

THE PRECURSOR



Vol. IV., 5th Year

MONTREAL, MAY-JUNE 1927

No. 3

WORKS ALREADY EXISTING
of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

MOTHER-HOUSE

*314 ST. CATHERINE ROAD, OUTREMONT,
NEAR MONTREAL*

(Founded in 1902)

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Procure for the Missions. Work-room of Church Vestments, embroidery, lace and painting for the support of the Mother-House and Novitiate. School for the formation of Chinese catechists. Sewing-circles for ladies and young girls. Diffusion of a Missionary Review: THE PRECURSOR. Free missionary Library.

NOVITIATE

PONT VIAU, NEAR MONTREAL

HOLY CHILDHOOD HOME

P. O. BOX 93, CANTON, CHINA

(Founded in 1909)

School for catechists. Catechumenate. School for christian and pagan pupils. Orphanage. Foundling-Home. Work-rooms.

SHEK-LUNG LAZARETTO

SHEK-LUNG, NEAR CANTON, CHINA

(Founded in 1913)

CHINESE WORKS IN MONTREAL

74 LAGAUCHETIERE ST. WEST, MONTREAL

(Founded in 1913)

Sunday school and language courses for Chinese adults, every Sunday afternoon, from 2.30 to 4.00.

CHINESE SCHOOL

(Founded in 1916)

Teaching of English, French and Chinese.

CHINESE HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY

76 LAGAUCHETIERE STREET WEST, MONTREAL

(Founded in 1918)

The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception also visit Chinese patients in Catholic or Protestant Hospitals.

(To be continued on page 3 of the cover)

Please Help the Missionary Sisters

of the Immaculate Conception

By procuring work for them

THE Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception have a work-room in which are made church-vestments and altar-linens, the profits of which are destined to support their Mother-House and Novitiate.

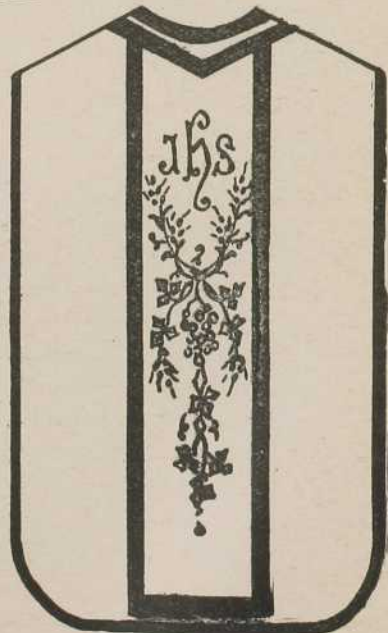
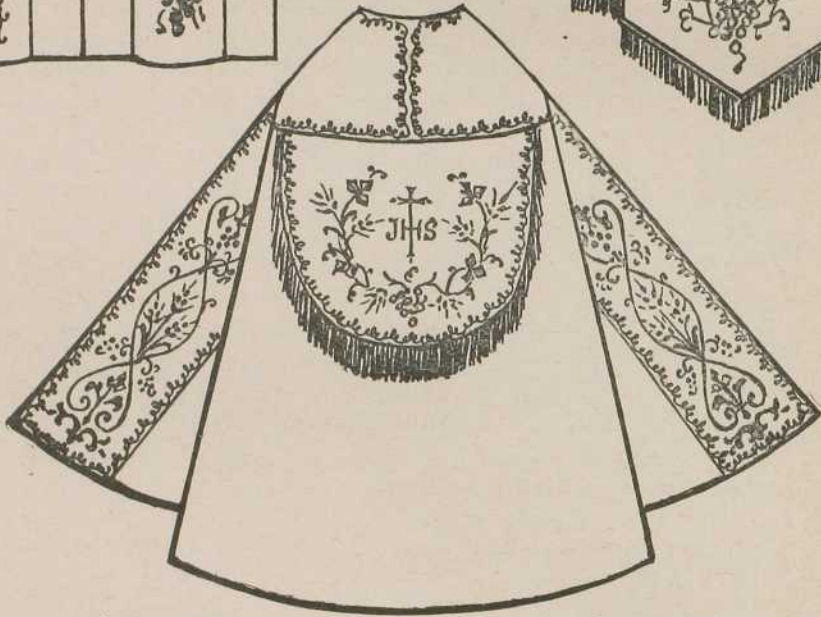
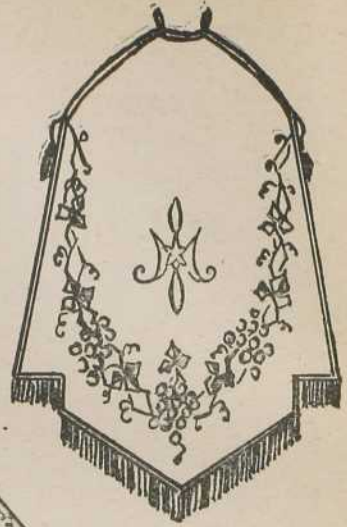
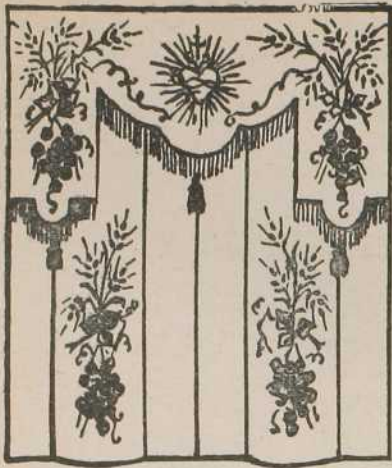
Missionaries must undergo several years' preparation before being able to commence their apostolic labors in foreign fields.

The articles mentioned on the following page may be procured, on reasonable terms, at the work-shop of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, 314 St. Catherine Road, Outremont, Montreal.

We paint, to order, spiritual bouquets, calendars with pictures of Our Lady, the Holy Family, the Little Flower, and mission scenes. First Communion and Confirmation badges, scapulars, *Agnus Dei*, cushions, etc.

Wax infants for Christmas cribs, are also made in all sizes.

Chinese embroideries and laces are offered for sale. They are made by our Chinese orphans. By encouraging these sales you co-operate in the salvation of many young pagan girls who, while earning their livelihood in Catholic work-shops, receive at the same time the light of Faith.

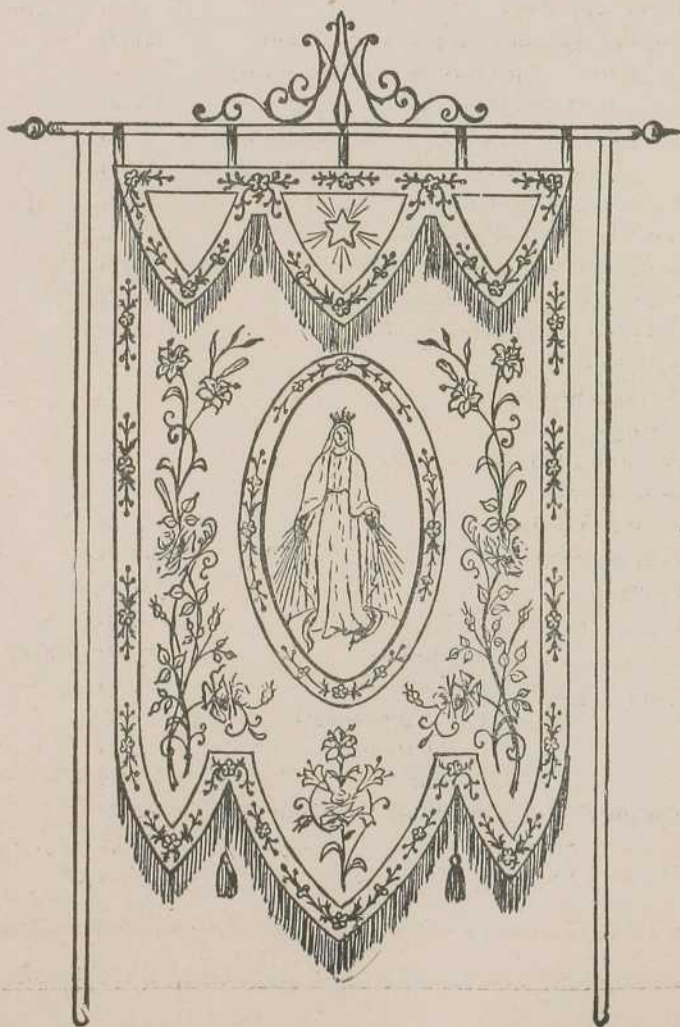
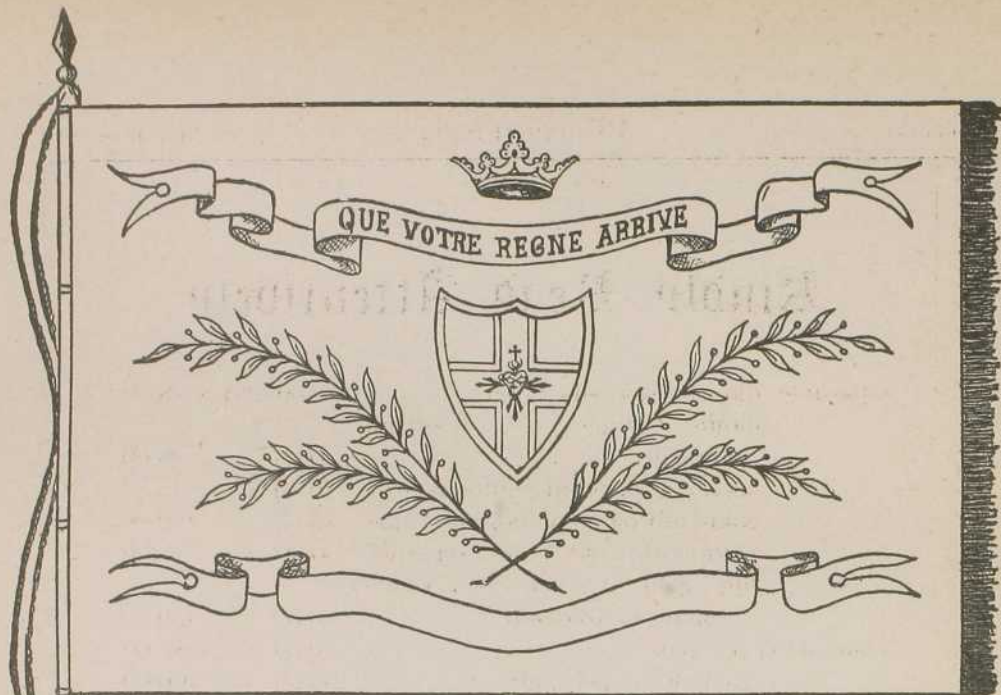


Kindly Read Attentively

Chasuble, damask silk, silk braid	\$ 18.00 and \$ 28.00				
“ moire - antique, with beautiful emblem	30.00	“	38.00		
“ velvet, gold braid and emblem	30.00	“	45.00		
“ gold-embroidered moire-antique	75.00	“	100.00		
“ gold-cloth, gold braid and emb.	50.00	“	75.00		
“ fine gold - cloth, very richly hand embroidered	90.00	“	150.00		
Dalmatics, per pair	50.00	“	80.00		
“ gold-cloth, per pair	100.00	“	150.00		
Benediction Veils	7.00	“	upwards		
Cope, damask silk, silk or gold braid	30.00	“	50.00		
“ gold - embroidered moire-antique, gold emblem	70.00	“	90.00		
“ gold-cloth, gold - embroidered by hand with a beautiful emblem.	90.00	“	150.00		
Albs, Antependiums	10.00	“	upwards		
Linen Surplices, Monstrance Veils	3.00	“	“		
Felt Altar-Covers, green or red	5.00	“	“		
Tabernacle Veils, Sick Call Burses	5.00	“	“		
Reversible Confession Stoles	5.00	“	“		
Ciborium Covers	4.00	“	“		
Preaching Stoles	10.00	“	“		
Cinctures	2.00	“	“		
Altar-bread Boxes	2.00	“	“		
Missal Marks	1.75	“	“		
Breviary Marks	1.00	“	“		
Canopies, Flags	30.00	“	“		
Banners	60.00	“	“		
<i>Altar Linen</i>	{	Altar Cloths	6.00	“	“
		Amices	12.00	per doz.	
		Corporals	8.50	“	“
		Finger-towels	4.50	“	“
		Purificators	5.00	“	“
		Palls	4.00	“	“

We supply Altar-breads at the following prices:

Small	\$1.00 per 1000
Large	0.37 “ 100



Practical Means

of helping the Missionary Sisters of the
Immaculate Conception

By contributing alms to:

The erection of the Novitiate Chapel dedicated to
Our Lady of the Missions.....
The erection of Chapels in mission countries.....

By providing for the:

Annual supply for the upkeep of the sanctuary lamp in our houses of Canada and in mission countries	\$ 20.00
Foundation of a Burse for the support of a missionary sister.....	1,000.00
Annual support of a maiden-catechist.....	50.00
Annual support and education of an orphan.....	40.00
Foundation of a crib—at perpetuity.....	200.00
Annual care of a leper.....	60.00
Monthly upkeep of a crib.....	5.00
Ransom of a baby, likely to live.....	5.00
Ransom of a dying baby.....	.25
Monthly support of a missionary sister.....	10.00
Monthly support of a novice preparing for the mis- sions.....	10.00
Annual subscription to THE PRECURSOR.....	1.00

The alms that you will give to the missionaries, the help that you will bring them, will be employed for the greater glory of God, and will be for you the most certain and remuneratory investment, the "hundredfold" promised by Jesus Christ.

* * *

The missionary must not be alone to sacrifice himself. All Christians must unite and help him in his work by their prayers and alms.

Benefactors of the Society

1.—**Founders**, those who donate \$1,000.00 or more.

2.—**Protectors**, those who, by the donation of \$500.00, provide the dowry and trousseau of a poor novice. By combining their alms, a parish, community or family may have right to this title.

A Founder's or Protector's Diploma is awarded to persons making the above mentioned donations.

3.—**Subscribers**, those who give an annual offering of \$25.00.

4.—**Associates**, those who give the sum of \$2.00 per year.

The Society also considers as Benefactors, all persons who contribute to the maintenance of its works any offering whatever, in money or kind.

Privileges Accorded to Benefactors

While commending their Benefactors to God, that He Himself may reward them according to their generosity, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception assure them as large a share as possible in the merit of their apostolic labors, as also in the prayers and sufferings of all the unfortunates confided to their care.

Besides, Benefactors are entitled to the following spiritual advantages :

1.—A special intention in all the Masses heard and Communions received by the Sisters.

2.—A Mass offered every month for their intentions.

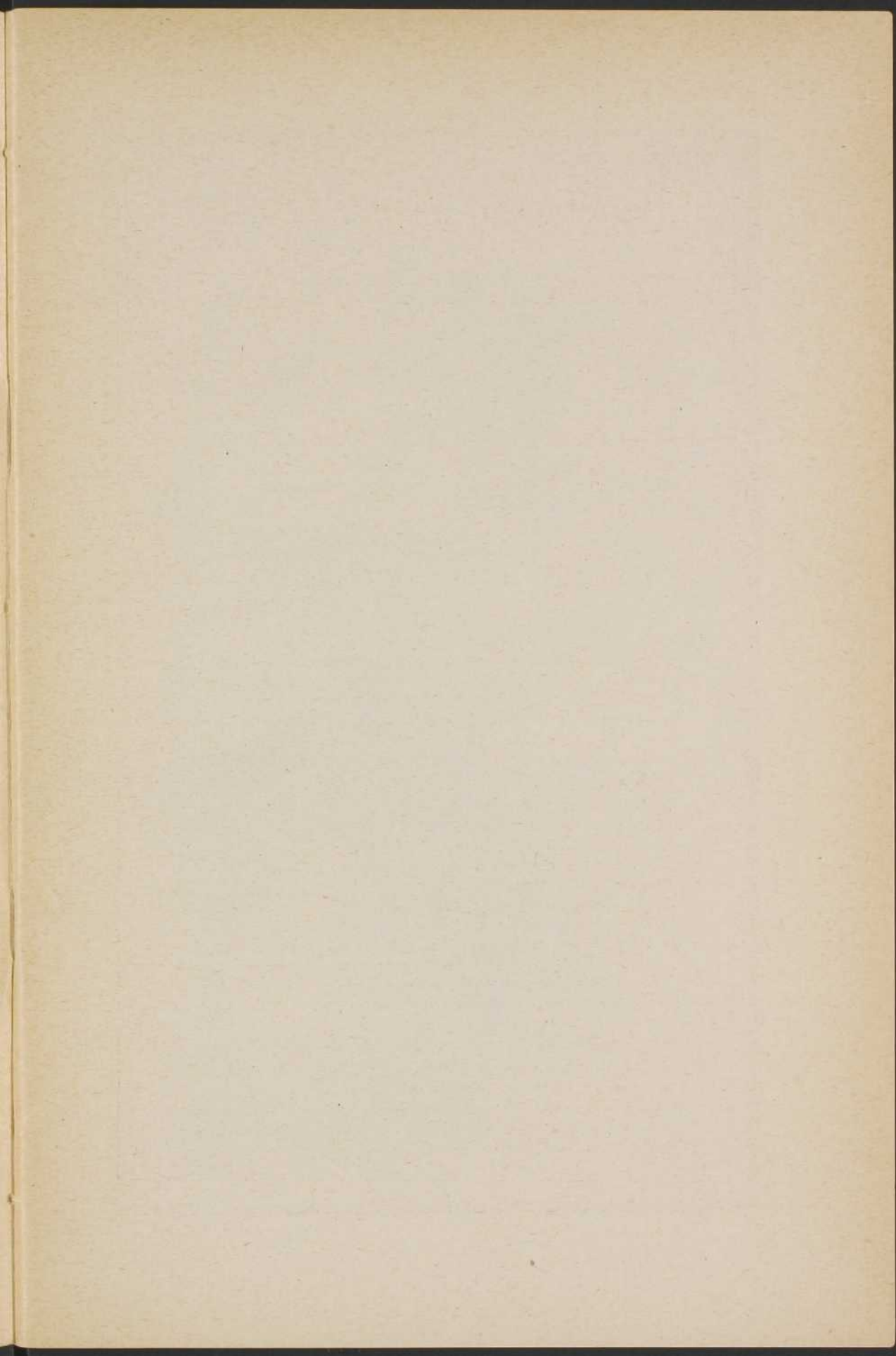
3.—Every Friday in the year, the Sisters offer, for their Benefactors' intentions, their hours of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the chapel of the Mother-House. (The names of Founders and Protectors are deposited on the Altar of Exposition).

4.—For the same intentions, the members of the Community make, every day, the Guard of Honor to Mary, which consists in the continual recitation of the Rosary before the altar of the Blessed Virgin. The evening hours of Canada corresponding with the morning hours of China, as the Guard is closing here, it commences at the Lazaretto of Shek-Lung, where the poor lepers, in succeeding groups of fifteen, continue the Perpetual Rosary for the intentions of the Society's Benefactors.

5.—A Requiem High Mass is sung every year for deceased Benefactors.

6.—A share in the merits of the Way of the Cross, made daily by the Sisters, is also accorded to deceased Benefactors.

7.—In the Novitiate Chapel of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, two Masses are celebrated every week for all Subscribers to "The Precursor" and for all living and deceased Benefactors.





"O IMMACULATE MOTHER, PROTECT OUR BENEFACTORS!"

THE PRECURSOR

Published by the

Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

with the approbation of the Archbishop of Montreal

VOL. IV. 5th Year

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Our Silver Jubilee

THE third day of June of this year marks for our Institute its 25th anniversary of existence. It was in 1902, on this date, that under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, our most venerated Foundress, Mother Marie du St. Esprit, and her first companion, Mother Marie de St. Gustave, laid the base of our religious and missionary Community, with the high approbation of His Grace Archbishop Paul Bruchesi of Montreal and under the paternal direction of Reverend Gustave Bourassa, P. P., of St. Louis de France.

This Silver Jubilee is for us a halt between past and future; it is a retrospective regard cast on our career to recall the days that have gone by.

The past? how enriched with graces from the Author of all good!... Twenty-five years swiftly fleet away perhaps; but twenty-five years abounding with celestial benefits are a long chain... chain of silver that has interwoven itself with the thread of our existence to embellish it and give it its full worth.

Among the many favors which God has deigned to bestow upon us, we cannot fail to mention that which He granted, by the voice of His Vicar here below, His Holiness Pope Pius X. of holy memory, in placing our nascent Institute under the spotless Virgin's tutelage, by the beautiful appellation which he gave it of "Society of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception". It was in 1904, at the occasion of the jubiliary feast of proclamation of this dogma which recognizes Mary conceived without sin. The all-pure and kind Virgin has always proved herself to be a tender Patroness and loving Mother: her bounty has obtained for us so many favours that our filial hearts, though deeply grateful, are powerless to adequately voice their thanks.





In an uninterrupted series of choice favours, our young Institute has pursued its course under the maternal regard of Mary who watched over its destinies, and with the benevolent encouragement of our venerated Prelates whose true apostolic zeal has fostered an ever-increasing and consoling expansion of our work. Lively sympathy and the most touching interest on the part of the Reverend secular and regular Clergy as also of Religious Communities, are for us a very potent motive of profound gratitude. Also, at every hour of its existence, God has deigned to choose for our humble religious family, to help it in its necessities and to enable it to pursue its numerous works of apostolate, devoted friends, generous benefactors, thirsting but for His glory and the salvation of souls.

In these latter years, again at the epoch of a Jubilee and in the course of the year which witnessed the Vatican Missionary Exhibition (1925), our Immaculate Queen and Patroness crowned her multiple gifts through the august medium of His Holiness Pope Pius XI., supreme Pastor now reigning, in granting our humble Institute the priceless privilege of a first Pontifical Approbation, and in placing it under the protection of His Eminence Cardinal Van Rossum, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda.

O God, O Mary, how indebted we are to you!!

Five lustres comprise our entire history. But these five lustres appear to us fecund and luminous, and on the date which will complete them, we shall sing with our whole soul the Magnificat, our prayer of jubilation.

On this solemnity par excellence of joy and gratitude, we permit ourselves to solicit from our venerated Pastors, as a pledge of the most precious of heavenly graces for our very humble Institute, the favor of a special blessing.

We instantly beg our charitable benefactors and friends to unite with us on that day to render thanks to God, so magnificent in His liberalities towards us, and also to the Immaculate Virgin who has been the delicate and generous dispenser of divine benefits.





The Month of Mary

IT is in the season of flowers that is placed the month dedicated to our Heavenly Mother. The choice could not have been better since homages of veneration and love are offered to the creature, the most beautiful, the most gracious, the most perfect of all God's works.

The origin of the month of Mary dates from the end of the eighteenth century. This devotion sprang in Italy in a group of pious persons, afflicted by disorders which became more numerous and more serious with the coming of the spring season. These persons, inspired to obtain pardon and to impede the course of evil, turned towards the Virgin of virgins and, by special practices in her honor during the month of May, tried to counterbalance the numberless crimes of the earth. This pious and salutary devotion spread rapidly in all places, and there is not to-day a village which does not hold it an honor to raise to Mary an altar where, each day of the month of May, homages will be offered her by her faithful children. It is so consoling to render to one's mother the duties of filial love and respect! And when this mother is Mary, what confidence, what love and what abandonment should we not experience?

The month of Mary which means: the month which belongs to Mary, the month of her audiences and of her favours, should be very dear to us. It is during this month that we should revive our fervour and our tenderness in regard to the all-powerful and all-bountiful Sovereign of Heaven; it is during her blessed month that we may expect still more from this Queen who holds the key of the divine treasures.

The Religious Question in China



What are the motives of the Chinese people's hatred for Christianity?

There are five causes, three of which are more important:—

The first is that Catholicism is accused of being a *foreign religion*; but this objection, of a political order, holds no more credit to-day when everybody knows that Jesus was an Asiatic.

The second pretends to base itself on *foreign nations' injustice*: war against opium, occupation of Kiaotchow, Wei-Hai-Wei, Port Arthur, etc. This objection, equally political, does not justify the rejection of Christianity.

Let us now see the three chief motives:—

The third, the strongest, consists in the *devilish pride of the literati*, real Pharisees, eager of exterior show, who will never consent to own up that China has, for thousands of years, made a mistake in following false religions.

The fourth is the abject *materialism* of this nation that wishes to satiate itself with the pleasures of the present life.

The fifth is *ancestors' worship*, dear to the people, and *worship of Confucius*, dear to the literati.

The learned all desire to hasten the crushing of Christianity which opposes this triple dream and is hated the more as it presents itself divided into Catholicism and Protestantism.

To be convinced of this, one has only to read the reports of the different Conferences held during these last years, where a war scheme has been prepared the *First Act* of which will be the elimination of all foreign missionaries, through pressure exercised over the Government. The *Second Act* will be to submit by force to the Chinese legislation the ministers of the Church, that is to say, the native clergy and, at the least slip on their part, to crush and imprison them, to decapitate them with their flocks, and to spoliage the goods of their church. The *Third Act* will be the confiscation of ecclesiastical property and inaptitude of acquiring any; the forced acknowledgment, on the part of the Christians, of ancestors' worship and of rites in honor of Confucius.

It has been foreseen that missionaries of fifteen different nations could not be expelled: so, without losing any time, extra-territoriality has been claimed, in order to annihilate the missionaries' influence, and the Chinese Governments have refused to draw the diplomatic body into this trap.

Thank God! up until now, the ministers have ratified nothing; but the question is studied, and this shows the very great influence of Bolshevism in the governmental and diplomatic spheres.

Up until now, we have seen in the Republic but a devastating torrent everywhere; and the attempt at progress in public education has but hastened the discomposition of institutions. The Bolshevick insolence will never be able to ruin the Christian religion so long as it will be upheld by the chiefs of at least ten foreign nations, because of the serious complications that would ensue.

Of course, China of to-day does not fear any nation taken separately, save Japan perhaps. But it fears the power of an alliance, such as that of 1900, against the Boxers, and it trembles at the thought of the erection of European United States, which would maintain in their mighty hands the hegemony of the world. It desires, and will do its utmost to obtain it, the constitution of a purely Chinese Church, submitted, first to hierarchical chiefs, then independent till the day when schism being accomplished, the civil power will proclaim itself lay pope, like the czars of Russia.

The Chinese Clergy must not fall headlong into this snare; we know that the Protestant Chinese Churches have already and since long claimed and obtained their independence; this explains why they so easily drop into Bolshevism and freemasonry. The Catholic Church counts but 2,000,000 faithful: it is a quotient on 400,000,000 inhabitants!

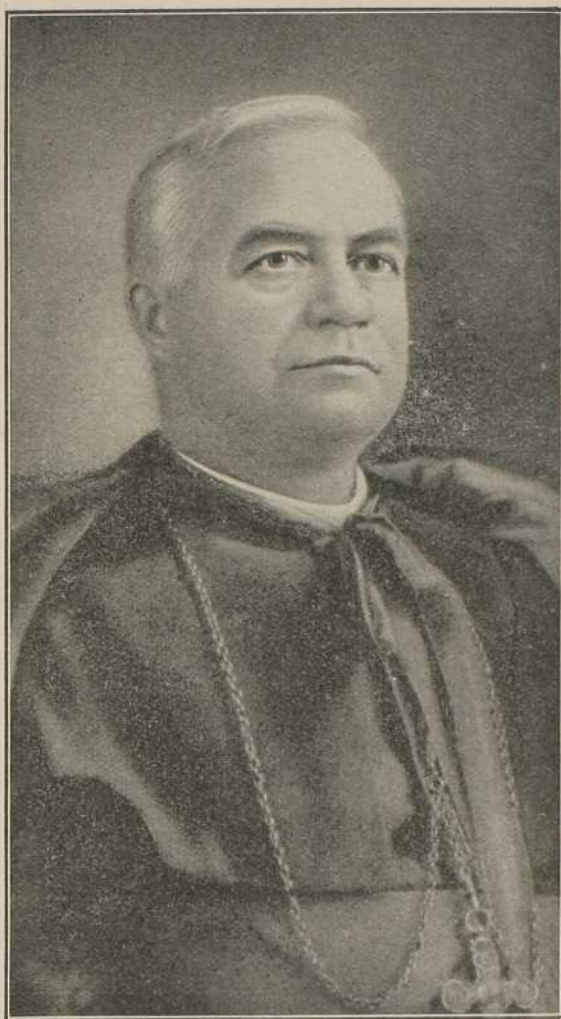
Consequently, the Church could not oppose any efficacious resistance against persecutors which the hatred of the Name of God would bring up when foreign nations would no longer bar the way.

In order to suffer the less and pursue, despite present difficulties, its onward march, the Church must:—

- 1° Multiply foreign missionaries of every nation;
- 2° Maintain in China as many foreign Vicars and Prefects Apostolic as possible;
- 3° Take diplomatic steps for the maintenance of a firm regime of extra-territoriality and of existing treaties;
- 4° Efficaciously work for the official acknowledgment of Christianity and its hierarchy in China, by diplomatic agreement with the Chinese Government, when a permanent Government will have been established;
- 5° Demand freedom of education and the right, for schools directed by missionaries, to award diplomas;
- 6° Establish High Schools in each Province;
- 7° Be more and more inflexible against the worship of ancestors and of Confucius; we know that in certain places there is a tendency, among the native Protestant clergy, under pretext of the more easily converting the literati, to consider these worships as purely civil;
- 8° Foster religious literature: newspapers for the learned, apologetic pamphlets in simple style for the people.

This summary of a work published in China shows how the religious question is interpreted in certain parts. Complicated by Russian bolshevism, Japanese Imperialism, European and American diplomacies, the religious problem is quite arduous to solve!

Again might we truthfully say: "The future is in God's hands"!



His Grace Joseph Medard Emar

ARCHBISHOP OF OTTAWA

WHO WENT TO HIS REWARD MARCH 28, 1927, AT THE AGE OF SEVENTY-FOUR YEARS

Archbishop Emar was born at St. Constant, Que., March 31, 1853. He was ordained in Montreal June 10, 1876. Elected first bishop of Valleyfield April 5, 1892, he was consecrated the 9th day of June of the same year by Archbishop Fabre of Montreal. After a laborious and fruitful episcopate of thirty years at Valleyfield, the Sovereign Pontiff promoted him to the archiepiscopal see of Ottawa June 2, 1922; he received the pallium on the 11th of April of the following year.

The benevolence which His Grace the late Archbishop of Ottawa has deigned to show our Institute permits us, do we think, to unite our humble condolences with those of his diocesans and of the entire Church of Canada.

Devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes in the Missions

— CH —

Cure of Rev. Father Araya, a priest of Hakodate Diocese, Japan



REV. FATHER ARAYA relates himself the story of his miraculous cure.

“It was, I believe, in the twelfth year of the Meiji era (1879). At the beginning of the Fall, I suddenly felt in my left shoulder a pain that constantly increased. Ten days had scarcely elapsed when an abscess broke out; the least motion of the arm became particularly painful. My parents grew very uneasy and sought a medical examination; but the medicine did not do any good. As the abscess continually enlarged, I was forced to leave school and I went to the best hospital of the city; but all in vain: a month after the apparition of this abscess, another formed itself a little above the first. The head doctor and his colleagues of the hospital held a consultation and declared it opportune to open the two abscesses. The incision they made in the decayed flesh on that occasion

started from the omoplate and the humerus to end at the left side.

“Not the least improvement took place during the subsequent three or four months. In the meantime, I know not by what fortunate means, my eldest brother was converted to Catholicity and brought home some religious books. My father read them and decided to follow my brother’s example. Both would sit near my bed and talk on religious topics. I listened attentively and equally prepared for Baptism. When Reverend

Father Marin came to Hirosaki, leaning upon my father's arm, I went to the Mission where I was baptized.

"When Father Marin saw the state I was in, he minutely inquired about my illness and by my father's answers, I was astonished to learn — it had been hidden from me — that the doctor's opinion was that my disease could not possibly be cured. Father Marin then related to us the apparition of Our Lady at Lourdes and strongly urged us to beg this kind Mother to cure me. I was cheered by these words: 'Since the doctors cannot help me', did I say to myself, 'I shall pray to the Blessed Virgin to recover my health.'

"As soon as I returned home, I began praying for that intention. Several times a day would I recite the Rosary and invoke with all my heart our dear heavenly Mother. These prayers were unknown to my parents, for I did not wish them to know how uneasy I felt concerning my health. I could see that my brother also prayed fervently, but he, neither, spoke to anyone about it. Still, despite our earnest supplications, my case did not improve: on the contrary, it grew worse. My parents then decided to call another doctor. He often came to see me and each time he very carefully washed the wound and ordered different internal medicaments; all was in vain, the hoped-for improvement did not take place. The wound had gradually spread; the spot between the omoplate and the chest soon became a mass of decayed flesh and was horrible to behold. At each dressing, everybody went out of the room, save my mother who assisted the doctor and seemed, besides, to be the only one capable of supporting the sight of the sore. The lungs and the heart itself must have also been affected, for the pulsations were violent and the breathing difficult. In a word, the situation was such that people who came to see me would go away disheartened.

"We were then, if I remember rightly, about the first day of the lunar year. I had been four or five days without receiving the doctor's visit. One fine morning, he came back, examined me more attentively than usual and, calling my parents aside, conversed with them for a long time. This detail, added to an increase of care and attention on the part of my own, made me conjecture that I was growing worse; but as my parents did not say a word about it, I did not worry too much. However, I remarked on the following day that while my mother was sitting alone by my side, she frequently and stealthily looked at me with pity and compassion. She seemed to wish to speak, but something kept her back. In her tear-filled eyes I clearly read that my life was endangered, and from this instant, I became sad. In fact, as I learned it later, danger was then greater than I imagined it, and on each occasion when I met the doctor afterwards, he would tell me that I had had a very narrow escape.

"After due reflection, I addressed myself to the Blessed Virgin in a fervent prayer, and promised her to consecrate my life and energy to God if I recovered. No remarkable change occurred during that day. In the evening, my mother helped me to retire to the neighbouring room (my

intense sufferings hindering me from remaining in a reclining position, my bed was drawn near the fireplace during the day and a stand allowed me to sit up without too much fatigue); but my mind being taken up, I was unable to sleep; I recited one Rosary after the other. I finally fell asleep.

"I awoke the next morning at the time when my parents rose. But, strange to say, when I opened my eyes, I distinctly heard a voice which said in my ear, 'You will certainly be cured.' Greatly astonished and wondering at what this could be, I looked in the direction whence the voice came and I beheld an unknown woman carrying a child in her arms. At the moment when, trying to see better, I turned directly towards the apparition, it disappeared. 'I am not dreaming, for my eyes are wide open', do I say to myself. 'Would this, then, not be one of the pictures of the screen that surround my bed?...' I examine them one by one. None resemble that which I have just seen... It is certainly the Blessed Virgin.

"At this point, I called my mother that she may help me to rise, but I cannot account for what motive I did not relate to her what had just occurred. I very often came near telling at least my father but as it was a secret that had to be kept, I could not make up my mind to reveal it.

"From that morning without any cause whatsoever, my strength was restored, the illness gradually disappeared and about one month after this event, I was capable of walking a distance from 5 to 6 cho (about 660 yards). The improvement making its course, I soon regained all my vigor which I have not lost since.

"When I was well enough to walk without difficulty, I asked my father one Sunday to allow me to accompany him to the church and he readily consented. I remember that we went to a house different from that in which Father Marin dwelled when I had seen him for the first time, at the occasion of my Baptism. As my principal intention was to thank the Blessed Virgin, as soon as I reached the mission-house, I hastened to the room which served as chapel and knelt near the altar. How great was my surprise! Above the altar stood a picture that represented the lady who had told me: 'You will certainly be cured.' In fact I then had the impression of seeing her for the second time. Without further thought, I immediately went to see the catechist and told him every detail of what had happened until then. My father who was also present did not seem to attach much importance to what I said; but when I had stepped aside, he spoke at length with the catechist on this unexpected cure, and both declared it could not be explained otherwise than by a miracle. It was certainly so, for from the day on which I had seen the Blessed Virgin all pain had disappeared; when the doctor washed the wound and noticed that I did not feel any pain whatever, he could not repress his astonishment.

"The picture that stood above the altar was an oil-painting. Reverend Father Faurie later gave it to my parents. It still occupies a place of honour in our drawing-room, and it is before this hallowed picture that each day the family assembles for prayer.

"I am convinced that the day on which I saw the Blessed Virgin was

the 11th of February. I have no certain proofs of this, but here are two reasons that incline me to think so.

"Firstly, it was at the outset of the first month of the lunar year that my illness was at its climax. And the lunar year usually begins about the 11th of February. Secondly, what was the consequence of my cure, I mean the determination I then made, in case I recovered, of consecrating myself to God was begun and completed on this same date. Noting this striking coincidence and, on the other hand, the relation between the solar and lunar calendars, I am inclined to think that, by a singular mark of our Blessed Mother's kindness, this memorable date was the 11th of February, when the Church celebrates the feast of the apparition of Our Lady at Lourdes.

"These details are perhaps useless, but I am pleased to insert them here: the day on which I left my home to consecrate myself to God and that on which I was ordained happened to be the 11th of February.

"In fact, as I had terminated my clerical course in medicine in the month of December of the year of Meiji (1884), my parents sought in divers places where I could practise my profession; my friends themselves helped to secure a position for me in a hospital. By the end of January, the question was almost settled and I had only to give my consent. But I felt it particularly painful to resort to such extremes. I did not dare make known my desire to my parents; moreover, as Father Faurie was at that time in Hirosaki, I could not ask him to make for me this declaration which cost me so much. I did not know what to do. I really could not tell how many rosaries I recited every day during that week begging the Blessed Virgin to enlighten and direct me in the right way. I finally imagined an expedient which greatly helped me.

"I wrote to Father Faurie who, fortunately, was then at Aomori, to take me with him as catechist and teach me the French language. In that manner, I baffled my parents' plan without divulging mine and found an excellent means of following my vocation. In my impatience, I counted the days which remained until I would receive an answer from Father Faurie. This answer came in the evening of February 10: my proposition was accepted.

"I immediately declared to my father that, deeming myself too young to practise medicine, I would be glad to spend two or three years with Father Faure in order to learn the European languages. My father readily agreed and on the next day, February 11, I left my home with the intent determination of not returning to the world. I had not, then, remarked what feast is celebrated on the 11th of February, but later on, on consulting the calendar, I found out that the 11th of February is the anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes and I was struck by this coincidence.

"One word now on the date of my ordination. When I was still at Nagasaki Seminary, the Prelate of Hakodate, my venerable bishop, fixed the date of my ordination for the Sunday on which was solemnized the feast of the twenty-six Japanese martyrs, thirty-third year of Meiji (1900). Strange to say, this day also happened to be the 11th of February.

"These different events might not mean anything to many; but as for me, I can not help believe that it was on that day, the 11th of February, that I had the vision of the Blessed Virgin. When I recall the past, I clearly see that if I am still alive and a priest, it is to the Mother of God that I owe it. But when I consider my unworthiness, I can scarcely believe that I have been so privileged by our Blessed Mother; still before evidence, I am forced to own it, and I wish to proclaim with the greatest sincerity all that has taken place.

"Before closing, I address to Mary, my beloved Mother, a most fervent prayer for Father Marin who recommended the devotion to Mary to me, for Father Faurie who, on the 11th of February, gave me the means of following my vocation; lastly and above all, for His Lordship Bishop Berlioz who, on this same date of February 11th, vouchsafed, despite my unworthiness, to confer on me the priesthood, this my long-cherished aspiration.

"In writing these words very often have I been forced, — my heart being too heavily oppressed and my eyes bathed in tears, — to lay down my pen. It took me five days to terminate this narration. I have had to offer violence to myself in order to relate these events and emotion does not allow me to say anything more..."

"Thomas Araya YUZABURO"

Attestation of Araya Heitaro, father of Yusaburo

"My third son Yuzaburo, who has just entered into his forty-fourth year, was fourteen or fifteen years of age when, towards the Fall, he developed on the left shoulder an abscess that I had treated at the hospital. But the disease grew worse and soon left no hopes of a cure; so Yuzaburo was given up by the physicians.

"It was, do I believe, a short time before the Kan (the Kan is the epoch of intense cold, lasting about one month: from the 5th or 6th of January to the 4th or 5th of February) at the time when snow does not freeze nor pile up; I addressed myself to a doctor called Tanno. Full well understanding that were he to radically cure by himself a patient given up by the hospital doctors, he would get into repute, Tanno bestowed upon the sick boy the most assiduous care, but with no apparent result. Towards the end of the Kan, the illness was such that it sufficed to slightly lift the arm to see the pus flow in abundance out of the wound. A fatal issue was dreaded from day to day.

"As soon as the Kan was over, if I remember rightly, one fine morning Yuzaburo said to me, "I have dreamed early this morning that the Blessed Virgin took me in her arms; I am now certain of being cured." In fact, from that very day, the patient gradually recuperated.

"As for me who shall soon be eighty-seven years of age, I admit that I have forgotten the details concerning this fact; however, recalling the

few particulars which my memory has kept, I have, in all sincerity, written the above declaration.

“Forty-first year of the Meiji era (February 1, 1908).

“Araya Heitaro”

The above witness, having his eyesight impaired by old age, and being unable to write himself, his grandson, Araya Kiraizo, has written from dictation.

Attestation of Araya Heirachi, brother of Yuzaburo

“During the Fall of the twelfth year of the Meiji era (1879), my younger brother Yuzaburo had an abscess on his left shoulder. The illness growing worse from day to day, towards the eighth month of that year (lunar calendar) the patient was examined at the hospital of Hirosaki, situated at Monotonaga machi and was tendered to by Narita Ryosai, doctor of the said hospital. Three months thus went by, and towards the eleventh month of that same year, the doctor did not come as frequently and he finally ceased visiting a patient whom he felt powerless to cure. Sometime afterwards, at the second lunar month, Yuzaburo was given the care of a certain Tanno, physician at Hirosaki, Kamenoko machi, who treated him in a most devoted manner.

“It was then, at the beginning of the first month of the following year (lunar calendar) that one fine morning towards 10 o'clock, Heitaro, my father, said to me, “I believe that Yuzaburo will soon be cured. He has told me that he has heard a voice from heaven saying to him, 'I shall cure you.' At that moment, Yuzaburo who was lying near seemed to make a sign to my father who then remained silent. As for me, I did not seek to learn more; but, encouraged by the thought that my brother would soon be cured, I awaited patiently. Yuzaburo's illness, of a very serious character, did not give much hope of a cure. Still from the day when he declared having heard that voice, the illness diminished to entirely disappear in a manner as complete as it was extraordinary.

“Forty-first year of the Meiji era (February 1, 1908)

“Araya Heirachi.”

Apostolic Vicar of Suez Canal Region.

His Lordship Bishop Columban Dreyer, Vicar Apostolic of Rabat (French Morocco,) has been transferred to the Apostolic Vicariate lately created by Propaganda, for the region of Suez Canal, Egypt, and whose titular was to be a French Franciscan.

Bishop Columban Dreyer will be replaced in Rabat by another French Friar Minor who has not yet been designated.

A Few Roses Scattered

By the Little Sister of Missionaries...

"When I shall be in Heaven, Jesus, Thou wilt fill my hands with roses and I shall shower them upon earth."

St. Teresa of the Child Jesus.



I wish to return thanks to the dear Little Flower of Jesus for a favor she has obtained from Almighty God in my behalf. A Friend, **Naugatuck, Conn.** — Enclosed please find Two Dollars towards St. Teresa's Burse, in thanksgiving for favors received. C. G., **Worcester, Mass.** — How thankful I feel towards St. Teresa of the Child Jesus and Our Immaculate Mother! The Queen of Heaven and the sweet little Carmelite have already favored me often and I trust in their powerful intercession; the enclosed is to thank them for their kindnesses. Mrs. M. T. R., **Toronto.** — Having received a further favor through the intercession of the Little Flower, I enclose herewith, in thanksgiving, Five Dollars to be used in your good works. Mrs. H. MacD., **East Orange, New Jersey.** — I am sending a Money Order for Five Dollars for your missionaries in honor of the Little Flower for a favor she has granted me. Mrs. J. J. C., **Holyoke, Mass.** — My deepest thanks to St. Therese of the Child Jesus for the many graces received from her, especially during my husband's illness. Mrs. E. G., **Holyoke, Mass.** — Mrs. T. W., **Montreal,** wishes to thank St. Therese, the Little Flower of Jesus, for a favor received through her medium. — How shall I express my gratitude for the beautiful rose St. Therese has scattered upon me! Please accept the enclosed offering of Two Dollars in her honor. Mrs. A. B., **Millbury, Mass.** — I am sending you Eleven Dollars as so many petals of gratefulness towards the Little Flower of Jesus. May she be forever praised! M. K., **Ansonia, Conn.** — Please publish my thankfulness to St. Teresa for a favor she has just obtained for me. A Friend, **Toronto.** — Sometime ago I asked your prayers that my son bring up his marks in Latin and I promised a Dollar towards the Little Flower's Shrine. My prayers were answered. I am so thankful that I am sending Two Dollars. I ask a continuation of your prayers for the same intention. M. A. M., **Fitchburg, Mass.** — The dear Little Sister of Missionaries has proved herself a real friend to me, so I am sending to her sisters, the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception, three petals (Three Dollars) to be used for their mission works so badly affected by the Chinese war. Mrs. J. B. N., **Taunton, Mass.** — How shall I ever adequately express my grateful sentiments towards the dear little Carmelite of Lisieux! She has protected our entire family on the occasion of a trying ordeal. Mrs. L. W. T., **Fitchburg, Mass.** — Deep gratitude towards powerful St. Therese who has showered benefits upon me during the last month; to prove my gratitude, I shall become an apostle to make the missions more known and loved. Mrs. J. A. D., **Montreal.** — After promising to publish it, I have obtained a favor from St. Therese of the Child Jesus. The enclosed Two Dollars is for your missions in China. I beg the powerful little Saint to scatter on my pathway numerous rose petals. Anonymous. — I forward you Two Dollars to express my gratitude towards the Little Flower for the favors she has obtained from the Child Jesus, for the welfare of my son and my own. Mrs. A. J. S., **Fall River, Mass.** — Enclosed you will find Two Dollars as a thank offering to the Little Flower for favors received. Mrs. C. M. C., **New Britain, Conn.** — May the dear Little Sister of Missionaries be thanked a thousand times for her protection! Two Dollars for your missions. Mrs. J. P. L., **Holyoke, Mass.** Here is my monthly offering for your missions in honor of the Little Flower who continues to help me. The doctor has declared that the throat trouble I suffered from during the past year has completely disappeared. Mrs. J. A. L., **Fitchburg, Mass.** — I am fulfilling my promise by sending One Dollar in thanksgiving to St. Therese of the Child Jesus for your missions. Thanks to the Little Flower, I am well again. Miss M. C., **Verdun.** — A sub-

scriber is grateful towards St. Therese for favors received. Mrs. M. W., **Mansfield, Mass.** — I enclose cheque for \$2.00, One Dollar of which is to cover our renewal subscription to "The Precursor" and the other dollar is a small offering towards the Little Flower Burse. T. M. F., **Montreal.** — My heartiest thanks to the Little Flower who has brought a wayward girl back to her home. Mrs. M. H., **Fitchburg, Mass.** — I am sending Five Dollars for a High Mass in honor of St. Therese of the Child Jesus who obtained my daughter's cure. Mrs. C. G., **Indian Orchard, Mass.** — Kindly have lights burned at the Shrine of the Little Flower in grateful thankfulness for a position obtained for my son. Mrs. N. T., **Montreal.** — I have never up until now prayed to the Little Flower in vain. The enclosed offering is to thank her for her bounties. Miss M. D., **Montreal.** — Permit me to enclose my "mite", Two Dollars, in honor of St. Teresa for requests granted and success in business undertakings. Mrs. H. L., **Lachute, Que.** — The Little Sister of Missionaries has deigned shower rose petals upon me by obtaining great relief during my recent illness. You would oblige me by publishing this favor. I promise Five Dollars for the ransom of a Chinese baby if another request be granted. Mrs. J. B. — I enclose Eighteen Dollars, stipends for three Masses and the balance for votive lights in honor of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus. Mrs. J. N. M., **Amqui, Que.** — I have obtained light regarding my vocation through the powerful intercession of the Little Flower; a good position has also been procured through her means. The enclosed Six Dollars is to fulfil my promise for those intentions. A young girl, **Smooth Rock Falls, Ont.** — I heartily thank St. Therese of the Child Jesus for a very special blessing she has favored us with. Mrs. F. J. B., **St. Leonard, N. B.** — Would you kindly send the enclosed offering to your sisters of China who are in such straitened circumstances? Mrs. W. T., **New Britain, Conn.** —

Burse of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for the adoption of a missionary.

A **Burse** is a sum of money the interest of which forms a perpetual income for the support of a Missionary. **Burses** are founded in honor of a Saint whose name they bear. The religious whose support is thus assured becomes for life the missionary of the donor and takes his place near the poor infidels. The Founders of Burses participate in all the spiritual advantages of the Community. The sum of \$1,000.00 given in one or several payments by one or many persons forms a complete **Burse**.

We shall then receive with gratitude, any offering, even trifling, (thanksgiving for favors obtained or requests for new ones) for the complete formation of the Burse on honor of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus. May the Little Sister of Missionaries inspire generous souls with the thought of adopting a Missionary and let fall on them a shower of roses!

OFFERINGS FOR THE "LITTLE FLOWER" BURSE.

December	1925	.....\$	50.00
January	1926	.....	28.00
March	"	.....	21.00
May	"	.....	43.00
July	"	.....	85.00
September	"	.....	196.00
November	"	.....	364.03
January	1927	.....	204.00
March	"	.....	68.00

The Holy Apostles

PETER and PAUL

FEAST, JUNE 29.



PETER and PAUL are to-day united in glory near Christ whom they have so ardently loved and valiantly served. Before separating, the two apostolic laborers bade each other the most touching farewell, or rather a fraternal *au revoir* which was overflowing with hope, for in a few moments they were to be reunited forever. *Peace be with thee, Head of the Church, Pastor of all the sheep of Christ,* said Paul. *Go in peace, preacher*

of celestial doctrines, guide of the just and way of salvation, responded Peter.

These farewells which so solemnly confirmed their respective mission, were verily a supreme act of faith and of Christian conviction worded over the grave, where usually, imposture unmask itself; consequently we may consider them as a last criterion accorded to their brothers who assisted at this touching scene.

We approach more nearly the ideals of the true followers of Christ when we are guided in thought word and deed by the teaching of the Saviour. His love for souls was all-embracing; our love for souls must be universal.

If we cannot go forth to the harvest-field as the Apostles did, we can assist the laborers who do. We can and should pray for the salvation of all men. "The harvest indeed is great, but the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He send laborers into His harvest."

A VOCATION

It was so cosy that evening around the fireplace: John, Rene and Solange seated side by side on a cushion at their Grandmother's feet sweetly gazed upon her tender face... "Do tell us one more story, Grandma!..." And she, despite her silvery hair, her furrowed and rather melancholy brow, smiled. Her smile gave to her features a charming beauty that reflected the candor and graceful ingenuity of a serious and yet caressing tenderness. With equal affection did she look upon the haughty expression of John, the silky ringlets of Rene and the sweet little features of Solange; Solange who naively pleaded, "Dear Grandma, do tell us about our grand-uncle, the Chinese, who, far away, has been working for such a long time without ever dying and who knows us only by our names and pictures!"

And Grandma begins:

"A long long time ago when the bells had hushed after chiming for the beautiful feast of Pentecost, a tiny little baby was born in a carpenter's home in the City of Gerbevillers. 'Twas with joy that the parents welcomed the child placing it in a beautiful new oak cradle. Its father, an able joiner, had taken pleasure in making it. The little one received in Baptism the names of Charles Alphonsus. His early years were happy, and a little spoiled, for, being the youngest of the family he was loved by all. As he grew older his beautiful bright eyes, rosy cheeks, and soft fair hair gave rise to a secret complacency manifesting itself by his hasty, domineering ways. Small of stature and well-built he was proud of his fine appearance, especially when in white surplice and red soutane he served Mass in the Chapel of the Rohan-Chabot mansion, for at seven he was already in God's service. More than ordinary pride gleamed in his bright eyes; he imagined that, since he had such a pretty complexion and such charming ways, the religious ceremonies were rendered more imposing by his presence. Many a time, instead of taking part in the frolicsome play of his little companions he would repair to the foot of the "Mountain" and there he would muse while seated on the green grass gazing into the limpid waters of the quiet river that reflected his image. Doubtlessly, it was there that he heard the distressing cries of the poor children of China who pleadingly asked him to have pity on their abandonment... 'Little brother', said they, 'you see how destitute we are; our body is without clothing, our souls without divine light! Please come and help us! Share with us the affection that you enjoy at home. Oh! do not be selfish, share with us the Faith of your father and mother! Be the hand that will open for us the Gate of Heaven! Little brother, have pity on us, have pity on us!... If you do not come yourself, who then will deliver us from the cruel tyranny of Satan? Pray, do not refuse to come to our assistance!'

"He spoke to no one of these appeals, but in later years, during vacation, he was seen to stroll along the bank of the river, absorbed in meditation and prayer. At "Pont à Mousson" he found learned and pious masters who, while forming his character, urged him to the practice of sublime virtues. After his studies at college, he entered the Grand Seminary of Nancy. His intimate colloquies with Heaven became more frequent, his prayers more generous, and, in 1869, he became, by Holy Orders, a priest of God. At that time the City of Nancy had a bishop who later became the illustrious Cardinal Lavigerie, this great conqueror, this ardent missionary of the African continent and who did so much good throughout the world. Some day I shall tell you how this indefatigable and zealous apostle worked, suffered and died.

"A short time after his ordination, our new priest was named for the parish of St. Leo, parish that still cherishes the souvenir of him who remained curate for two years only. Devoted, obliging and good in every sense of the word, he was loved by all. Still he did not seem satisfied, he wanted to do more.

"Despite the objection of his parents who, through affection, wished to keep him, he decided to answer the call of distant lands that ever seemed to claim him. Faithful to this Divine inspiration, he left all. . . . The voyage was long and tiresome, but one bright Spring day, when Nature was all abloom as if to greet his arrival, he landed on China's soil, there to labor and to die. He was no longer in his beautiful homeland with its verdure-crowned mountains. The flowers did not give the same perfume nor had their corollas the same brightness. The singing of the birds was even different, the climate more severe. . . . To win the confidence of the natives he was obliged to conform his mode of living to that of the country, even change his way of thinking and speaking. He allowed his hair to grow so as to form a long braid, and his cheeks were soon covered with a short, silky beard. His cassock was replaced by a long blue garment that buttoned on the side. Bread no longer appeared on his table; henceforth his food would be rice, boiled in water without any other preparation, and to be eaten with long awkward chopsticks. He suffered much in winter as the houses have no chimneys and are not built to avoid the cold, and during the summer he suffered from the heat, for the dwellings have no windows and the scorching sun renders the air stifling. To quench his thirst he had but a cup of unsweetened tea and to cool himself, the breeze of a cheap little fan. At times the natives were hostile, the devil causing persecutions to arise against him. And despite all this he felt an ever-increasing affection for his country of adoption. He laboured more valiantly, courageously and joyfully for the salvation of souls; baptizing the abandoned infants, building chapels, establishing missions, etc. . . . etc. . . .

"To relate all the labors he undertook for the glory of God while visiting his christians, all the fatigues he endured in seeking the lost sheep would be a narration that his guardian angel alone could make. He is now 82 years of age and fifty-four have been spent as pioneer of the gospel in this distant pagan country, on which he continues to implore God's

blessing. His eyes are growing dim and the dazzling sun injures them; his brow is crowned with snow and a knotted stick supports his faltering steps; still his heart is ever young, and his voice ever ardent and cheerful for his soul continues to be consumed in God's holy love. Until his last breath he desires to win souls, thus preparing for himself a magnificent heavenly crown. . . ."

Grandma, entirely absorbed in the remembrance of the long and fruitful career of the apostle, had not noticed that, if for a long time Solange and Rene were closely following the narration, John's bright eyes seemed to gaze into distant unknown lands and that unconsciously, in a whisper, he murmured the inmost thoughts of his soul: "I also hear the call of the little Chinese, I also want to be a missionary. . . ."

A Priest of Paris Foreign Missions.

Departure of Missionaries

On Sunday, March 26th last, with our most fraternal prayers and wishes of "bon voyage", our dear Sisters St. John of the Eucharist (Jeanne Moquin, Eastman, Que.) and of the Guardian Angel (Elzire Gamache, St. Jean Port Joli) left our Mother-House for Vancouver, where Sr. of the Guardian Angel will remain with our Sisters of St. Joseph's Oriental Hospital. Sr. St. John of the Eucharist will tarry in Vancouver until she joins the missionaries now preparing in our divers houses for the missions of China and the Philippine Islands. Our dear Sister will be attached to the group for Manila, P. I. — We permit ourselves to solicit the prayers of our readers for their intention: may the Immaculate Queen of the Missions obtain for her two humble children the happiness of a fruitful apostolate near the pagan souls which she will deign confide to their zeal!

St. Augustine affirms that it is better to convert a pagan than to rise the dead to life. Under a certain aspect, the first deed is not easier than the second, both are a miracle. If the grace of God did not descend in the heathen soul to enlighten, direct and fortify it, the missionary would remain powerless. But, fortunately, God works for the apostle and with him!

Statistics 1926

CHINA

Foreign Bishops.....	56
Chinese Bishops.....	6
Foreign Priests.....	1723
Chinese Priests.....	1178
Foreign Brothers.....	248
Chinese Brothers.....	271
Foreign Sisters.....	1088
Chinese Sisters.....	2830
Seminarians: Lesser.....	1969
" Grand.....	741
Catholics.....	2,240,250

JAPAN AND KOREA

Bishops or Prefects Apostolic.....	13
Foreign Priests.....	274
Japanese or Korean Priests.....	90
Foreign Brothers.....	80
Native Brothers.....	226
Foreign Sisters.....	282
Native Nuns.....	150
Seminarians: Latinists.....	229
" Grand.....	54
Japanese Catholics.....	90,774
Korean Catholics.....	80,915

MISSION PRINTING PLANTS IN CHINA

Chungking: *Paris Foreign Missions*
Hanchung: *Rome Foreign Missions*
Hong Kong: *Paris Foreign Missions*
Kiganfou: *Congregation of the Mission*
Louganfou: *Franciscans*
Macao: *Salesians*

Nanking: *Jesuits*
Peking: *Congregation of the Mission*
Shiuchow: *Salesians*
Siensien: *Jesuits*
Singanfou: *Franciscans*
Siwantze: *Scheut Missions*
Weihowfou: *Milan Missions*
Yenchowfou: *Steyl Missions*

(Missions of China and Japan.
J. M. Planchet.)

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTIONS IN CHINA

About thirty Catholic priests and sisters arrived Hong-Kong, from Foochow, Jan. 20., whence they had been forced to flee before the Chinese radicals. They stated that 380 pupils of the Spanish orphanage had been ill-treated by the Chinese.

Missionaries of other denominations report that when they were escaping from Foochow, they were maltreated and that several among them had to give up part of their clothing to the pirates. They were greeted in a very hostile manner at Amoy and were obliged to embark in haste for Hong-Kong.

England and China seem to be still in strained relations; a break may happen any day, that is the reason why it is difficult to overcome a certain anxiety concerning the missionaries of every nationality. The British and American residents of the interior of China have been invited a month ago to seek a safe shelter.

The school question is very hard to solve. So long as individuals will be free to open schools while conforming with the new regulations, it will be possible to pursue our educational efforts. But, unfortunately, the future appears altogether different: absolute monopoly of the State in matters of education seems to be what we are being led to by the actual events in China.

THE NEW APOSTOLIC DELEGATE TO CANADA

As we go to press, we learn the official nomination of His Excellency Archbishop Andrea Cassulo as Apostolic Delegate to Canada.

Archbishop Cassulo was born at Castelletto, Diocese of Tortona, in the ecclesiastical Province of Genoa (Italy), November 30, 1869. Elected bishop of Fabriano April 15, 1914, he was named, in 1921, titular Archbishop of Leotopolis. Since the 25th of January 1921, he was Apostolic Delegate in Egypt and Arabia, with residence in Alexandria.

Through the medium of our publication, we permit ourselves to offer to His Excellency Our Apostolic Delegate the most respectful homages of our missionary Institute.

“Alms shall be a great confidence before the most high God, to all them that give it.”



Bridge built by the British to unite the British Concession of Shameen with the City of Canton, China.

Echœs from our Missions

CANTON, CHINA

*Extracts from the correspondence of the Superior of the Canton Convent
to her Reverend Mother Superior General*

Canton, January 28, 1927.

VERY DEAR MOTHER,

My letters follow in close succession: China with its unsettled prospects brings up so many questions! Times are indeed precarious!!...

I went to Hong-Kong the 26th. From there, I cabled you. I could not do otherwise, for I wish to keep you in touch with the present vicissitudes of our existence. We are uneasy as to what will become of us, of our works: the Foochow incidents have been so tragical!

January 30.

Your cable in answer to ours of the 26th received from Hong-Kong yesterday. Thank you, dear Mother, for sending it so soon! We are still in great anxiety: the actual war is quite unlike those of the past years; the situation is even more critical than in 1900. You tell us, dear Mother, to save our lives and also save our personnel. On the cable I sent you, I mentioned that a sudden turn of the tide is expected at any moment. We have been notified to remain on the alert; we may have but five minutes to ourselves: how could we succeed in saving all our dear unfortunate little ones?

February 11.

There is much turmoil in town this morning: more than 10,000 people are out of work. They have been discharged by their employers who are unable to pay them their salaries. Many shops are also closed through bankruptcy. It seems that the civil authorities are already quite annoyed; this latter state of affairs can but add to existing difficulties: will the government be obliged to make concessions?... These new troubles might change the face of things... Yesterday, it seems that the police force was all astir... Poor China!

And now, what about the school? it is a question which preoccupies the Bishop and missionaries, the Brothers and ourselves; a new program lately put into force by the Government and which appears unacceptable!

What has the future in reserve for our large school that has cost us so much work and such sacrifices?...

Our Sisters of the Leper colony are with us, for the Consul does not allow them to return to Shek-Lung: he may, at any moment, be obliged to order us all to flee to Hong-Kong.

Good-bye, dear Mother, I shall write again in a few days.

Your daughter,

Sister ST. PAUL, M. I. C. (1)

SHEK-LUNG LAZARETTO

January 17, 1927.

VERY DEAR MOTHER,

We have received your kind letter which has done us so much good, as also the two hundred dollars which it contained. How thank you enough for this donation that you have obtained for us from our devoted benefactors! We may comfort our poor patients!... We rejoice that this sum is destined to them rather than to us. Yes, dear Mother, it is with all my heart that I thank you in our name and for our poor lepers. Rev. Father Deswazières told us that he also had received a letter from you and a sum of two hundred dollars, for which he was very much pleased.

The Chinese, are we told, wish to take Shameen. I hope that it is only a rumour, but if it be true, we shall again be placed in a critical situation. Do not, however, be uneasy for us, dear Mother; the Blessed Virgin guards us and nothing will happen; all that we ask is that we be not obliged to leave our poor patients. Everything is quiet here; we are preparing entertainments for the Chinese New Year holidays; for that purpose, we exercise simple plays: that is what our lepers like best; this pleasure is given them four or five times a year.

The other day, while making the visit of the lepers, I passed near the bed of a former comedian; he showed me a little cupboard in which he had just placed a shelf. I said to him, "There is something you still lack... — Yes, Sister? What is it?... — You are lacking a statue of the Blessed Virgin to place there. — Ah! that is true; will you give me one? — Yes, but you must show it respect and take good care of it. — Yes, Sister." I gave him the statue and, dear Mother, you would be really touched if you could see in what veneration he holds it! Lately, he said to me, "Sister, I do not know many prayers, but every morning, after having washed, I uncover *my Blessed Virgin* (he covers the statue with a little banner, for fear, does he say, that someone do or say something improper before it) I sit on my bed, I say an 'Our Father', three 'Hail Marys', and that is all..." Dear Mother, must not the Blessed Virgin be touched by such conduct of a pagan? I say pagan; however he believes to have been baptized in the Protestant Church when he was small, but he is not sure of it. He is very intelligent, also have I great confidence that he will be converted. These people who formerly enjoyed an easy life, have very much more to suffer here than the paupers who are accustomed to lack everything. Moreover, it is hard for us not to be able to give them the necessaries, but we hope that better times will come.

My health is good at present; I am able to dress the patients' wounds. I like my portion very well and before beginning my work, I always think of you, Mother dear.

We have had a nice surprise the feast of the Epiphany: news that three of our sisters had gone to open a mission in Japan. You have no idea how that rejoiced us!

Again and again, beloved Mother, do I feel the need of thanking you with all my heart for your most delicate attention, your extreme kindness, and especially for the affection which you bestow so generously upon us.

Your loving daughter,

Sr. ST. FRANCOIS D'ASSISE, M.I.C.,⁽¹⁾

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Our Sisters of the Lazaretto having been forced, because of the war, to quit for a time their post of devotedness, it is from our Home in Canton that one of them writes to her Superior General.

Holy Childhood Home, Feb. 6, 1927.

VENERABLE AND DEAR MOTHER,

I told you in my last letter that we should perhaps go to visit our dear patients of the Lazaretto. We went last Saturday. What happiness when they saw us returning!... Mother, you would have cried for joy to have seen them!! But they were not aware that we should be obliged to leave again, and for... we do not know how long a time.

During our absence, three had left for Heaven and another, a moribund, was waiting for us, he said, to die; "When Sister will come back, then, I shall die! I wish to see her before..." He died in fact, after crucial sufferings, the morrow of our arrival. Another said, "Do not leave us again; if some misfortune happens, we shall die together... When you leave, it is as in a family when the mother dies... everything is so sad, *our hearts cannot be happy...* We shall pray fervently; I am certain that God will not refuse us." A third added: "I shall pray like this, 'My God, you know that it is we who are the most miserable, that leprosy is what there is of the worst; no one has pity on us, all are afraid of us, please leave with us the Sisters and our Father who are not afraid of us! To have them with us is our only happiness. O my God, dear Blessed Virgin, help us, have pity on us, make the Sisters stay here to help us to die!' Mother, it was heart-rending to hear them. "We shall protect you," they said; "we shall die for you!..." And those who are still pagan replied: "And we who are not Catholics, we cannot do anything?" We suggested to them to promise God to be baptized. "Oh! yes, we promise!" they cried.

I hope that the civil disturbances will not be of long duration for, far from our poor unfortunates, I feel like a fish out of water... Although our Sisters of Canton make life very agreeable for us and we have all that is necessary, we are happier in the midst of our lepers; we suffer to be separated from them: they are so miserable! I fear they will all be killed if we leave

(1) Clara Hebert, St. Cyprien, Napierville.



A GROUP OF LEPERS, SHEK-LUNG, CHINA.

them. What a precious work would be lost for us were we to lose that of the Lazaretto! I have but one desire, 'tis to return as soon as possible. I hope that our Immaculate Mother will obtain us this favour. Several of our poor charges were preparing for Baptism and now...how many souls will be lost!... I entreat our Heavenly Mother to kindly keep them for us. I would not be afraid to dwell on the island during this strife to help the Christians and baptize others, even though I were to die. To be separated from my dear lepers is the greatest trial that God can send me; I thank Him for it, nevertheless, and I hope it will be a profit to my soul; still I suffer much from it. Our Sisters of Canton are most kind to us; they do all that they are able to lighten our sacrifices.

Au revoir, dear Mother; I love you very much though I am the most unworthy of your daughters.

Sr. ST. RAPHAEL, M.I.C.

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Chinese General Hospital, Manila, P.I.

Manila, Dec. 15, 1926.

VERY DEAR MOTHER,

Permit me to describe the festal bouquet which Our Blessed Mother deigned to offer us the day of her Immaculate Conception. A few weeks ago a patient arrived. Each time that I visited the sick, I smiled to him as to the others and he always answered my salutation. One evening he asked me to tell his nurse not to raise his mosquito-net as early in the morning because he wished to pray and his neighbours gave him distractions. I encouraged him to pray well, to offer his sufferings in expiation for his sins. I later learned that he was a Presbyterian, but nevertheless continued my visits and tried to facilitate prayer to him. He began to have confidence in me and all that I said was to his liking. I profited by it to speak of God's goodness and mercy, of Heaven and Hell, lastly of the Catholic religion which alone can save; as he listened to me with much interest, I exhorted him to go to confession; but he answered that he did not wish to confess to a man, that he confessed to God every day. I offered him a Miraculous Medal; he let me put it around his neck and asked me to pray for him. I continued to speak of God's goodness and the advantages of the Sacrament of Penance. Tears began to roll down his cheeks. This conversation took place on the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Our Heavenly Mother was showing mercy to her poor child!... In the afternoon, I came again to see him and he asked for a priest. You guess how eagerly I answered in the affirmative. The patient made his confession; on the morrow Holy



PATIENTS OF MANILA CHINESE GENERAL HOSPITAL
DURING THE CATECHISM LESSON

Communion was brought to him and with great fervour he received Extreme Unction. Since then, he receives Holy Communion every morning but he always asks for me beforehand to tell his communion intentions. "I wish to receive to-morrow," did he tell me this afternoon, "to prove my faith to Our Lord and to pray for all my people." This man belongs to a good Catholic family. He became a Protestant in order to marry a Presbyterian. This had caused great sorrow to his parents; so you imagine their happiness on learning of his conversion. When I saw his father for the first time and told him his son's desire to return to the Church, he could not believe me and he repeated as beside himself, "Please, Sister, do try to win him over!" In vain did I tell him that it was already done, that all I wished to know was if his son had been baptized, he could not understand what I meant.

Nearly all our patients are pagans or Protestants. I feel as if I should be ready to suffer everything, to undergo a thousand deaths even, to snatch these poor souls from error and paganism! Ah! thank you, dear Mother thank you to have sent me to the missions... May our Immaculate Queen obtain for me the grace to do a little good.

Your loving child,

Sr. St. JOSEPH DE BETHLEEM, M.I.C. (1)

(1) Yvonne Routhier, East Broughton, Que.

NAZE, JAPAN

BELOVED MOTHER,

Nearly two weeks have passed since your kind letter reached us; more than once have we read it and each time we felt ourselves more courageous.

How often do we wish we were near you, dear Mother! It is not because we are unhappy; Oh no! we are very happy in Japan... Yes we like very much our work and we wish to do all the good that we can. It is you, dear Mother, who inspired us with this good resolution, the morrow of our nomination. You said to us: "My dear children, it is not enough to do good, but we must do it well." These words are still in our ears and we have the sweet confidence that they will never cease to resound. We know, dear and good Mother, that in putting into practice your advice, we shall remain on the right road. It would be so easy to go astray, being so far from the Mother-House, but we ask the Blessed Virgin every day to preserve us in the spirit of our beloved Community.

We now enjoy the privilege of having Mass in our little chapel... which is very modest! the altar is but a table of unstained wood elevated on a single step... the tabernacle is of cardboard. Reverend Father Calixte brought us a tabernacle veil, altar-cloths and a lace antependium; but to save them we remove them immediately after Mass and place a white tissue paper cover and veil instead. The Japanese who come to visit the Crib admire how we have so well succeeded in making such beautiful rocks out of paper. They do not notice that it is the mountain flowerets that give it its touch of beauty. The other day, they brought us a cherry branch



MUSIC LESSON AT THE SCHOOL, NAZE, JAPON

which produces neither fruit nor leaves, only pretty little pink flowers. These flowers seem to spring out from the bark; they are so pretty that I am inclined to think that God has created this plant purposely for the decoration of Christmas Cribs.

It is touching to see the respect that the Christians show us; we discern them everywhere! The other day as we were passing by a school, the children at recreation rank quickly towards us. A very small boy, on recognizing us, dropped the pebbles he had just picked up and placing his hands on his knees made two deep inclinations. Passers-by smiled at the sight but the good little fellow was not confused; he picked up his pebbles and rejoined his comrades. Each time that we meet our school workmen, they do not fail to say on raising their hats: *Ohayo gozai masu* (good day); without hesitation, we answer in Japanese, which pleases them greatly. If we met them twenty times, they would as often repeat their salutation.



SEWING LESSON AT THE SCHOOL OF NAZE, JAPAN.

As we were coming from the city one day, the children grouped around us in such a number that on our arrival they were certainly a hundred. The most curious of them ran in front and at a certain distance stopped to see us coming. We continued on our way, reciting Aves for these poor infidels.

Permit me, dear Mother, to relate my latest adventure. We desired to plant a few ferns; so I left with Sr. du St. Cœur de Marie to look for some. You know the foot-gear which the Japanese wear in place of wooden shoes; we have received three pair as gifts. My rubbers being very much

worn, I wished to save them by putting on the "geta" which we wear outside around the house. I followed Sister and we managed to climb to a certain height, finding always prettier ferns as we went on. The scenery fully compensated for the rough road. The city appeared lilliputian; we no longer distinguished the streets; the thatched roofs in form of truncated pyramids looked as a vast field of hay ricks; from afar, the sea was majestic: a huge rock rising high in the air stood in the center of the harbour, a short distance from shore; it seemed to be placed purposely to break the waves. It was gorgeous to behold! but we could not remain up in the heights... We started to go back and I followed Sister as well as I could; the slope became so steep that I could not keep my footing: I tossed off my dear "geta" and sent them rolling to the foot of the mountain; free from these instruments almost of torture, I quickly rejoined my companion who was laughing heartily at my exploits. I am cured for good!... From now until the snakes begin to creep out, I shall go on the mountain to gather flowers for our Blessed Mother, but not in "getas"!

More than ever are we studying the Japanese language. It is a real interesting puzzle. According to the degree of politeness, the same thought may be expressed in three or four different ways. There are only particles to be added, for instance, to an adjective to make it into a noun, an adverb, a verb which itself may take twenty different forms; on the other hand, a verb changes into an adjective, a noun or adverb according to its place in the sentence. Reverend Father Calixte said to us that when we shall know our verbs well, we shall be able to speak Japanese quite easily. We have begun to-day the study of characters; they are the same as in China, with seventy-two additional ones, but the pronunciation is not at all the same. The language is very soft, without modulations like the Chinese, and of an extreme politeness.

I cannot terminate without telling you how happy I am in my beautiful vocation; I unceasingly thank God for it and ask Him to bless and hear all your prayers. I do not forget either to recommend every day to Our Divine Lord our devoted Sister Assistant whom we all so dearly love.

Your most unworthy little Japanese whose heart overflows with gratitude,

Sr. DE L'ENFANT JESUS, M.I.C.

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Our House of Quebec

At the opening of May, our Sisters of Simard St. will leave this house which they have inhabited for the last years to make their residence in a larger dwelling: 653 St. Foye Road.

It gives us pleasure to announce to the friends and benefactors of our house at Quebec that the works: Closed Retreats, Holy Childhood, Mis-

sionary work-room and visits to the Chinese as also their language courses on Sunday will follow regularly as on Simard St. These different apostolic organizations will assuredly benefit from the fact that the new residence is more spacious than the former one: the ladies and young girls on retreat will find greater comfort in the house; and besides, the garden invites to recollection and solitude.



The Holy Childhood pilgrims, in coming to the sanctuary of the Child Jesus, will also appreciate everything... even the route which leads there! St. Foye Road which appears in summer as a light-bathed arch of verdure will make the little apostles forget the distance, while leading them to the feet of their Divine King. And they will be well repaid for their journey by the mission lantern slides which they will enjoy at the Convent; that visit will inflame their zeal anew in favour of their already so much loved little brothers of China.

As to the language courses for the Chinese residing in the city of Quebec, they will take place at the usual hours each Sunday, thanks to the devotedness of the teachers who make it their duty to bear to these poor "Celestials," with the knowledge necessary to their profession, the instructions which will render them, with time and the grace of God, true sons of Heaven.

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This house is of easy access: by St. Foye Road or by the St. Cyrille St. tramway; a stop is found just at the rear of the property, and a sign will indicate the direction to the convent.

We hope that although this house be for some of our friends and benefactors farther than that of Simard St., all will have the great kindness to continue to our Sisters their touching and generous sympathy.



Our readers doubtlessly recall how a terrible conflagration destroyed the Rimouski Convent of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. The two houses ceded them after the disaster could shelter but part of the personnel. The greater number of the pupils of the Apostolic School had had to be sent back to their homes. So as to be able to resume their classes and pursue their divers works, the Community purchased September last a house on St. Germain St., not far from the Cathedral. The Apostolic School is now equipped to furnish young girls with the same educational opportunities as heretofore: complete course of studies, domestic science and special preparation for missionary life.



The above photograph represents the new residence of our Sisters, established in the city of Three Rivers since May 1926. Address: 52 Bonaventure St. This convent, larger than the one they have until now occupied, will be more favorable to the development of the apostolic works confided to them by His Lordship Bishop Cloutier, of Three Rivers.

Extracts FROM THE Novitiate Chronicles

Dedicated to the Parents of our dear Sister Novices

Wednesday, January 19, 1926.



To love Mary, what consolation here below, to make her loved, what assurance for the hour of death! St. Bernard.

Sad news which we have been apprehending for sometime is communicated to us this evening by a telephone message from the Mother-House: our dear Sister Pauline Marie, Superior of our house at Quebec, has just left us for Heaven. At the moment when the bells were ringing the evening Angelus, she was saying to her Spouse and Judge: "Ecce ancilla Domini".

Although still young, our regretted sister has filled a long career. We may conjecture that she heard from the Sovereign Judge these consoling words: "Well done, good and devoted servant; well done, faithful spouse; come and be crowned..."

It does not behove us to give the biography of our beloved departed sister, but we may repeat after those who have had the happiness of knowing her, that our dear Society loses to-day one of her most precious subjects: a devoted worker, a religious totally impregnated with the spirit that should animate the true missionaries of the Immaculate Conception, a child inviolably attached to her religious family and to her Superiors. This latter characteristic is perhaps that which was most evident in Sister Pauline Marie, and it is doubtlessly owing to her great attachment to our venerable Mother and also to her respectful eagerness to accomplish the least of her desires, that God so visibly blessed her every enterprise. Her remembrance will be lovingly cherished in our Institute... she will live long among us, like all the children to whom God grants special blessings for having honored their parents.

Friday, January 28.

After Benediction to-night, we repair to the reception hall where we greet His Lordship Bishop Tsu, Vicar Apostolic of Haimen (Kiang Sou), one of the six Chinese Prelates consecrated in Rome by His Holiness Pope Pius XI., Oct. 28, 1926. His Lordship tells us that his visit is not altogether disinterested, for he wishes to have some of our Sisters in his Vicariate which, does he add, is a real "garden of Paradise". He has seen our Reverend Mother to-day and does not lack hope of realizing his desires.

Friday, February 11.

Although the Retreat has terminated this morning, an impressive silence reigns in our enclosure: mystical nuptials are to be held and the forty chosen souls who prepare to meet the Divine Spouse must not be disquieted in

their recollection. But recollection does not preclude joy; we feel jubilation overflowing from every heart on this feast which recalls the exceeding condescension of the Queen of Heaven coming down to our poor earth to smile upon the humble Bernadette and to so many others after her. So, we do not deem it temerity on our part to think that the Immaculate must to-day delight in these young girls who take rank under her banner, who offer their lives to extend her Divine Son's kingdom on heathen shores. Ah! we believe that the most pure Virgin, that the Immaculate Conception smiles upon us in a very particular manner, and this thought fills our hearts with joy.

The ceremony of Holy Vesture and Profession takes place at three o'clock in the afternoon. Thirty postulants, in white dresses as on the beautiful day of their First Communion, advance to the altar steps and solicit the favor of being invested in the Holy Habit of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. The officiating priest gives them the white livery of the Virgin at Lourdes, which they don as an invincible armour while the choir sings the Psalm "In exitu Israel" and an appropriate hymn of consecration.

The new novices return to the chapel to receive the names which will henceforth be theirs: Miss Berthe Pothier (Three Rivers, Que.) will now be Sister Martha of Bethany; Jeanne Coulombe (St. Edouard, Lotbiniere) Sr. Marie Eustelle; Josephine Beneteau (Windsor, Ont.) Sr. St. Remigius; Alice Gagné (Sacré-Cœur de Jésus, Beauce) Sr. St. Ida; Anne Marie Dubé (St. Denis, Kamouraska) Sr. St. Denis; Alice Goulet (St. Gervais, Bellechasse) Sr. St. Sebastian; Gertrude Papillon (St. Jean Baptiste, Quebec) Sr. Gertrude of the Sacred Heart; Anne Marie Tessier (Ottawa) Sr. Anne Marie; Lucia Mercier (St. Honoré) Sr. St. Honoré; Germaine Lamy (Granby) Sr. St. Adelard; Marguerite Dunn (L'Acadie) Sr. St. Dominic; Liliane Barton (Marlboro, Mass.) Sr. St. Alfred; Germaine Beaudoin (Champlain, Que.) Sr. St. Ursula; Pauline Beliveau (St. Norbert, Arthabaska) Sr. St. Norbert; Amanda Letourneau (La Sarre, Abitibi) Sr. Jeanne de Jesus; Aldéa Poulin (Fabyan, Conn.) Sr. Marie Noami; Emma Dumont (Sandy Bay, Matane) Sr. Marie Ruth; Marie Blanche Ross (Fall River, Mass.) Sr. St. Hedwig; Therese Alarie (Matheson, Ont.) Sr. St. Melania; Irene Nadeau (Bedford, Que.) Sr. St. Leo; Rhea Allard (St. Elizabeth) Sr. Elizabeth of the Trinity; Stella Desrosiers (Fall River, Mass.) Sr. St. John of the Cross; Armandine Dubois (St. Therese, Que.) Sr. Helen of the Cross; Marguerite Marie Dumas (St. Come, Beauce) Sr. Marie Judith; Clarisse Lefebvre (Montreal) Sr. St. Charles Borromeo; Therese Boutin (La Sarre) Sr. St. Marcella; Annette Blain (Montreal) Sr. St. Clare; Eva Belanger (Montreal) Sr. St. Augustine; Jeanne Cecile Gagné (St. Isidore, Dorchester) Sr. St. Agnes; Simone Kirouac (Montreal) Sr. St. Zotique.

The ceremony of religious Profession, more solemn than that of Vesture, takes place. Ten novices in turn kneel at the feet of the Church's representative and humbly beg to be admitted to Holy Profession, adding that they have experienced the sweetness of the yoke of the Lord. With emotion-filled soul, each recites the formula of her sacred vows of poverty, chastity,

obedience, total devotedness to the work of foreign missions. The prayers of the Church for the consecration of virgins are immediately said, and the new spouses of Christ receive their black veil, symbol of virginity and modesty, their crucifix, symbol of their love for their Divine Spouse, and lastly their chaplet, symbol of their tender and filial love towards the Queen of virgins, their Immaculate Mother.

The heavenly joy brought about by these days of oblation when all, being and possessions, are sacrificed to God, has doubtlessly inspired the beautiful chants which interpret the feelings of the happy missionaries of the Immaculate Conception.

The new spouses of Christ are Sr. St. Agatha (Lucile Dubois, St. Croix, Lotbiniere); Sr. Marie Louise of Jesus (Berthe Desaulniers, Shawinigan Falls); Sr. Jean Marie Vianez (Beatrice Guenette, Shawbridge); Sr. St. Angela Merici (Marie Jeanne l'Heureux, Loretteville); Sr. St. Blandina (Yvonne Rioux, Trois Pistoles, Que.); Sr. Marie Samuel (Marie Blanche Matte, Neuville); Sr. Mary of the Redemption (Basilisse Maillet, West Bathurst, N.B.); Sr. St. Gerard (Anna Roberge, Granby); Sr. St. Jeanne de Chantal (Jeanne Caron, Montreal); Sr. St. Joan of Arc (Jeanne d'Arc Lacombe, Riviere du Loup).

The ceremony was presided by Rev. L. P. Perrier, P.P., St. Enfant Jesus, Montreal, and the sermon delivered by Reverend Father Prod'homme, O.M.I., who preached the Retreat. Were present: Reverend Father Nadeau, P.P., St. Michel de Rougemont; Rev. Father Guillet, P.P., Bedford; Rev. Father Alarie, P.P., St. Jean Berchmans Montreal; Rev. Father McLeod, P.P., St. George, Montreal; Rev. Father A. Fafard, M. E., our Community Chaplain; Rev. Father J. Geoffroy, M. E.; Rev. Father Nadeau, P.S.S.; Rev. E. Dubois, Director of St. Therese Seminary; Rev. J.B. Nadeau, Chaplain at the Convent of the Presentation, St. Hyacinthe; Rev. Louis Borrel, Chaplain at Mount Lasalle; Rev. Father Caron, St. Vincent de Paul, Montreal; Reverend Father Germain, Lorette; Rev. Father Garant, St. Jean Baptiste, Quebec; Rev. J. Martin, Cote St. Paul; Montreal; Rev. J. B. Chagnon, Joliette; Rev. Father Martel, Roxton Pond; Rev. Father Martineau, Verdun, Montreal; Rev. N. Tessier, Ottawa; Rev. Father Lefebvre, M.E.; Reverend Brothers Victor and Laurent, O.M.C.; Reverend Brother Wilfrid, Marist.

Sunday, February 13.

The new Professed Sisters have received their charges and one after another they leave the little nest where was spent their religious childhood and go, to prepare for their future mission apostolate, to the different houses to which obedience calls them. On leaving, they bequeath to us their title of "elders". — How speedy life is!... It seems as if we had entered but yesterday and we have already reached the last period of our probation! Soon, it will be our turn to cede our place to the younger ones; thus, we draw nearer and nearer to the much-desired aim: the foreign missions...

Saturday, February 26.

So that it impede not with the building activities and, at the same time, leave us the advantage of keeping the Blessed Sacrament in our chapel, a whitewashed wall replaces for the time being the former one. Though its aspect be not as pretty, our sanctuary has kept its devotional charm. The great God Who was pleased to inhabit the stable of Bethlehem will deign, do we hope, to make His delight in our modest tabernacle since Mary and Joseph will, as of yore, be in His company to give Him to souls, little and simple, like those of the poor shepherds.

Shrove-Tuesday, March 1.

Guided by our good Father Saint Joseph at the opening of his beautiful month, a *swarm* of future missionaries gather at the feet of the Queen of the Missions. Like us and with us during the time of formation, they will joyfully make provisions under the regard of Mary, while fostering the hope of going one day to increase the far away hives of China, Japan, the Philippines, etc. Let us say how pleased we are to greet these new recruits at this Carnival season: since we make it our duty to console Our Divine Lord so much forsaken and offended, is not this proof of love given by 27 young girls who to-day come in our midst to consecrate their persons and lives to extend His knowledge and love, is not, do we say, this act of devotedness a good compensation for the Sacred Heart of Jesus? The sacrifice made on such occasions by the postulant's family must also very much rejoice Our Divine Master. If we ourselves, imperfect as we are, are sometimes moved to tears by the touching scenes we witness, how much more must our Heavenly Father be pleased with the heroic sacrifices performed for love of Him! How noble the parents who, before separating forever here below from their beloved child, lift towards Heaven their blessing hands, then place them on their kneeling daughter's brow: "May God bless you, dear child, and render you a holy religious!... Be courageous and good... and do not forget us in your prayers..." Then, with a strong though broken heart, separation is effectuated for God and for souls.

Are not such spectacles imposing in their simplicity? Religion alone can inspire them. And may we not think that the parents who have performed the sacrifice in a christian manner have acquired for their child the precious grace of religious and... apostolic vocation?...

Good parents, rejoice and be glad!... Your daughter has not left you forever!... A day will dawn when you will meet again and it will be for your glory and happiness. Like a priceless diamond, she will adorn your diadem throughout the endless centuries of eternity. Until then, she loves you here below, she loves you more than ever; and far from every danger, far from fallacious pleasures, she prays for you: ah! so near is she to God! she begs Him to bless those to whom she owes in greater part her present and above all... her future happiness.

Wednesday, March 2.

For a few moments, we enjoy the presence of our beloved Mother. She has come to see the building that is under way, and spends a few minutes with us. She becomes acquainted with her new little daughters, the postulants, and addresses them this motherly advice: "Dear children," does she say with all her heart, "you are beginning your religious life. Ah! begin it well and do not be frightened at the thought of all that you will have to learn. A child starting in school does not try to size the whole course of his studies; he simply learns day by day what he is taught, and by the end of the year, he has learned much without even noticing it. Do likewise: apply yourselves to do as perfectly as possible what is asked from you; during your postulate, you learn the alphabet of religious life. Set to work generously and, without noticing it, you will become true religious, holy missionaries." Our dear Mother adds a few words to the novices and leaves with the promise of soon returning.

Saturday, March 12.

On this feast of St. Francis Xavier, the patron of missionaries, our new little sisters are given their bonnets and blue cinctures. The ceremony does not lack eloquence although it is very simple. After a short exhortation from our Mistress, we all kneel at the feet of our Immaculate Mother for a filial consecration, after which each postulant receives, kneeling, her blue girdle that will remind her that she belongs to Mary, and her black bonnet and veil, symbols of modesty and segregation from the world. The Magnificat is then intoned with one heart and soul. Several cannot refrain from a certain emotion... not only the postulants but even the old novices who recall with tenderness the day when they tasted this first joy. Since then, many a week, many a month have elapsed, and every hour, we can truthfully say it, has been enriched by a new gift from Heaven... Thanks! O Lord, for so many bounties, for such predilection for your *littlest* children!...

Joy is sister to Gratitude. Never have we doubted this... and an "aged" novice, deeming it wise to impress this truth upon her younger sisters, whispers to a postulant "to ask Sister Superior for a recess". — Ah! the bad advice you give, you novices!" laughingly says our good Mistress who has heard all; "but let us agree! would you rather have a longer recess to-night or a holiday all day to-morrow? — Both! both!..." exclaim the novices; and of course the babies follow their elders' example! Our Mistress yields. She accords the recess in honor of the postulants, and to-morrow's holiday, first in honor of St. Francis Xavier whom we have not celebrated enough to-day because of the Ember-days, then in honor of our dear Mother who is to come to-morrow. Acclamations greet this last news. God really gives us the hundredfold of what we had hoped for; it is a "sweet" hundredfold to see our "cong " enriched by a visit of our beloved Mother.

Friday, March 25.

The Lord hath, on this day, done great things for the souls of five of His servants: He admits them to an eternal alliance with Him! After the example of the Virgin of Nazareth, their divine Mother, they pronounce the "Fiat" that renders them spouses of the King of virgins as well as mothers of numberless souls which they will snatch on distant shores from the mire of paganism and idolatry.

The privileged ones are: Sr. Marie de la Salette (Corinne Frenette, St. Jean l'Evangeliste, Bon. Co.); Sr. St. Pius (Cecile Auger, Les Ecureuils); Sr. St. Benedict (Lilianne Guerette, Nashua, N.H.); Sr. Mary of the Cross (Isabelle Lacroix, Quebec); Sr. Mary of Calvary (Leonie Letourneau, Mont Louis, Gaspe Co.)

The ceremony is presided by Reverend, D. Chaumont, M.E., who also gives the sermon.

In the evening, before the familial agapes, we witness the touching ceremony of the crowning of the new spouses of Christ. Afterwards, during recreation, while we are all grouped very near our dear Mother, we experience intimate joys which are foretastes of the joys of Heaven and which make us understand how beautiful is the portion that the Divine Master has given us by calling us to His service.

Actual Situation of our Sisters in China

Our readers probably recall how on January 26, our sisters of Canton and Shek Lung imparted to us their anxiety regarding the critical situation in which the present war in China has placed them. We have received April 1st, another cablegram giving the latest details:—

Sisters all taken refuge Hong Kong by order of Consul. Have rented house, orphans with us, impossible stay over night at Canton. Two sisters remaining at Shameen, can go every day to Canton.

By the fact that you belong to the holy phalanx of the missionary apostles, you share in the merits of their apostolate. When you help them materially and by your prayers, you embrace the diversity of their works and devotedness, you share in the fruit they draw from them. Your feet follow their footsteps on the burning sand or the snow-covered plains; your hands share in their labours; your shoulders carry a portion of the burden of their trials. So, as no work is without its reward, your spiritual treasure will be increased by the merits attached to the exercise of the zeal of those whom you help in their painful labours.

Industries of Holy Zeal

GLEANINGS FROM OUR CORRESPONDENCE

REVEREND SISTERS,

I am sending a postal note for Five Dollars. A poor girl, very pious, had fabricated little boxes which she sold from door to door for your beautiful work of ransoming little Chinese whom your missionaries baptize.

She greatly desires to have a few pictures or illustrations representing your heroic missionaries, which she might show to the persons to whom she appeals.

I recommend myself to your good prayers.

Yours all-devotely in Xto,

X.....

DEAR SISTER,

You will find in this letter a Dollar for the renewal of my subscription to The Precursor. I am a mother of five children and my husband is without work. I am giving you our last dollar to ransom the souls of the little Chinese, permitting myself the hope that these poor little unfortunates, become Angels, will pray for us. If they help us as they have already done in the past, I am certain that my husband will succeed in finding work.

Mrs. L.....

REVEREND SISTERS,

Mamma told us, my little brother and me, to send you our subscription to the Precursor, because she wishes that God may bless us. We have earned this money ourselves in running errands for Mamma and Papa. We ask you to have the little Chinese pray that our good parents be left to us for a long time.

Your little friend,

Marjory.....

Votive lights in honor of the Blessed Virgin

*In the Chapel of the Missionary Sisters
of the Immaculate Conception.*

To comply with the desire of several pious persons devoted to the Blessed Virgin, we are pleased to quote the prices of lamps and candles that may be burned at Mary's shrine in our modest chapel, in thanksgiving or to obtain some favor from this tender Mother.

A lamp or candle { 10 cents each.
75 cents for a novena.
\$20.00 for one year.

Pauline Marie Jaricot

Foundress of the Association of the Propagation of the Faith.

THE MESSENGER OF THE SAINT

(Continued)

In these intimate letters, we often see the younger sister soothing the heart of the elder, always strong in struggle but whose weak point was too great a craving for affection: she gave so much that she thought it quite natural to receive in equal measure from the priceless treasury of love. — And creatures are usually so sparing in gifts of this nature! . . .

That is what grieved Sophie and she bitterly complained of it to Pauline.

From the calm and light-bathed summits of virginity, the latter asked from creatures only their respective co-operation to the realization of the divine plan. So, to her poor heart often pained by the void of even the most legitimate and pure human affections, does she recall with tender delicateness that the *only source of living waters that quench the thirst is above!* And on everyone of these occasions, the troubled heart regains peace and soars higher.

This fraternal friendship was for Pauline the last radiation of familial joys. Sophie had been the protectress of her childhood days, the friend of her youth, the co-operatrix of her works, her defence against the wickedness of men. At the very moment when, more than ever, she would need such a helper, this soul so intimately united with hers attracts the Master's regard, as a ripened sheaf attracts the eye of the harvester. . . .

After having unreservedly consecrated her whole existence to God, her family, the unfortunate and good works, as her saintly mother had done, Mrs. Perrin, feeling that death was approaching, left her beautiful residence of Lyons to sleep her last sleep near Our Lady of Fourviere and Pauline in the destitute solitude of *Nazareth*.

She had always loved, worked and suffered as a true Christian. Supereminently strong in heart and soul, she had felt herself able to present her son to martyrdom. She had, in 1837, made a total donation of her person, family and riches to the Blessed Virgin whose devotion she spread with such fervor and zeal that, during her stay at Nice, the people of that city named her the *Lady of the Rosary*.

On all sides, thousands of hearts blessed her before God. She had given her dear Pierre to the India Missions, and the angel of the Oriental nations, Bishop Retord, called her his *Mother* so numerous were the kindnesses she had bestowed upon him!

Detached from this world, she spent the last days of her pilgrimage in praying and speaking with her sister of the sorrows of the Church and the perils of France.

She died on the 3rd day of March 1844, at the age of 53 years, in the faith, humility and love which had accompanied all the actions of her noble and holy life. Her last will is the most beautiful testimony a christian can leave of her charity and immortal hopes.

This loss very deeply afflicted Pauline who was destined to see to their grave all the beloved ones who had surrounded her cradle: "In losing Sophie," would she say, "I have lost the soul of my soul and the golden portion of my heart."

But instead of wavering in the royal way of trial, this heart, so often crushed, will so utterly forget itself that it will throb solely to save and console others.

That is doubtlessly the reason why it will clearly see, in a better light, what the prudent and wise of the world take so long to discover.

Shortly after the last break of fraternal love, Pauline writes to her angel in Rome, Cardinal Lambruschini, a very extensive and confidential letter, whose last paragraphs *are food for reflection* on the extraordinary lights which she received. We quote them here:

"I feel so overwhelmed by the divine mercies that I would like to show my gratitude, at the cost of my life, by deeds full of virtue from on high... When I consider my nothingness, my pride and a multitude of other defects, I experience feelings of joy and sadness, hope and confusion, that I cannot define and that seem to divide myself within myself..."

"Then, like a bewildered child, I throw myself into the heart of Mary, my tender and divine Mother; for it seems to me that *there* nothing can be refused me. It is from this shelter, Reverend Father, that I beg you to add to your kindness that of more than ever looking upon me as your child, to enlighten me in my doubts, uplift me in my difficulties, correct me in my faults, and ever help me with your prayers; for *I feel* that my task is not complete.

"Since my recovery, God *Who makes use of nothings to do His works, has made me feel that I must prepare to do for His glory something more than what I have done until now... The evils that sap Society are clearly shown to me, and love urges me to seek the means of remedying them, uniting Christians with the solid, indestructible ties of charity.* I foresee the possibility of such an enterprise, for the Living Rosary has enabled me to become acquainted with generous souls of divers countries; they could, in the places where they live, execute the plan which, little by little, unfurls under my eyes.

"I do not, however, wish to be hasty. I look and wait that Divine Bounty give the signal in offering a favourable occasion. I know that God attains His aim with strength, but that He disposes everything with meekness... I have already tried something and pursue what is begun.

"As I have written quite lengthily, I shall on another occasion say to your paternal Eminence my views and desires with reference to every class of Society, to fortify the great christian family in our century and above all in those epochs that will near the end of time.

"Father, I am about to close my letter and have not yet spoken of my tender gratitude towards Gregory XVI! His dignity is so great, his benevolence surpasses so every expression that I cannot voice what I feel with regard to the signal Benefactor and Father whose minister and friend you are!.. May the successor of Peter and the men of his right hand find in the love of Mary an invincible force: *The Immaculate Conception will be their armour, and if powerful foes ever dare to attack the fortress of the Church, Rome's holy Pontiff will experience how beautiful and decisive is the hour when the just, having no other refuge than Jesus and Mary, casts himself at the foot of the Tabernacle to seek salvation.*"

XX.—FACING THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

"It was desirable that the life of this humble maiden who had so well deserved from the Church and who had so scrupulously strived to remain hidden, be written by one of her friends having lived in intimacy with her and capable of bringing to light, not only the tableau of her virtues and works known by all, but also that of her most beautiful soul and noble heart that intimate communications had revealed to her."

(Brief of His Holiness Pope Leo XIII.)

To those who crave to consider what purity and love can hold most ravishing, it is permissible to say, "See the hearts of saints and listen to them; for, from these hearts, purity and love escape in torrents such as counterbalance the iniquities of men. *These hearts are the truest and most beautiful tabernacles of God here below.*"

It is in order to respond to the desire expressed by our august and beloved Pontiff that we disclose the thoughts and intimate desires of the virginal heart whose untold charity was so little understood.

For four years, the little colony of Loretto lived, happy and full of confidence, under the ægis of its tender Mother. The program given by her each morning: pray, devote one's self without interruption or calculation, having been perfectly accomplished during the day, all slept peacefully at night, with the sweet perspective of resuming the same mode of life on the morrow. Ignorance of all evil kept the pious family in a security which its venerable Mother was far from sharing. Heartrending confidences were continually made to her by the *little*, weighing under the burden of labor and toil and from whom, by the perfidious and bewitching temptation of gold, the wicked endeavoured to snatch the two-fold treasure of virtue and faith. She held the secret of odious obsessions, revolting iniquities, and unfathomable afflictions, and had not been a single instant without hearing the sinister rumours that rose from every part of France and yonder, nor without noticing the forerunning signs of the stormy days we are now traversing. Her daughters who saw no cloud on her life's horizon, wondered between themselves why they so often found her in tears and annihilated with grief at the foot of the tabernacle.

No political newspaper reached her in her solitude, but a perpetual concourse of visitors of every rank, age and country brought there *the real news*, that is to say, the narration of stifled devotedness, virtues crushed in the bud, oppression of the weak by the mighty; in a word, the narration of the general distress of the children of God in a time when gold, transformed into a poison, served but to ruin every principle of morality.

Thus, for a long time, a universal cry of sorrow and anguish reached Pauline's heart and mutated there in inutterable moans. Providence Who had destined her to be the *pioneer of Catholic social works* has once more preserved from fire and rapine the pages addressed by the maiden to one of the *brothers of her soul* and in which are laid out with sublime simplicity her views of christian philanthropy. We can see by these letters what were, in reality, the few years of exterior quietude left to her laborious life.

From the time that Pauline has given herself entirely to God, that is to say, from the age of seventeen, the love of the Church and France has invaded her soul and absorbed her thoughts in such a way as to render impossible for her any joy or rest when witnessing the misfortunes of her two homelands. So, as she sees indifference gradually spreading, and impiety, having become mistress of gold, make use of it in a way diametrically opposed to that which the Creator of the world had in forming this matter, her zeal increases, overflows and even goes so far as to make her regret being *but a woman*, that is to say, a person whose moral energy is constantly impeded by physical weakness, and, more than ever, does she ambition the labours of apostolate,

Twenty-five years of devotedness and the admirable fruits of her works are insufficient drops for her burning zeal. She has not made the learned researches that have, for an instant, in *Jewish France*, struck and impressed everyone without effecting any good. But from the ramparts of charity where Divine Mercy has placed her, from that premature year of 1843, like a vigilant sentinel, *she points out the social and religious peril of the engrossing of gold by masonic impiety*, whose diabolical feats she had followed and that have as aim to *bring about and complete the demoralization of the working classes*.

She regrets this engrossment; it swells her indignation and sorrow, for it fatally drags christians to the *moral death of discouragement*, by the powerlessness in which it places them of succeeding in their good works because of lack of material resources, and also because it exercises a noxious influence over the *lille*, the poor, for whom the *Redeemer, come from high, so low, has become little, poor and a working man*, to encourage and save them.

(To be continued)

Chinese Superstitions

LETTERS FALLEN FROM HEAVEN

T'sien sin

There is a fraud quite common in China which the bonzes take advantage of and which consists in making the people believe that such a book, or such a letter, or such a prayer has fallen from heaven.

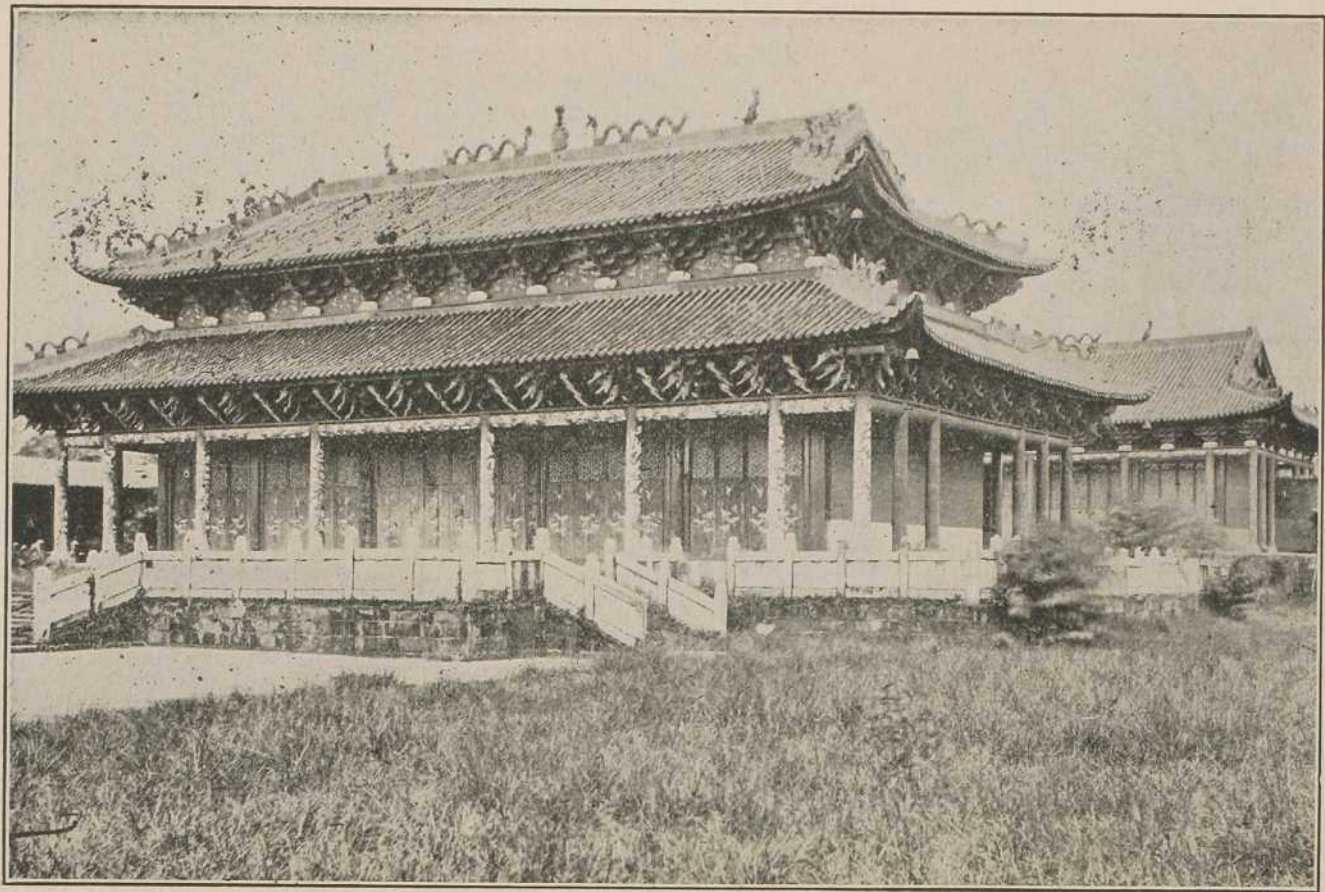
In the year 1008 A.D., Emperor *Song Tchen-tson* did not hesitate in having recourse to this mean expedient to regain possession of his authority that seemed to escape from his hands.

Here is, in two words, what is related in the history of *Tse-tche-l'ong-kien kang-mou*. An immortal appeared to him, his brow encircled with a halo of stars, telling him that, in the course of the following month, he would receive a message from heaven. The divine letter arrived at the appointed time. One fine day, the governor of the Capital announced that a yellow silk scarf twenty feet long hung from the southern cornice of the door dedicated to Heaven: *T'cheng-l'ien men*, and that this scarf seemed to hold an object resembling a letter tied with sky-blue ribbons. The emperor played the trick to the end; he walked to the place indicated, and after having saluted the message, knelt to receive it, after it was unhooked, and then brought it to the palace. The heavenly missive was placed on an improvised altar and it was solemnly read by the emperor's annalist. These three yellow pages did not fail to praise the imperial consignee nor to assure him that the imperial crown would not be taken from the family for seven hundred generations. After the trick was played the letter was enclosed in a golden chest. Shortly afterwards, heaven deigned to send, to the same emperor, another official letter congratulating him on the wisdom of his government and assuring him of his entire satisfaction. Promises of peace and long life concluded the letter that was found hanging from the branch of a tree at the foot of Mount *T'ai-chan*, in *Chan-tong*. All this had for sole aim to be forgiven for an anti-popular treaty that he had been forced to sign with the *Ki-tan*, his victors, in the year 1005 A.D.

Two letters from heaven in one-half year, gasps the grave historian, what can it mean? Is not heaven infinitely just, infinitely impartial? How could it treat this emperor with such unjust partiality?

This expedient has again been employed but last year. I was fortunate enough to procure the prayer that is supposed to have come from heaven a few months ago.

It is called *Tou-kie-king* or the preservative prayer. A pamphlet has been written treating on the origin, the advantages and the terms of this formula of prayer; following is its resumed account:



EMPEROR'S TEMPLE, CHINA

A terrible calamity, (similar to the end of the world), threatened humanity in the year 1906-1907. A formidable thunderbolt was heard on Mount *P'ou t'ouo*, south of *Peking*, and a stela fell from heaven. A prayer written in red letters also fell from Heaven near *T'chen-kia-tchoang*. A mandarin copied it and after having recited it fervently gave it to the prefect *Ma*. The latter refused to believe in it; exemplary punishment soon followed his incredulity: he and his entire family died.

When the stela fell, *Mi-lei-fou* heard these words from heaven: "Well! well! It is the last year of the world: out of ten persons, eight or nine will die. Heaven and earth are no longer adored, filial love and respect for authority have disappeared; everywhere the widow and orphan are oppressed, everywhere the feeble are the slaves of the mighty, injustice reigns in commerce; the cereals are wasted, the oxen are killed; only those who recite this prayer will be spared. If anyone refuses to believe my words, let him open his eyes and look forward to the years 1906 and 1907; the fields will remain uncultivated through lack of tillers; the houses will become empty. At the fifth and sixth moon, poisonous serpents will swarm the earth; at the eighth and ninth moon, the ground will be strewn with dead bodies. Those, and only those, who will devoutly recite this prayer will escape the ten tribulations that will strike humanity: wars, conflagrations, anguish during the day and during the night, discord in the homes, death of children, robberies, putrefaction of dead bodies left without burial; no one will remain to don the clothes and eat the rice: terror will reign over the whole world.

"Nearing the end, *Che-kia-fou*, from the top of his mountain, sent this prayer from heaven. The all-merciful *Koan-yn* was touched with compassion in seeing the calamities that will strike unfortunate humanity.

"*Mi-lei-fou* ordered the two generals *Tchao* and *Koan*, commanders of the sacred mountain of *T'ai-chan*, to take note of the good and bad actions of men. If they do not reform, besides the ten tribulations above mentioned the rice will reach an exorbitant price, floods, thunder, famine and cold will exterminate what is left of the people.

"*Che-kia-fou*, who has governed the world since twelve thousand years, has ceded his authority to his colleague *Mi-lei-fou* who has just taken possession of the Seals.

"Finally, the official chief of Taoism, the Master of Heaven *T'ien-che*, has discovered a sovereign remedy against all future calamities. It suffices to throw four ounces of incense ashes into the wells with ten ounces of *T'choan-k'iong*, one of *Koan-tchong*, two ounces of *Long-hoang* phosphorus, and all who will drink of this water will have nothing to fear."

PRESERVATIVE PRAYER

I am no other than *Koan-yn* of the South Sea. Every man is corrupt from the first to the last; the worship of Heaven and Earth, the honors rendered to the Spirits are trampled under foot. Abstinence is violated, holy pictures are despised, the five cereals are wasted, filial piety no longer

exists, everywhere disrespect for authority parades, oxen are killed, dogs are flayed, faith that existed towards the ancestors and spirits has disappeared. Witnesses of this disheartening spectacle, the searching spirits scattered in the air to note the good and bad deeds of men, presented their report to *Yu-hoang*. On reading it, he became very angry: he put into movement the divine troop of the Minister of Thunder, and commanded the dragon-kings of the four seas to exterminate the human race. Five hundred thunderbolts were prepared in the thunder armories to crumble the guilty world into dust; famine and epidemics will do away with all who survive. At this sight, I rushed from the South Seas towards Western Paradise to touch *Jou-lai-fou* by my prayers and supplications. For seven entire days did I remain kneeling in his palace. I at last obtained a decree of grace which I brought in haste to *Yu-koang*, in his palace *Kin-k'iué*. There I redoubled my supplications, but all in vain: the supreme majesty of the August Pure would not relent.

"I remained on my knees for seven more days and made a solemn vow to minutely teach men to distinguish between right and wrong. If there be a man who call in question the divine order of *Yu-koang*, let him wait until next year and he will see.

"A girl twelve years of age named *Li Sieou-yng*, whom the mandarin *Li* brought to light near the village of *T'chen-kia-tchoang*, sub-prefecture of *T'chang-p'ing hien*, dependant on *Peking*, came to my grotto to thank *Yu-hoang*. Whoever refuses to believe this revelation will assuredly fall a victim to the epidemic. When the heavens will send down pillars of thunder and fire that will exterminate the human race, I, from the heights of heaven, shall shower the sweet dew of my protection. Whosoever, touched with compassion, will exercise the good work of propagating a copy of the present prayer will save all the members of his family. From one to ten and from ten to one hundred, we shall succeed in preserving the living from damnation, for is not the conversion of sinners the most cherished desire of our heart?

"Those who will recite this prayer of *Koan-yn* must be careful not to paste it elsewhere than before the censor.

"Honor heaven and earth, be dutiful towards parents, do not trample under foot the papers on which characters are written, for fear of perishing in the universal conflagration. Do good in order to avoid the ten calamities; you will then enjoy unalloyed happiness."

An order from Buddha follows, prescribing to actively spread this prayer, under pain of the greatest misfortunes.

The student who gave me this prayer firmly believed this revelation. However 1907 has gone and the earth has not ceased its revolutions; when I saw him after the date marked for every danger, he looked not a little abashed.

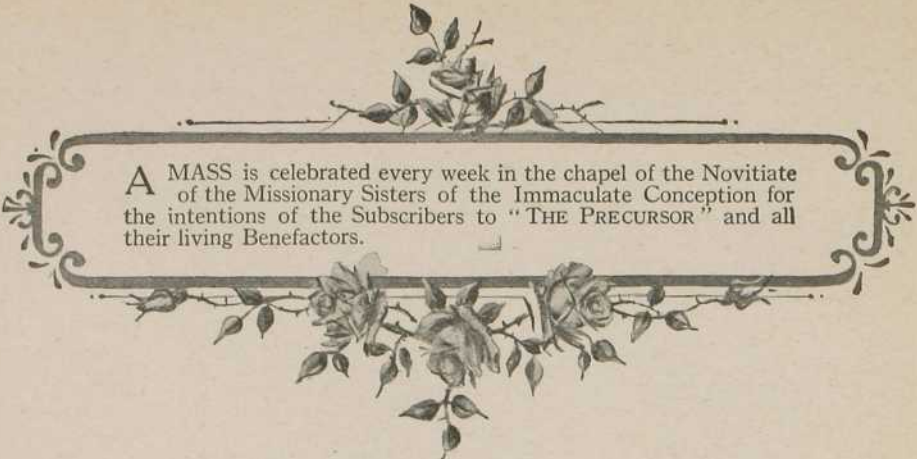
Thanksgivings to the Blessed Virgin for favors obtained



"O MARY, the entire universe would perish before you refuse your assistance to those who, with all their heart, implore your help and protection.

BL. HENRY SUZO.

Would you please publish in "THE PRECURSOR" how thankful I am towards Our Immaculate Mother for a position obtained? May I ask the help of your prayers that I succeed in my work? P. T. W., **Montreal**. — I am enclosing Money Order for Seven Dollars and Fifty Cents. I have great faith in the Blessed Virgin and promised to give half the proceeds my first oil painting would bring me. I owe my success to her and therefore take great pleasure in sending you my contribution. Please pray for me as also for my dear parents and my sister. W. F. O'N., **Chicopee Falls**. — I enclose Two Dollars for lights to be burned at Mary's Shrine in thanksgiving for a favor obtained through her powerful intercession. Mrs. J. P., **Northbridge, Mass.** — I owe the Queen of the Missions everlasting gratitude: she has favored me in so many ways and particularly through her Miraculous Medal. From one who has great devotion to Our Blessed Lady. — Your prayers have been answered. The enclosed offering is for your works in thankful gratitude. W. M., **Burlington, Vt.** — Herewith the sum for \$6.25 to help your beautiful works. Said offering is made to thank Our Blessed Lady for a favor granted and to obtain another which I am badly in need of for the month of May. R. F., **Montreal**. — You may use the enclosed Five Dollars for your Chinese Missions that are in such distress. And may I beg your fervent prayers for a friend that he may secure employment? M. McK., **Montreal**. — I am sending you a subscription to the "THE PRECURSOR" to thank Our Immaculate Mother for the protection she has shown our family during the past year. Mrs. J. P. B., **Spencer, Mass.** — Please find enclosed One Dollar to help in your missionary work. The offering is small but it expresses deep gratitude. M. K., **Ansonia, Conn.** — I have experienced quite often how powerful Our Divine Mother shows herself through her Miraculous Medal. I am a nurse and frequently find dire need for these medals; would you please send me a number of them? Gratefully yours, L. D., **Haileybury, Ont.** — Please find enclosed One Dollar as thanksgiving in honor of Our Blessed Mother and St. Anthony. Miss A. W., **Timmins, Ont.** — My husband is a heavy drinker and I think, dear Sisters, that your prayers have helped already for he is beginning to fight against the temptation. But the devil is strong and we must overpower him with Our Blessed Lady's help. With many many thanks of gratitude and a deeper faith I remain, Mrs. J. S., **No. Uxbridge, Mass.** — Enclosed you will find One Dollar for a novena of lights in thanksgiving for a favor received. Mrs. A. W., **Rosemount**. — I am sending you Three Dollars to express my gratitude to the Immaculate Queen of the Missions for my husband's restoration of health. I only wish I could mail more now but whenever I have any to spare I shall not forget The Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception. Mrs. H. F., **Worcester, Mass.** — Will you please have a Mass celebrated in your chapel on the 5th inst., the anniversary of a successful "first year" of a business undertaking? We also wish to thank your Community for their fervent prayers and novenas to obtain this blessing for us. Mr. & Mrs. H. L. W., **Outremont**. — I have always been interested in your lepers of Shek-Lung China. Allow me to offer the enclosed Twenty Dollars for their relief. One who admires your noble works. St. Lambert, **Que.** — I am pleased to offer this donation of Fifteen Dollars for the ransom of three Chinese babies which you will kindly name Mary and Therese. I hope that these little angels will help me to the better express my gratitude to Our Blessed Mother who has been so very kind to me. Miss L. B., **Webster, Mass.** — I am sending you Ten Dollars, the remainder of my promised offering of Twenty-Five Dollars, in thanksgiving to Our Heavenly Queen who favored my little daughter by strengthening her eyesight. I trust that this alms will help you a little in your needy works. Mrs. C. A. R., **Providence, R. I.** — I come to express my gratitude for your kind prayers; my daughter's health is really improving. If she continues to gain strength, I promise to send Five Dollars for your works, for I feel that her present physical condition is solely due to Our Heavenly Mother's protection and help. Mrs. G. B., **Westport, Mass.** — I am coming to you with a grateful heart, for the Blessed Virgin and the Little Flower of Jesus have helped me greatly. I enclose a Money Order for One Dollar and Fifty Cents, and beg Our dear Lord and His Holy Mother to bless you for all the good you are doing. Mrs. C. T. T., **Bristol, Conn.** — I am a subscriber to "THE PRECURSOR" and I am pleased to renew my subscription. I shall soon go to the Convent to bring you an offering I promised at the event of a certain favor received. Mrs. J. F. C., **Montreal**. — The enclosed Two Dollars is a thanksgiving donation for success in business. Mrs. B. L., **Holyoke, Mass.** —



A MASS is celebrated every week in the chapel of the Novitiate of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception for the intentions of the Subscribers to "THE PRECURSOR" and all their living Benefactors.

Petitions

"O Mary conceived without sin
pray for us who have recourse to
Thee".

Kindly find enclosed Five Dollars for the ransom of a Chinese baby. I am making this offering in order to obtain improvement in my health. Miss I. B. M., **Marlboro, Mass.** — You will find enclosed One Dollar for lights to be burned at Mary's Shrine for special favours. A Subscriber, **Mattawa, Ont.** — My sister has been suffering from a nervous breakdown caused by our mother's death. I would like very much to have your prayers for her intention. Miss E. McM., **West Fitchburg, Mass.** — My husband has not been feeling well lately. As we have great faith in prayer, we beg for your assistance on this occasion. Mrs. G. B., **Central Falls, R. I.** — I recommend my cure to good St. Anne and also beg her help for another intention. Miss V. B., **Ludlow, Mass.** — Your fervent prayers are asked for my daughter that she may keep her position and be cured from severe physical trouble. My husband's health is also poorly. Mrs. J. C., **St. Henri, Montreal.** — Enclosed you will find One Dollar for vigil lights to be burned for the obtention of a special request. Mrs. A. M., **Montreal.** — My poor husband is addicted to drink. Would you kindly pray for his conversion? Mrs. J. St. A., **North Uxbridge, Mass.** — I am enclosing One Dollar for a novena of lights to be burned at my favorite saint's shrine. May the little Flower help me! Miss E. F., **Charlestown, Mass.** — Please pray that my friend obtain a position soon so that she may not be obliged to journey far to her home. Mrs. F. J. S., **Ramore, Ont.** — Kindly intercede with Our Blessed Mother for my husband who is given to drinking. If my request is granted, I shall send you what I can afford for your mission cause. Mrs. P. H. McG., **Waterbury, Conn.** — My right lung is affected from having done too heavy work. Please pray to Our Lady for me. Mr. E. F., **Worcester, Mass.** — I desire you would make a novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Saint Margaret Mary for my husband who needs to be cured from eczema and for my daughter who must obtain a good position. Mrs. O.H.L., **Frelighsburg, Que.** — The recovery of a sum of money lost in an investment. H.O.S. — A poor mother recommends her wayward daughter. Mrs. H., **Kingston, Ont.** The offering I send to-day is for a novena of lights to be burned at Our Blessed Mother's shrine for a very special intention. Mrs. P. M., **Montreal.** — A poor mother recommends to the prayers of the Community and subscribers the conversion of her son who is addicted to drink. QUYON. — A fallen away Catholic. His wife, **Toronto, Ont.** — Protection from Our Immaculate Mother is sought by one of her children. Mr. K., **Toronto, Ont.** — Prayers are requested for the obtention of a good position. Miss D. St. T., **Grand Falls, N.B.** — Special intentions: Mrs. H. T. L., **West Bathurst, N.B.**; I. B., **Spencer, Mass.** — The sale of property and health. H. A. C., **Attleboro Mass.** — Would the Sisters offer a prayer to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus that she intercede with our Immaculate Mother at God's throne? G. L. M., **Holyoke, Mass.** — Would you please lend me the help of your prayers for my little girl who is ailing that she be able to make her First Communion? Also kindly send me a Miraculous Medal for her. Mrs. J. P. L., **Verdun.** — Perseverance and steady employment are requested. Mrs. M. E. L. — I beg of you to kindly pray for my husband that he might find work; he had been idle all Winter. Mrs. A. L. — The enclosed offering is for a novena of lights in honor of the Little Flower asking her aid for a very special favor. Mrs. J. A. L., **Verdun.** — Employment requested through the intercession of Our Immaculate

Mother: Mrs. E. St. P., **Holyoke, Mass.**; P. T. W., **Montreal**. — Improvement in health Mrs. S. C., **Warren, R. I.** — Gain of a lawsuit; temporal favor. Miss M. T., **Port Colborne, Ont.** — If my husband who suffers very much from rheumatism and weakness be cured I promise to send Five Dollars to your missions. Mrs. M. C., **Montreal**. — The help of God to secure a better position. J. J. H., **Fort Frances, Ont.**; Mrs. R. H., **Toronto, Ont.** — Two particular favors are requested. Mrs. W. T. N., **Holyoke, Mass.** — I desire you to make a novena to St. Teresa for my intentions and that of my husband's. If favors are obtained, I promise to send generous offerings in honor of the Little Flower. Mrs. J. H. M., **Douglastown, P. Q.** — Will you please find enclosed Five Dollars; I wish to renew my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" and the balance please accept for your noble works. I only ask you to pray very very hard for me to St. Anthony for a special favor and to the Blessed Virgin for my complete recovery. Mrs. G. K., **Montreal**. — The conversion of a very dear friend is solicited through your prayers. Miss E. A., **Chatham, N. B.** — I am longing to receive a special favor from Our Lady of Seven Dolours and St. Teresa. Kindly make a novena with me for that intention. Mrs. J. A. L., **Verdun**. — Enclosed please find an offering for a Novena of Lights for my intentions. Mrs. L. F., **Espanola, Ont.** — I would be very grateful if I could obtain with the help of your prayers the grace of making my Easter Confession and Communion. **Holyoke, Mass.** — I beg you to join us in prayers for my father-in-law who is suffering from dilatation of the heart. Mrs. J. L. V., **Ramore, Ont.** — Please accept the enclosed small offering. May the dear Little Flower obtain two great favors for us through your prayers! We promise to send more if our request is granted. Mrs. C. E., **Indian Orchard, Mass.** — Please pray for me that God spare me to my children. I am in very poor health and fear a very severe goiter. Mrs. F. H., **Iroquois Falls, Ont.** — I am sending you One Dollar. Will you please have a Mass said in honor of Our Immaculate Mother for my intentions? J. H., **N. D. G., Montreal**. — My poor boy suffers intensely from sore eyes and other physical troubles. Please help me with your prayers. If God sees fit to cure him I promise to subscribe to "THE PRECURSOR", send Five Dollars for the ransom of a Chinese baby, and help the missions as much as I can. Mrs. B. L., **Chatham, N. B.** — Positions requested. Mrs. R. A. H., **Rosemount, Montreal**; M. T. R., **Toronto, Ont.** — Enclosed find One Dollar for a novena of lights in honor of the Blessed Virgin for my intentions: successful business transactions for my brother and speedy news of an absent brother. S. M. E., **New Bedford, Mass.** — I am without work. May I beg your charitable prayers for this intention? In thankful gratitude I shall send you Two Dollars out of my first pay. Mr. A. B., **Fitchburg, Mass.** — Prayers are demanded from your poor orphans for my son who is addicted to drink. His mother, **Chicopee Falls, Mass.** — I come to you to beg supplications near Our Lady and the Little Flower of Jesus that I may succeed in business. If request is granted, I shall send you a donation and subscribe to "THE PRECURSOR" as long as I am able to. Mrs. E. M. G., **Sweetsburg, Que.** — Spiritual and temporal favors are requested through the intercession of Our Immaculate Mother, St. Joseph, St. Anthony and the Little Flower by: N. R. R., **Waterbury, Conn.**; T. T., **Montreal**; F. A. K., **St. Agathe des Monts**; R. A. H., **Rosemount**; L. F. P., **A. C., Poke-mouche, N. B.**; G. B., **Massey, Ont.**; H. W. C., **New Bedford, Mass.**; A. M., **East Arlington, Vt.**; M. G., **Indian Orchard, Mass.**; J. C., **Pokeshaw, N. B.**; A. D., **West Springfield, Mass.**; S. L., **Pembroke Ont.**; M. D., **Fitchburg Mass.**; R. R., **Dalhousie, N. B.**; H. W., **Waterbury, Conn.**; C. V., **New Brunswick**. — I need two requests very badly: the sale of my property and the location of the right home. Mrs. E. S., **Montreal**. — I am enclosing Two Dollars for two novenas of lights for my boy who is to pass his examinations this month. Should he be favored by Our Blessed Mother, I shall not forget your poor charges. Mrs. B., **North Bay, Ont.** — May I beg your prayers for my husband who is addicted to drink and is in danger of losing his position? Mrs. E. T., **Montreal**. — Prayers are requested for the success of surgical operations: E. B., **Bronxville, N. Y.**; W. H. R., **Cochrane, Ont.**; A. B., **Ludlow, Mass.**; M. N., **Fall River, Mass.** — The enclosed offering is for the renewal of my subscription to "THE PRECURSOR" and as an offering for a Mass for the Souls in Purgatory. Mrs. J. W., **Bridgeport, Conn.** — I am worried and discouraged; kindly pray that God's Holy Will be done. Mrs. B. P., **North Providence**. — I am greatly in need of prayers. Would you please intercede for me and have your children also pray? Mrs. D. St. P., **Blind River, Ont.** — Permit me to enclose this small sum for your works. And may I ask the help of your prayers that Our Lady of Lourdes and The Little Flower favor our home: my brother needs suitable work. If my request is answered I shall send an offering in honor of the Little Flower and have a Mass said for the forgotten souls. C. K., **Springfield, Mass.** — Peace in our home and prayers for the repose of the souls of my dear parents are the requests that I beg you to present to Our Immaculate Mother in my name. M. C. McC., **Chesterville, Ont.** — My boy is very backward in school; how happy would I be if he succeeded in his studies! Would you please help me with your prayers? Mrs. C. L., **Toronto, Ont.** — I would be very grateful that you join us in a novena in honor of Our Blessed Lady for a very special intention. Miss I. B., **Toronto**. — The enclosed offering is for two novenas of lights to be burned at the Shrine of St. Teresa for my health and that of my little son. Mrs. A. P., Jr., **Willimansett, Mass.** — My six-month-old grandson is club-footed. I am enclosing One Dollar for vigil lights to be burned in your chapel for him. Mrs. M. H., **Chicopee, Mass.** — You will find enclosed P. O. Money Order for

Five Dollars for lights in honor of the Blessed Virgin and also for a Mass, for my mother who is ailing. I have great confidence in Our Heavenly Queen. A. J. M., **Bathurst, N. B.** — I am very anxious to receive a special grace. If I am favored I promise a subscription and the support of a missionary sister for three months. P. L., **Millbury, Mass.** — I have pleaded for two special favors from the Little Flower. Would you please use the enclosed offering to have two Masses said for that particular purpose. O. S., **Easthampton, Mass.** — A subscriber solicits your prayers for the cure of a sore leg and for help through a trying ordeal. X., **Little Pabos, Que.** — A position in a High School. Mr. E. A. S., **Fall River, Mass.** — If it be the will of God, I wish to sell a property, and beg the help of your prayers for that intention. Mrs. J. M. M., **Bridgeport, Conn.** — Kindly make a novena that my health improve. Mrs. J. M., **Worcester, Mass.** — Location of a suitable house. B. P., **Montreal.** — Please pray to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus that my eyesight be improved and that I be freed from very bad headaches. A client of the Little Flower. — Improvement in health is requested by: M. C. C., **St. John, N. B.**; T. C., **Waterbury, Conn.**; E. R., **South Hadley, Mass.**; M. C. C., **East Bathurst**; J. M. M.; M. M., **Pawtucket, R. I.**; L. L., **St. Basil, Que.**; J. H., **Notre Dame de Grace, Montreal.** — I feel very much downcast and earnestly beg your fervent prayers. **Pembroke, Ont.** — I recommend a very special intention to your prayers. Mrs. W. C., **Fall River, Mass.** — Better position and increase of salary for my son are requested through the powerful intercession of Our Immaculate Mother, Queen of the Missions. Mrs. M. M., **Waterbury, Conn.** —



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