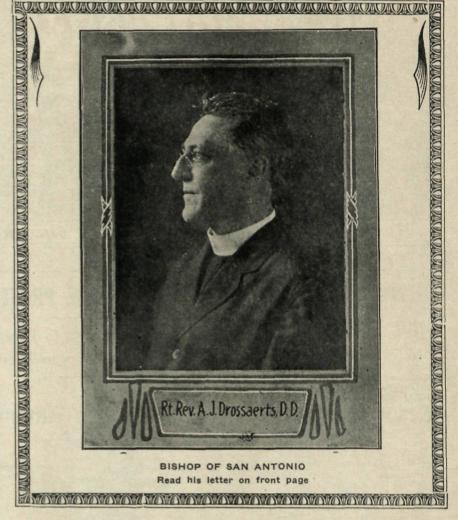


APPROVAL OF ARCHBISHOP DAEGER

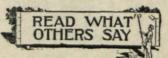
Nov. 26, 1924.

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

I wish THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST every success. May God bless those who help the Catechists by subscribing for their little magazine. Sincerely yours in Christ, HALBERT T. DAEGER, O.F.M., Archbishop of Santa Fe.



demand for back numbers of the MIS-SIONARY CATECHIST, many readers are undoubtedly keeping a file for our little monthly. If you are not keeping your copy, may we ask you, dear reader, to kindly hand it to some friend and ask him to become a sub-



Dear Father Sigstein:

Dear Father Sigstein:

I am enclosing my check for \$10.00 for life subscription to the MISSION-ARY CATECHIST. I wish you every success in this very meritorious work and pray that God may bless your efforts to save to our holy Faith, the many Spanish-speaking Catholics in those districts referred to in your appeal

Sincerely, S. H. H., Madison, Ind.

PRAYERS ANSWERED. Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Father:

I enclose donation which I promised if my petition was granted A FRIEND.

## PRIEST SENDS 79 SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Undoubtedly your "MISSIONARY CATECHIST" is going to be a great success just like the "OUR SUNDAY VISITOR" and "THE ACOLYTE". We need a paper like THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST. I hope that during the Year You are going to have ing the year you are going to have some articles on catechetical instruction in the school. I am enclosing a list of 79 subscriptions for the MIS-SIONARY CATECHIST.

(Rev.) J. B. A., Pastor Cascade, Iowa.

#### WANTS IT FOR "LIFE."

Detroit, Mich., March 20, 1925

Dear Father:

Dear Father:

In January I sent you a subscription for your paper and after looking over two copies have decided to send you \$10.00 and so become a life subscriber. I think you are doing wonderful work and deserve encouragement,—both yourself and your associates, the wonderful women who became Missionary Catechists.

Wishing you very success and hoping for remembrance in your prayers.

ing for remembrance in your prayers, I remain, REV. B. T. M.

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# WHAT HAPPENED ON THE STREETS OF SAN ANTONIO

There was a big procession. Thousands of men, women and children, with bands playing, and banners flying sang, as they marched through the streets of this old Spanish Catholic City. The Methodist Episcopal church had organized this public display, in order to commemorate one of its local jubilees. It was a very imposing spectacle. In the vanguard there were one thousand Catholic children, who waved Protestant banners, and sang Protestant hymns. The leader of the Catholic band was a handsome youth, who had the grace and the carriage of a Spanish cavalier. His life story may be briefly told, as throwing some light upon the methods of the Protestants in perverting the Faith of thousands of our Catholic children.

This boy, the son of a Spanish father and a Mexican mother, was born in a Mexican colony on the outskirts of the city of San Antonio. His father, Jose Cordova, had been brought up in Old Mexico, and at an early age had inherited the vast estates of the Cordovas. Like his ancestors for generations before him, the young man had always led an exemplary Christian life. Scarcely had he reached man's estate, when a terrible revolution swept the country. Penniless, he fled across the border, and found shelter with some poor, but hospitable Mexicans, living near the City of San Antonio. There was neither church nor resident pastor in the Mexican colony where he took up his abode. Consequently there was little opportunity, for the poor people to receive Christian instruction, and to take part in the Services of their Holy Religion.

It was on the occasion of one of the infrequent visits of the traveling Missionary, that Cordova was united in marriage to one of the young ladies of the settlement. Years passed. They raised a large family, but lived in abject poverty. In this condition they are found by Protestant Missionaries, who swarmed over the land. They brought food and clothing to the children, and in turn, invited them to attend their Sunday School classes. Subject to such pernicious influences, was it any wonder that the Cordova family soon lost the precious heritage of Faith? Manuel, the oldest of the children, was a bright, quick, clever lad. It was he who always carried off the honors in the Methodist Sunday School, and his teachers were not long in discovering the Religious sentiments of the boy, as well as his rare natural gifts, and in a short time they gained the consent of the parents to allow him to attend the big Methodist college, where he might study for the Methodist ministry. Other Catholic boys were there: why not he?

And thus we account for the presence of Manuel Cordova to-day at the head of the Methodist procession, leading one thousand children, perverts from the True Faith,—children of the descendants of the good old

Spanish Catholic Pioneers, who planted the Cross in this glorious Southwest land, and freely gave to the Church, Her first martyrs in the New World

# An American Lourdes

By Theo. A. Thome.

Why do Catholics of the United States flock to the Shrine of Lourdes in France, and to St. Anne de Beaupre, in Canada, and yet fail to recognize that Sacred spot near the City of Mexico, The Wondrous Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe? It was here that the Blessed Virgin appeared to the Indian, Juan Diego, and sent him, in the dead of winter, with his mantilla full of roses, and with Her picture miraculously executed by Her own hands, beautifully wrought on the robe itself, to the skeptical bishop who had doubted Her appearance.

To the average American Catholic.

To the average American Catholic, Our Lady of Guadalupe is somewhat of a "foreigner". He is, indeed devoted to Our Lady of Lourdes, but why neglect this sacred shrine on American soil, which is so close to the heart of our Mexican Catholic brother? If we made his shrine our own would we not come nearer to-understanding him, and would he not become more trustful of his "Gringo" Catholic brother?

If there were an annual pilgrimage from, say Chicago, to Mexico City each year to take part in the Novena of Grace preceding the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th,

would there not be a wonderful understanding spring up between the Catholics of the United States and Old Mexico, and would it not prove a great boon to the Catechists now laboring so zealously among our brown brothers in the Southwest?

Would not this, the Jubilee Year, be an auspicious time to inaugurate this annual pilgrimage, when many of those who will be unable to visit Rome may make this journey to the American Lourdes, and there plead that the faithful of these two nations may be united in one body for the honor and glory of God and the extension of His kingdom on earth?

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Your organ, THE MISSIONARY
CATECHIST, has struck a good note.
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cheery compactness. Your heavenly
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Affectionately, J. D.

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

S. Cyril Hettich Business Manager

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ALLFOR JESUS THROUGH MARY

Society of Missionary Catechists of Our Blessed Lady of Victory.

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Editor of "Our Sunday Visitor" in whose Victory Training Institute the Catechists receive their first period of Training, Instructor in Catechetics, Huntington, Indiana
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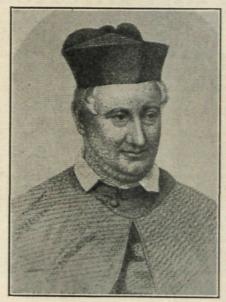
Organizer of Associate Catechists of Mary, Victory-Noll, Huntington, Indiana

# IN HIS STEPS

## A Popular Exposition of the Spiritual Life

"Have you heard, children," asked Sister Charitina at the opening of her class, "about the ordination of a Jewish convert to the Holy Priesthood out in Oregon last month?"

"O, yes, Sister," replied Rosemary,
"I read all about it in OUR SUNDAY
VISITOR and I thought it was really
wonderful. But isn't this unusual,



Father Frederick Faber, D. D.

Sister? One hears so seldom of the conversion of Jewish young men and of their ordination to the Holy Priesthood."

"Yes, it is rather unusual, Rose-mary. But I have read of some re-markable conversions among the Jews and some of these converts have done much for the glory of God as Priests. I remember reading some time ago 'The Spiritual Letters of the Vener-able Francis Mary Libermann.' He was the son of a Jewish Rabbi in Alsace, was converted to the true Faith, and later—as first Superior General of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost—became the chosen instrument in the Hands of God for the conversion of the poor, abandoned

negroes.
"And do you know, children, as I was reading these letters, the thought came to me: How difficult it would be for the ancient Jews—accustomed as they were to regard Almighty God as "The Lord of Hosts' and "The God of Vengeance"—to consider Him in the light of 'The God of Love', assuming human nature and becoming a sweet, tender little Babe for love of His

creatures.
"The Jews, you know, were gov-

erned under the Old Law. This was a prohibitive Law—a Law of servitude and of fear. It was the Law under which the Jews-always a 'stiffnecked' and rebellious people—were ruled with the iron hand of Justice and held in subjection by servile fear. And under the reign of this Law, Almighty God spoke to His people amidst flashes of lightning and rolling of thunder, punished their murmurings and rebellions by fire and sword and permitted them to be destroyed, or led away captives, by their pagan enemies. And so we may rightly judge that if some one told these chosen people of the Old Law that this same God—now so terrible in His threaten-ings and punishment—would in the God—now so terrible in His threatenings and punishment—would, in the course of time, reveal Himself as a God of love, promulgating a New Law of Love to take the place of the Old Law of Fear, these people would scarcely have believed it.

"Have you ever thought, my dear children, how highly privileged we are in being called to live under this New Law of Love which Our Dear Saviour

in being called to live under this New Law of Love which Our Dear Saviour brought from Heaven? He tells us that He came into the world "to give us life and life more abundantly". He came to teach us to live according to the New Law of Love which was to supplant the Old Law of Fear. He began by teaching the Beatitudes. These Beatitudes He set forth in the most wonderful sermon that was ever most wonderful sermon that was ever preached—the Sermon on the Mount. In this sermon He laid down for all time the principles of the New Law of the Life of Holiness demanded of His followers. Now the foundation of this New Law is Perfect Live in the content of the content in of the Life of Holmess demanded of His followers. Now the foundation of this New Law is Perfect Love. And this love is to be taken for the exact fulfillment of the whole Law of God. Just listen to His explanation of this New Law of Perfect Love of Charity: 'You will never be able to keep the Ten Commandments with a perfect spirit if your aim is to observe them one by one. You must strive after the principle underlying them all—and this principle is love.'

"Now I want you children to fix clearly in your minds the distinction between this New Law of Love and the Old Law of Fear. This New Law is a positive Law, not merely something negative. This Law, St. Paul tells us, if perfectly observed, 'casts out all fear.' In the Old Law there were maledictions rather than benedictions; prohibitions rather than directions. The New Law on the con-

dictions; prohibitions rather than directions. The New Law, on the contrary, does not merely forbid men to do what is wrong or sinful, but rather encourages them to live a higher and holier life. We are not merely shown what we must not do, but rather are taught what we must do in order to please Our Good God. Under the reign (Continued on page 6)

"The Rediscovered Country" an unusual treatise on the Southwest, handsomely bound, 32 pictures, only 25c postpaid.

# Wonders of This Continent

"The quaint curved lines of the architecture of these Ancient Missions half Moorish, half Indian-are the most remarkable on the Continent and there are none more picturesque in the world."

There are no structures in our Country that possess such interest as the old Franciscan Mission Churches on the Golden Shores of the Pacific. The quaint, curved lines of their ar-chitecture, half Moorish, half Indian, are the most remarkable on the Continent and there are none more picturesque in all the world. Whether they stand intact, partially restored, or in ruins, they have an alluring charm, a romantic history and an unfailing attraction that is distinctively their

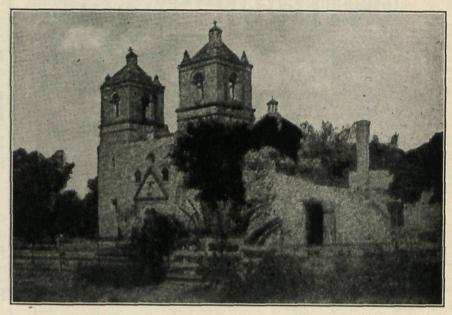
Books without number have been written on these ancient Mission Churches of California and the story of their noble inception, their successful establishment, and their rapid decline and final destruction, all combine to form an inspiring story that makes a powerful appeal to every truly Catholic heart. Little wonder then that the old Franciscan Missions in lower California have become the mecca of thousands and tens of thousands of

American tourists.

But the Missions of California are but of yesterday compared to the Missions of New Mexico, the latter hav-

sions of New Mexico, the latter having the greater advantage both in antiquity and in variety.

But there are Missions far to the South about which very little, if anything, is known, even by Catholic travelers and tourists. These are the Missions of San Antonio, Texas. Here we have great piles, Moorish-Spanish in style, built more than two centuries ago and standing today as mirturies ago and standing today as miracles of the genius and patience of the same saintly Franciscan Padres who built the historic magnificant



Missions in San Antonio-1. Immaculate Conception (First Mission) Built in 1713

Missions which stand enshrined just outside of the ancient Catholic City of San Antonio, Texas. The most famof San Antonio, Texas. The most famous of these is the Mission of San Jose. Its delightful ivory-carved Moorish tower rises shimmering in the clear blue Texas sky. The others—The Immaculate Conception, San Juan Capistrano and San Francisco de la Espade—are but slightly inferior in beauty. Within the walls of these Missions are stairways archways and Missions are stairways, archways and

domes, built of hand hewed logs-the

workmanship of men of genius.

It is pity that these real gems of Catholic architecture should be either unkown or unappreciated. Our Catholic architecture should be either unkown or unappreciated. olic people need not make trips abroad to see the wonders of the Old World. Let them but travel through our Catholic Southwest where today stand the most picturesque monuments of the past and they will see Missions unrivalled in any part of the world.

Supposing your baby were down with Diptheria and you had no money to get a doctor, or a nurse, would you not feel the need of A MISSIONARY CATECHIST

to nurse you child back to health? Supposing you were the Mother of a large family of children and you wanted your children to get Religious Instruction, but there were no Sisters or Parochial School within a hundred miles, would you not feel the need of A MISSIONARY CATECHIST

to teach your children their Catechism?

Supposing you were so poor that you had not enough to feed, clothe, and shelter your children, would you not feel the need of

A MISSIONARY CATECHIST to supply you with the necessary food and clothing for your dear ones?

Supposing you were a Missionary Priest in New Mexico and had charge of twenty missions as big as three

New England States combined, would you not feel the need of
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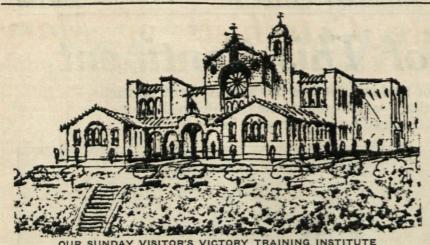
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## IN HIS STEPS

(Continued from page 4)

of this Blessed Law of Charity we are so free from the shackles of the Old Law, becoming heirs of Heaven and entitled to 'that freedom wherewith Christ has made us free.'

"Just let us take a few examples of the effects of this New Law of Love as against the effects of the Old Law of Fear. In the New Law Our Blessed Lord does not say: 'Cursed are the adulterers', but: 'Blessed are the pure of heart for they shall see God.' He does not say: 'Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor' as was said in the ancient Law, but: 'Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.' Finally the Old Law says: 'Thou shalt not steal'; the New Law says, 'Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.' So you see, children, under the terms of this New Law we are urged to do something positively good, not merely warned against doing that which is

wrong. Under the principle of this Blessed Law of the Gospel, the soul easily soars aloft to the Mountain of God—the Mount of Christian Perfection. We are now under the sweet influence of the Beatitudes of Our Lord, and love—not fear, is the governing spirit of our whole Christian Lord, and love—not fear, is the governing spirit of our whole Christian life. Here we are not so much concerned with sin, but are really concerned in striving to acquire Perfect Charity. The supreme motive in all that we do and think and say is God's good pleasure, His love and His glory. "How different is not this high standard of the Christian life from the low standard of those Christians who

low standard of those Christians who always experience a sense of fear, of temptation and sin, and of the consequences of sin; who are always going in upon themselves—troubled, worried, scrupulous about their failings, real or imaginary, about their present Spiritual condition and of the future state of their soul. They do not seem to record Our Dear Level as not seem to regard Our Dear Lord as a Merciful, Loving Saviour, but rather, like the Jews of old, do they look upon Him as a Severe Judge ready

to punish them for the least infraction

to punish them for the least infraction of His Law. All during life they are haunted by the sense of fear for their salvation. With them there is not the loving confidence of a child, but the servile fear of a slave. They are not really trying to live a Spiritual life, but are merely trying not to die a Spiritual death.

"Children, believe me when I say that I really pity such poor souls. I have often said, if they could only be made to understand that they should strive to do something really positive instead of always being so fearful of doing that which is evil. If these tortured souls would only learn to make more acts of love and fewer acts of contrition then I feel quite certain that contrition then I feel quite certain that they would understand what the great St. Augustine meant when he said: Love and then you may do what you please. Once freed from the restraint of the Old Law of Fear they would begin then to live a life of Perfect Charity—a life that would bring to the down down any initial love peace of to them deep spiritual joy, peace of soul, and supreme hapiness both here and hereafter."

# Associate Catechists of Mary

General Organizer for A. C. M. Huntington, April 2, 1925. Dear Associate Catechists:

I want to again thank those who were so kind to me in Chicago while I was working there. Then let me bow my introduction to those I haven't met. I have taken up this work at the suggestion of the Spiritual Director and will work under his supervision. Am ready and willing to help any Promoter in any manner I can. Last week one Chicago Promotor added seven new members to her Band, and with her aid I secured four pledges for the support of a Catechist No doubt after Lent, we can expect to find this page crowded with letters on the activities.

Sincerely in O. B. L. V., MRS. L. N. ROWE. -0-

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE FOUNDER OF "SISTERS OF SERVICE"-CANADA.

St. Patrick's Rectory Toronto, Ont., Canada

Dear Father Sigstein:

I have followed with increasing interest the Missionary endeavor of the Catechists of Our Blessed Lady of Victory among the Mexicans of Texas and New Mexico. Their work among the most abandoned souls of Christ's flock is undoubtedly most agreeable to God and useful to His Church in America.

The pressing needs of the home-mission field have awakened in the

The Lay Auxiliary and make their apostolic dreams come

ranks of the Church a keener sense of responsibility and a growing eagerness to face and undertake this stupendous and imperative task. We have not the sufficient number of Priests to grapple with the problem that immigration from Mexico has created for the Church in America. Were the Church to wait until a greater number of Priests were ready for the field, She would be courting failure, for we know that other prosely ure, for we know that other prosely-tizing agencies, backed with wealth and organization, are at work among our own. This danger of Protestant influence may not be felt by the Mex-icans of adult age. The Faith given to them by the Spanish Padres is still too deeply anchored in their heart. But their children—they are very much exposed to being lost to the Church of their Baptism if help is not forthcoming. not forthcoming.

It is the call of these most abandoned children of the South and of the West that the noble band of your Catechists has heard. Missionary They are yet few in numbers, but I am perfectly convinced that in the ranks of Catholic America there be treasures of unexplored zeal and devotedness. The call of the Master for harvesters will be picked up by many good, zealous, energetic Catholic girls who are just waiting for an occasion of this kind to give the best of their lives to Him Whom they love and wish the saves were and if young we and wish to serve. And, if young women are to be found who give their lives to God in the greatest of all causes, generous hearts, we are sure, will come to their help and assistance

The same needs have prompted a similar work in Canada. The "Sisters of Service" are doing in the North for the soul of the New-Canadian what your Catechists are doing in the South for the Mexicans. Having been associated with our Canadian Missionary endeavor since its inception, I am in a fair position to appreciate the value of your own contribution to the Church in America. Fully convinced of the necessity of this work on the firing line of the great battle that is being fought for the mastery of souls, I pray God and His Blessed Mother to give to your noble undertaking growth, strength and success.

Yours devotedly, REV. G. DALY, C. S. S. R.

-0-And This From Catholic Iowa: HOLY NAME RECTORY

H. F. Roney, Pastor West Union, Iowa.

March 27th, 1925

Dear Father:

Your circular appeal for the work of Victory-Noll was received and read with interest. I shall try to interest

my congregation in this work.

I think I heard you speak at the Rural Life Conference in Milwaukee last fall. I am greatly interested in this subject. It is a work not only in the Southwest country, but for many Railroad towns, like the one near me —Oelwein, Iowa. These towns should have workers to take care of the Mexicans. I have urged the pastors there to get some kind of settlement-house workers to settle in their country and to work among children. I have long contended in parishes like wine covering 450 square miles mine, covering 450 square miles, a pastor should have some religious lay-workers to assist him. In some 70 workers to assist him. In some 70 parishes in Dubuque Archdiocese we have no Sisters. These religious workers, combining settlement-house and social welfare work with religious life, are needed in these rural districts. Such workers would have to live just for the work and just get a living out of it, as we could not afford large salaries. They could teach chil-dren in the far-distant country, instruct converts, do social service work and bring back the ought-to-be's. There is a real need for such workers. If you have more literature on the work of the Catechists, please send it to me.

it to me.
Every best wish,
H. F. RONEY.

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Extract from the Diary of a Missionary Catechist

Had a nice class at Aurora. Mrs. Lopiz, store-keeper, told us we could take children into her home after this, since Church has no flue for stove.

Tuesday had to return to Aurora on sick call. We found the sick woman with two small children in miserable hovel. They were very poor so we made up a bundle of clothing for them. We also visited two more

homes of poor, distributing clothing.
We visited one poor home where
there were sick children. The Mother to show her gratitude presented us with a small china statue of the Sacred Heart. This is about the poorest family we know.

family we know.

Saturday we started teaching our girls to sing for Benediction. They are eager to learn and try very hard.

Next Saturday our class in "Flower-making" will be started. In this way we hope to cultivate in our "Children of Mary" a great love for beautifying the Altars of our Sacramental Lord and the Shrines of His Blessed Mother.

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Some Catholics are forever giving to the sweet cause of Charity, but are never getting any returns therefrom. They get no personal satisfaction from their gifts. Why? Simply because they fail to see Jesus Christ in the person of the poor, Whom they are called upon to assist. Let them but recall that, as Catholics, we are taught that purity of inten-tion and the desire of loving and serving God in the person of the poor, form the keynote of true Christian charity. He, Who is Truth itself, has assured us that "Inasmuch as you have done it to the least of these, My brethren, you have done it unto Me."

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