

THE PRECURSOR



Vol. XIII, 19th Year

MONTREAL, March-April 1941

No. 2

Works of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

IN CANADA

MOTHER HOUSE, 2900 St. Catherine Road, Cote des Neiges, Montreal, Que.,
(Founded in 1902).

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Procure for the Missions. Workroom for making 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 girls. Diffusion of a Missionary Review: THE PRECURSOR. Free Missionary Library.

NOVITIATE, Pont Viau (near Montreal), Laval Co.

OUTREMONT, Que., 314 St. Catherine Road.

Closed Retreats for ladies and girls. Sewing-circles. Kindergarten.

CHINESE HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY, 112 Lagachetière St. West, Montreal,

Religious instruction for the Chinese. (Founded in 1918).

The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception also visit Chinese patients in Catholic or Protestant hospitals, when requested to do so.

NOMININGUE, Que., (Bethany) (Founded in 1914).

Closed Retreats for ladies and girls.

RIMOUSKI, Que., St. Germain St., (Founded in 1918).

Apostolic School for Aspirants to the Missions. Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Workroom for making Church Vestments. Sewing-circles for ladies and girls. Kindergarten. Private lessons in French, English, Music and Painting.

JOLIETTE, Que., 750 St. Louis St., (Founded in 1919).

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Closed Retreats for ladies and girls. Workroom for making Church Vestments. Sewing-circles.

QUEBEC, 4 Simard St., (Founded in 1919).

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Recollections for girls. Sewing-circles. Private lessons in Painting.

VANCOUVER, B. C., 236 Campbell Ave., (Founded in 1921).

Oriental Hospital. Home and Dispensary for the Chinese. Private lessons in Language and Catechism for Chinese children and adults. Visits to Chinese families.

THREE RIVERS, Que., 466 Bonaventure St., (Founded in 1926.)

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Sewing-circles for ladies and girls. Kindergarten.

QUEBEC, 651 St. Cyrille St., (Founded in 1928).

Closed Retreats for ladies and girls. Sewing-circles.

GRANBY, Que., 35 Dufferin St., (Founded in 1930).

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Closed Retreats for ladies and girls. Hostel for young ladies. Sewing-circles. School. Kindergarten.

CHICOUTIMI, Que., 61 Jacques Cartier St., (Founded in 1930).

Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood. Closed Retreats for ladies and girls. Sewing-circles. Hostel for young ladies.

GRANBY, Que., 279 Main St., (Founded in 1931).

The Immaculate Conception Hostel for girls.

STE. MARIE, Beauce Co., (Founded in 1932). Apostolic School.

RIMOUSKI, Que., St. Jean Baptiste St., (Founded in 1932).

Closed Retreats for ladies and girls. Kindergarten.

ST. JOHNS, Que., 430 Champlain St., (Founded in 1935).

Closed Retreats for ladies and girls. Diocesan Office of the Holy Childhood.

(Continued on page 3 of the cover.)

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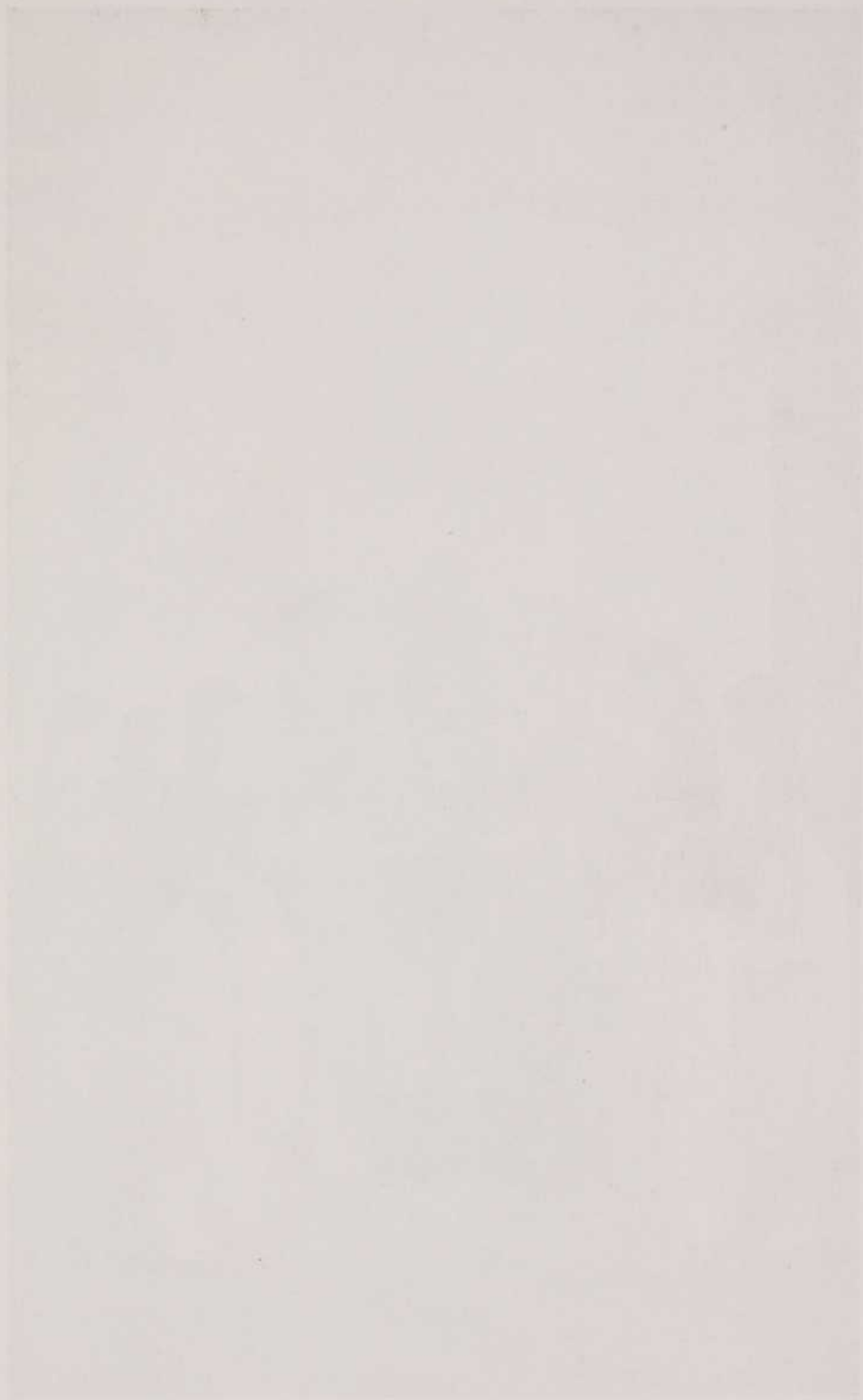
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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS



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

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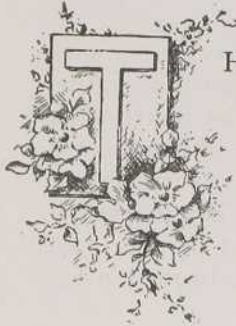


Blessed Saint

*Blessed Saint with whom the angels spoke ; in you
God placed His trust.
The Holy Spirit bore His witness high
That you were just.
You played your part in heavenly mysteries
Through wondrous days,
And watched the Queen of Angels go upon
Sweet household ways.
You held your God within your arms ; adored
Him with a kiss.
His tender voice did lisp your name. What words
Could speak your bliss?
Intensest silence better could express
Your humble wonder at such blessedness.*

— A Nun of Tyburn Convent.

The Home of Joseph and Mary



HE marriage of Joseph and Mary was not only a preparation for the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God; it also was to be an example for all the Church. Why did the Son of God come on earth? To expiate the sins of man, to wash them in His blood; to purify the world, to sanctify it by the power of His grace. At the birth of Christ, iniquity was at its height: the entire universe was plunged in a state of corruption that no Christian writer can possibly describe. Jesus retakes the social edifice;

He proposes restoring it entirely. He commences by bringing the sanctity of marriage to its former purity. At the beginning of His public life, He is seen blessing by His presence, the new spouses of Cana; accompanied by His Mother and His disciples, He presides at the marriage-feast; and, by the miracle He there performs, by the changing of the water into wine, He indicates the grace much more important which He proposes to grant to Christian spouses. To the miracle He joins the authority of His word; He recalls to His numerous followers the marriage of our first parents in the garden of Eden. He shows God the Father blessing this union and rendering it, from the very beginning, indissoluble: man cannot separate what God has united. Finally, he establishes the Sacraments as fountains of eternal life, and He hides in one of these sacred signs the grace which will sanctify husband and wife and render them faithful unto death.

But long before this, even before Jesus appears on earth, Heaven prepares to unravel the mystery — the marriage of Joseph and Mary illuminates the cradle of the Church, as a light indicating the virtue of the one Who is coming. Doubtless, this union is contracted under altogether exceptional conditions; Joseph and Mary seem to belong to the family of angels rather than to that of men. But, had God wished to elevate their virtue to inaccessible heights, one could understand that easily; He would have done so to manifest the glory of His Son, to render illustrious the dwelling which was to be His, to place it in the care of the two most holy personages of the earth. But, on examining things more closely, the example that Joseph and Mary give us may be set before all Christians, and, in fact, it exerts an influence which is felt throughout the Church. Those who travel in mountainous countries do not even think of climbing to the gigantic peaks crowning them. They are content to remain at the base. They contemplate with admiration the sublime spectacle presented to them; they breathe a keener air, they drink purer water, they feel stronger. Thus it is with the Christians who meditate the mystery that we are studying: when they approach the house of Nazareth where Joseph and Mary dwell, they inhale with happiness the vivifying perfumes of chastity. The human soul, the regenerated soul particularly is made for purity: whenever it comes in contact with this virtue, it greets and honours it; the sinners blush on seeing it; the clean of heart are thrilled on contemplating it and they say: *Thy plants*

are a paradise of pomegranates with the fruits of the orchard-Cypress and spikenard. (Cant. IV, 13.) The whole Church venerates the marriage of Joseph and Mary.

Those who are consecrated to God by the vow of chastity, the priests, the religious, find in this union a subject of perpetual praise: never has purity obtained such a triumph. These two spouses living in the matrimonial state, chanting the canticles of the virgins, appear to them as two masterpieces of the Holy Virtue. They confess that God has never shown Himself so great as when He granted His servants a similar grace. They themselves feel animated with new courage to maintain at the height of their holy promises; they humbly ask the saintly spouses of Nazareth to remain like them, virginal and pure until death.

While for those who are united by matrimonial ties, they are happy to find as their model, two spouses of such perfect virtue. "It is then very true," do they say, "that what makes our marriage so holy, is that God deigns preside over it, and Himself bless the oaths we pronounce before Him. It is also very true that what is of greatest importance to us, is to remain closely united in soul and sentiment. It is by faith, by the practice of the love of God, it is by the continued desire of doing every day the Holy Will of God that we shall find peace, joy and strength in our duty. Joseph and Mary are our example: it was sufficient for them to love each other chastily and saintly in God, to be the happiest spouses on earth. It is at the feet of God that they obtained that confidence so absolute, that love so profound, that devotedness so constant that poured forth so much light, so much charm in their existence. Together, they served God, they suffered for God; together, they received from God graces temporal as well as eternal."

No other home has hidden so much virtue as that of Joseph and Mary: none has spread in the Church so much edification and grace.

(Translated.)

— Abbé PERDREAU.

A Father Consoled by an Angel

A lord, very devoted to St. Joseph, was in the habit of celebrating his feast, every year, with the greatest fervour possible. He had three children: one of them died on the very day of the solemnity; the following year, on the same festival, the second died. This double loss afflicted the kind father, so much so, that he had made up his mind not to celebrate a third time the feast of this saint lest he should lose his third and last son; then, either to yield to his fear, or to forget his sorrow and anxieties, he undertook a journey. While he was walking, absorbed in thought he raised his eyes and perceived two young men hanged to a tree. At the same moment, an angel appeared to him and said: "Do you see these two young men? Learn that your two sons would have died in the same way had they lived; but because you were devoted to St. Joseph, he obtained from God that they die in their childhood, in order to spare your family the shame they would have drawn upon you and especially to assure them by this untimely death, Life Everlasting. Go and celebrate the feast of the saint and fear nothing for the child that is left to you; he will be a bishop and will live long." Things happened as the angel had predicted.

— Father Patrigiani.

A Good and Faithful Servant



VERY REVEREND CANON J.-A. ROCH
*First Superior of the Foreign Mission
Seminary of Pont Viau*

On Saturday, December 21, 1940, Very Reverend Canon J. Avila Roch, first Superior of the Quebec Foreign Mission Society, died at the Hôtel-Dieu, Montreal, at the age of sixty-five years.

The lamented deceased had a laborious and fruitful career. Born at St. Norbert, Berthier Co., on June 20, 1875, he took his classical course at the Joliette Seminary and studied theology at the Grand Seminary of Montreal. Ordained priest on June 1, 1901, he was named curate at Berthierville. A year later, he went to Rome, whence, after brilliant studies, he returned with the titles of Doctor in Theology and Ca-

non Law. For twelve years thence, he devoted himself to teaching philosophy and theology and to the formation of the young men at the Joliette Seminary. Named titular canon of Joliette in 1914, then rector of the Cathedral in 1918, he did so much and so well that certain persons believed that he would be called some day to the Episcopate; but an unforeseen and very important event happened, which manifested to all his real destiny.

On February 2, 1921, Their Excellencies the Archbishops and Bishops of the Province of Quebec, assembled, had decreed the erection of a Foreign Mission Seminary at Montreal.

For this nascent institution, which already possessed its first priest and had recruits promised, a superior was necessary. Divine Providence indi-

cated the chosen man in the person of Canon J. A. Roch, whom Their Excellencies appointed to this office on May 12th. On August 30th, the good Canon left the Cathedral of Joliette to come to reside in Montreal, where he was given generous hospitality by the Clergy of St. Viator. Thenceforth, he devoted himself unreservedly to the magnificent but difficult work which was confided to him, and his efforts were fully successful.

In 1921, the new Society possessed no property. At present, it occupies a vast establishment at Pont Viau, Montreal, and a House of Probation on St. Foye Road, Quebec; it counts almost one hundred priests and directs three Missions: Szepingkai Vicariate and Lingtung Prefecture in Manchukuo, and Davao Mission in the Philippine Islands.

In less than twenty years, the worthy Superior exhausted his robust health in his heavy task. In 1935, though already overcome by illness, he did not fear to go to visit all the posts of his missionaries established in Manchukuo, in order to bring them the comfort of his wise counsels and paternal encouragement. However, as ill-health continued to wear him away, the General Chapter in 1938 had to be resigned to having him replaced; but, not wishing to be deprived of his precious counsels, it named him first Assistant-General, post which he still occupied when the Lord, considering, no doubt, the glorious state of suffering and the numerous merits of His good and faithful servant, and finding him mature for Heaven, came to take him away from the earth.

The venerable deceased was exposed at the Seminary of Pont Viau, where the funeral service, presided over by His Excellency Most Reverend J. Charbonneau, Archbishop of Montreal, took place on December 24th. The mortal remains of this great and virtuous man repose in the Society cemetery, situated near the Seminary, where his memory will remain in veneration.

The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, who have particularly known the lamented deceased and have benefited by his charity, will piously retain a faithful and grateful remembrance of him.

HOMAGE AND WISHES

To His Excellency Most Reverend Albini Leblanc,

*newly appointed Bishop of Hearst, Northern Ontario,
the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception
are pleased to offer their most respectful homage and best wishes
for health and a long and fruitful episcopate.*

Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, grant that Peace, the fruit of Justice and Charity, may reign in the world.

Pius XII. 300 Days. Dec 11, 1939.

The First Encyclical Letter

of His Holiness Pope Pius XII

“*Summi Pontificatus*”

*To Our Venerable Brethren, the Patriarchs, Primates, Archbishops, Bishops
and other Ordinaries in peace and communion with the Apostolic See:*

(Continued)

HOR true though it is that the evils from which mankind suffers today come in part from economic instability and from the struggle of interests regarding a more equal distribution of the goods which God has given man as a means of sustenance and progress, it is not less true that their root is deeper and more intrinsic, belonging to the sphere of religious belief and moral convictions which have been perverted by the progressive alienation of the peoples from that unity of doctrine, faith, customs and morals which once was promoted by the tireless and beneficent work of the Church. If it is to have any effect, the re-education of mankind must be, above all things, spiritual and religious. Hence, it must proceed from Christ as from its indispensable foundation; must be actuated by justice and crowned by charity.

Task of Regeneration

The accomplishment of this task of regeneration, by adapting her means to the altered conditions of the times and to the new needs of the human race, is an essential and maternal office of the Church. Committed to her by her Divine Founder, the preaching of the Gospel, by which is inculcated to men truth, justice and charity and the endeavor to implant its precepts solidly in mind and conscience, is the most noble and most fruitful work for peace. That mission would seem as if it ought to discourage by its very grandeur the hearts of those who make up the Church Militant. But that co-operation in the spread of the Kingdom of God which in every century is effected in different ways, with varying instruments, with manifold hard struggles, is a command incumbent on everyone who has been snatched by Divine Grace from the slavery of Satan and called in Baptism to citizenship of the Kingdom of God.

And if belonging to it, living according to its spirit, laboring for its increase and placing its benefits at the disposition of that portion of mankind also which as yet has no part in them, means in our days having to face obstacles and oppositions as vast and deep and minutely organized as never before, that does not dispense a man from the frank, bold profession of our Faith. Rather, it spurs one to stand fast in the conflict even at the price of the greatest sacrifices. Whoever lives by the spirit of Christ refuses to let himself be beaten down by the difficulties which oppose him, but on the contrary feels himself impelled to work with all his strength and with the fullest confidence in God. He does not draw back before the straits and the necessities of the moment but faces their severity ready to give aid with that love which flees no sacrifice, is stronger than death, and will not be quenched by the rushing waters of tribulation.

Faces Gigantic Tasks

It gives Us, Venerable Brethren, an inward strength, a heavenly joy, for which We daily render to God Our deep and humble thanks, to see in every region of the Catholic world evident signs of a spirit which boldly faces the gigantic tasks of Our age, which with generous decision is intent on uniting in fruitful harmony the first and essential duty of individual sanctification, and apostolic activity for the spread of the Kingdom of God. From the movement of the Eucharistic Congresses furthered with loving care by Our predecessors and from the collaboration of the laity formed in Catholic Action towards a deep realization of their noble mission, flow forth fountains of grace and reserves of strength, which could hardly be sufficiently prized in the present time, when threats are more numerous, needs multiply and the conflict between Christianity and anti-Christianism grows intense.

At a moment when one is forced to note with sorrow the disproportion between the number of priests and the calls upon them, when one sees that even today the words of Our Saviour apply: "The harvest indeed is great, but the laborers are few" (St. Matthew 9, 37; St. Luke 10, 2), the collaboration of the laity in the Apostolate of the Hierarchy, a collaboration indeed given by many and animated with ardent zeal and generous self-devotion, stands out as a precious aid to the work of priests and shows possibilities of development which justify the brightest hopes. The prayer of the Church to the Lord of the Harvest that he send workers into his vineyard (cf. St. Matthew 9, 37; St. Luke 10, 2) has been granted to a degree proportionate to the present needs, and in a manner which supplements and completes the powers, often obstructed and inadequate, of the priestly apostolate. Numbers of fervent men and women, of youth obedient to the voice of the Supreme Pastor and to the direction of their Bishops, consecrate themselves with the full ardor of their souls to the works of the apostolate in order to bring back to Christ the masses of peoples who have been separated from Him.

To them in this moment so critical for the Church and for mankind go out Our paternal greeting, Our deep-felt gratitude, Our confident hope. These have truly placed their lives and their work beneath the standard of Christ the King; and they can say with the Psalmist: "I speak my words to the King" (psalm, 44, 1). "Thy Kingdom come" is not simply the burning desire of their prayers; it is besides, the guide of their activity.

Noble Mission for Laity

This collaboration of the laity with the priesthood in all classes, categories and groups reveals precious industry and to the laity is entrusted a mission than which noble and loyal hearts could desire none higher nor more consoling. This apostolic work, carried out according to the mind of the Church, consecrates the layman as a kind of "Minister to Christ" in the sense which St. Augustine explains as follows: "When, Brethren, you hear Our Lord saying: where I am there too will My servant be, do not think solely of good Bishops and clerics. You too in your way minister to Christ by a good life, by almsgiving, by preaching His Name and teaching to whom you can. Thus every father should recognize that it is under this title that

he owes paternal affection to his family. Let it be for the sake of Christ and for life everlasting, that he admonishes all his household, teaches, exhorts, reproves, shows kindness, corrects; and thus in his own home he will fulfill an ecclesiastical and in a way an episcopal office ministering to Christ, that he may be for ever with Him." (On the Gospel according to St. John, tract 51, no. 13).

In promoting this participation by the laity in the apostolate, which is so important in our times, the family has a special mission, for it is the spirit of the family that exercises the most powerful influence on that of the rising generation. As long as the sacred flame of the Faith burns on the domestic hearth, and the parents forge and fashion the lives of their children in accordance with this Faith, youth will be ever ready to acknowledge the royal prerogatives of the Redeemer, and to oppose those who wish to exclude Him from society or wrongly to usurp His rights.

Impregnable Refuge in Faith

When churches are closed, when the Image of the Crucified is taken from the schools, the family remains the providential and, in a certain sense, impregnable refuge of Christian life. And We give thanks to God as We see that numberless families accomplish this, their mission, with a fidelity undismayed by combat or by sacrifice. A great host of young men and women, even in those regions where faith in Christ means suffering and persecution, remain firm around the Throne of the Redeemer with a quiet, steady determination that recalls the most glorious days of the Church's struggles.

What torrents of benefits would be showered on the world; what light, order, what peace would accrue to social life; what unique and precious energies would contribute towards the betterment of mankind, if men would everywhere concede to the Church, teacher of justice and love, that liberty of action to which, in virtue of the Divine Mandate, she has a sacred and indisputable right! What calamities could be averted, what happiness and tranquillity assured, if the social and international forces working to establish peace would let themselves be permeated by the deep lessons of the Gospel of Love in their struggle against individual or collective egoism! There is no opposition between the laws that govern the life of faithful Christians and the postulates of a genuine humane humanitarianism, but rather unity and mutual support. In the interests of suffering mankind, shaken to the depth both materially and spiritually, We have no more ardent desire than this; that the present difficulties may open the eyes of many to see Our Lord Jesus Christ and the mission of His Church on this earth in their true light, and that all those who are in power may decide to allow the Church a free course to work for the formation of the rising generation according to the principles of justice and peace.

This work of pacification presupposes that obstacles are not put to the exercise of the mission which God has entrusted to His Church; that the field of this activity is not restricted, and that the masses, and especially youth, are not withdrawn from her beneficent influence.

Appeal to Rulers

Accordingly We, as representative on earth of Him Who was proclaimed by the Prophet "Prince of Peace" (Isaias 9, 6) appeal to the rulers of the peoples, and to those who can in any way influence public life, to let the Church have full liberty to fulfill her role as educator by teaching men truth, by inculcating justice, and inflaming hearts with the Divine Love of Christ.

While the Church cannot renounce the exercise of this, her mission, which has for its final end to realize here below the Divine plan and to "re-establish all things in Christ, that are in heaven and on earth" (Ephesians 1, 10) her aid, none the less, is shown to be indispensable as never before, now that sad experience teaches that external means and human provisions and political expedients of themselves bring no efficacious healing to the ills which affect mankind.

☒ Taught precisely by the sad failure of human expedients to stave off the tempest that threatens to sweep civilization away, many turn their gaze with renewed hope to the Church, the rock of truth and of charity, to that Chair of Peter from which, they feel can be restored to mankind that unity of religious teaching and of the moral code which of old gave consistency to pacific international relations.

Unity, towards which, so many, answerable for the destiny of nations, look with regretful yearning as they experience from day to day the vanity of the very means in which once they had placed their trusts! Unity, the desired of those many legions of Our sons who daily call upon "The God of Peace and of Love"! (2, Corinthians 13, 11). Unity, the hope of so many noble minds separated from Us, who yet in their hunger and thirst for justice and peace turn their eyes to the See of Peter and from it await guidance and counsel!

(To be continued)

The Death of a Distinguished Benefactor

On the 7th of December last, Mr. G. S. Théberge, Notary, piously expired at Sainte Marie de Beauce, at the age of ninety-one years. He was a distinguished benefactor of the Community of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception and was, conjointly with Mr. Ernest Larue, Notary, the founder of their Convent of Sainte Marie.

The pious deceased had placed all his hope in the Immaculate Conception, whom he tenderly loved. This good Mother was faithful to him. She came on the eve of her great Feast to take him and present him to Her Divine Son, in order, no doubt, to favour him more bountifully.

Responding to the venerable departed's confidence in them, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception multiply their pious suffrages for the repose of his soul.



On His Way

“James!... James!...”

“Oh! it’s you, Raymond.... How are you?...”

“Fine. And how are you?... You have become very religious!...”

“What do you mean?...”

“I saw you come out of church... and you looked very devout.... I followed you at a distance, expecting you would stop at the tavern, where I would have overtaken you... but pooh! you did not even look at the door as you passed. Will you tell me what you were thinking of?”

“What I was thinking of?... I’ll tell you very frankly, I was thinking of the Confession I am to make to-morrow.”

“Confession!... In what honour?...”

“In honour of Easter time.”

“Ah! you’re a sissy.”

“Now stop it, James, you know I am not patient... however I wish to become so, for I am converted. Don’t speak to me any more about going to the tavern. I have given that up altogether. I have also given up bad companions and my licentious life, and I am determined to behave like a man and a Christian now.”

“Where did you get these nice ideas?”

“Don’t you know that I made a Closed Retreat?”

“I don’t. When was that?”

“Last month.”

“Tell me all about it.”

“I was conducted there fortuitously... or rather by the hand of God. You know how much I grieved over the loss of my little John. I was still in despair, cursing Heaven for having taken him away from me, when I met my good old friend, Philip X... He consoled me. We chatted together a long time, as in days of yore; finally, he told me he was going to make a Closed Retreat a few days later and he insisted on having me go with him. I did not accept immediately, alleging my business, family, and state of soul... but his persuasive arguments soon determined me to give him my word. I was true to it and how happy I am now. I returned from there, pleased, cheerful, and light-hearted, like a sick person who has suddenly recovered his health.

“During these three days of silence and frequent lectures, in that atmosphere all imbued with the presence of God, I reflected seriously, for the first time in my life, on the necessity of saving my soul. My conscience was unburdened, I was enlightened on several points and, with the grace of God, I resolved to live as a worthy Christian. Better still, I wish to make

up for the past, strive to convert a few sinners, especially those who have contributed to lead me astray. You must admit frankly, Raymond, that you have done your good share in that work."

"I admit that I am not pious... that I am not a saint...."

"Your habit of criticizing Religion... your malevolent conversations on priests... your insistence on having others share your ideas have been very prejudicial to me; so I wish to do you as much good as you have done me harm."

"Oh! it isn't necessary, I feel quite happy as I am."

"No, my friend, you cannot be happy. Remorse, loneliness, shallowness... are your share despite your many amusements. Can a man be happy when he lives in a state of sin, when he overwhelms his wife with grief and scandalizes his children by his bad conduct?... I know something about that, but there is a pardon for every sin. Return to the Lord, and peace and true joy will immediately return to your soul, and happiness to your family. Begin by fulfilling your Easter duty."

"I can't even bear the thought of Confession... Besides, I have no confidence in priests. Are they not men like us?"

"Men like us? Yes, by the fact that they have a human nature like ours; it is why we must excuse them if they sometimes are weak; but they are superior to us by their ministry, they represent Jesus Christ Himself in the Church, it is why we must respect them and listen to them. That they be all saints, praise be to God! It should be thus on account of the holiness of their functions; but if all are not so, there is nothing to be surprised about, if we consider the weakness of human nature. But that does not change Religion, which is always the same. When you go to Confession to such or such a priest, known or unknown, young or old, it is to Jesus Christ Himself that you tell your sins, and it is Jesus Christ that forgives you. It is the same when you hear Mass, you must recognize Our Lord in the priest who is at the altar. And when you receive Holy Communion, is it not always God you receive in the Sacred Host, no matter who gives it to you?"

"You speak like a book...."

"Am I not telling you the truth?"

"You are perfectly right and I see that I was wrong in exacting that every priest be irreproachable when I myself have not even been able to live as a simple Christian."

"You are speaking frankly. Now I trust that you will go to Confession to-morrow and act like a Christian."

"You are not thinking of that, I hope."

"Indeed I am... I wish to take you with me. You brought me so many times where you wished to go that it is only fair that you should come with me now."

"Go to Confession... to whom?"

"To Father X... or to any other priest of your choice."

" Oh! Father X... he's a saint; but go to Confession, no, I can't! "

" Are you ashamed? "

" No, the sins I committed, many others committed them since the world exists! It isn't the telling of my sins that I dread.... "

" What is it? "

" It is to swim up against the current after that... It is to renounce my old habits. "

" It is high time that you should do so. "

" Oh! later on, I am young yet... I have many years ahead of me... "

" Who knows if you will not die soon... in a few days, perhaps... suddenly like so many others, like Roger L... for instance.... "

" Decidedly you want to win me! "

" Indeed, it is my greatest desire. "

" Now!... I must be at the office, Good-bye! "

" I'll see you to-morrow. I'll be here around five. Is that all right?... "

" Oh! I promise nothing, but you are always welcome. "

When seated in his office, Raymond mused... and remorse began to trouble him...

James continued on his way a few moments longer. He prayed for his friend, asking God the grace of his conversion.

The following day the two friends could be seen directing their steps towards a church and come out of it beaming with joy... while On High, the angels rejoiced because one more sinner had returned to God.



The Priest's Greatness

When some one wishes to destroy Religion, he begins by attacking the priest, because where there are no more priests, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass can no longer be offered; and where there is no Sacrifice, there is no Religion.

When the bell calls you to church, if you were asked: " Where are you going? " you could answer: " I am going to nourish my soul. " If someone asked you, showing you the Tabernacle: " What is this golden door? " — " It is the office, the 'pantry' of my soul ". " Who holds the key, who makes the provisions, who prepares the banquet, who serves at the table? " — " It is the priest. " — " And the food? " — " It is the Precious Body and the Precious Blood of Our Lord... " — O my God! my God!... how much You have loved us!

Consider the power of the priest! Of a piece of bread, the priest's tongue makes a God! It is more than creating a world: " St. Philomena therefore obeys the Curé of Ars? " Indeed, she may well obey him, since God obeys him.

If I met a priest and an angel, I would bow to the priest before bowing to the angel. The latter is the friend of God, but the priest takes the place of God.... St. Teresa kissed the place where a priest had passed....

When you see a priest, you ought to say: " Here is the one who has made me a child of God and opened Heaven to me by Holy Baptism, the one who has purified me after my sin, who gives food to my soul... " On seeing a steeple, you can say: " What is there in that building? " — " The Body of Our Lord. " — " Why is He there? " — " Because a priest has passed there and said Mass. "

— THE CURÉ OF ARS.



What a Sea of Tears and Sorrow

*What a sea of tears and sorrow
Did the soul of Mary toss
To and fro upon its billows,
While she wept her bitter loss ;
In her arms her Jesus holding,
Torn but newly from the Cross.*

*Gentle Mother, we beseech thee,
By thy tears and troubles sore ;
By the death of thy dear Offspring,
By the bloody wounds He bore,
Touch our hearts with that true sorrow
Which afflicted thee of yore.*

The Most Beautiful Model After Jesus

IT is, no doubt, a pleasure for us to pray before the statue of Mary Immaculate, of Mary wrapped up in the contemplation of her unspeakable purity. We go with confidence to the feet of the Virgin Mother holding in her arms the Divine Child Jesus. We love to consider, to meditate her virtues, her greatness and her glories. However, would not her virtues alone be discouraging for our weakness and moral indigence? On the contrary, the mystery of Mary's sufferings and humiliations endured for us is what brings her nearer to us. It is not of the Virgin conceived without sin, nor of the Virgin giving birth to Jesus, it is of the Virgin present on Calvary, that we have been told: "Behold your Mother!"

These words of the learned and pious Cardinal Pie are the exact expression of the truth. Nothing can be more advantageous to us in our sufferings than the meditation of Mary's sorrows; and the third intention of Holy Mother Church, in instituting the Feast of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin, was to reveal to us the mystery of affliction and confirm us in patience.

Ah! what need we have of patience here below! What an excellent and necessary virtue it is! What tribulations afflict us upon earth! What sufferings of body and soul, of mind and heart, are ours! How we have to suffer for all that concerns ourselves, our families, our Country, Holy Church, our friends and relatives! How important it is for us to have models of fortitude and courage, who teach us by their example how we must bear our trials, that is to say, without a murmur, with resignation and, if it please God, with fortitude full of generosity!

Now, the most beautiful model that we could have before our eyes, after Jesus, is the Blessed Virgin Mary.

We are suffering: she has suffered still more, be it a question of physical pain or of moral afflictions. The Seven Sorrows that we venerate in Our Heavenly Mother are the type of all the tribulations that can come upon our poor humanity; and Mary has shared in them in a proportion that we shall never attain!

Mary suffered, so we have said, especially on Calvary; but how her patience shines there with incomparable splendour, and what an irresistibly persuasive exhortation it is for us! See for yourself. Agar, of old, can not look at her son dying. She lays him at the foot of a shrub and goes away, turning her back to him and hiding her face in her hands, so as not to see him breathing his last. Jesus is going to die in the most horrible torture, and Mary is there! "No one, excepting St. John the Evangelist, has given me this detail," exclaims St. Ambrose. "The others have described the earthquake during the Passion, the profound darkness covering the sky and concealing the sun, the entrance of the good thief into Heaven after

the confession of his sins. John tells me that the Saviour's Mother remained standing before the Cross of Jesus." It is true, bitter tears flow from her eyes; it is true, her heart is overwhelmed with sorrow and anguish; it is true, her physical strength failed her on the road to Calvary, as Jesus in the Garden of Olives; but she rallied again and, like Jesus, she said: "Let us go to the sacrifice!" At the foot of the Cross, she is full of, I do not say, resignation — her soul was always resigned to the Will of God — but fortitude, courage, intrepidity! She remains standing: *Stabat!* What meaning there is in that word! How well does it portray Mary's admirable patience! She suffers with perfect conformity to God's Holy Will, with incredible joy in the midst of incredible grief, and with immense love. She knows the admirable effects of Her Son's Passion and her own Compassion, and that is why she endures these terrible afflictions with a heart full of magnanimity. "The Mother of Jesus," says again St. Ambrose, "was standing at the foot of the Cross. She remained there with sublime intrepidity, while even the men fled. Without fainting, without any fear of those who were immolating the Saviour, she looked lovingly at Her Son's Wounds, which, she knew, were to redeem the world. The Son was hanging on the Cross, and the Mother was offering herself to the executioners."

Let us, then, take courage, Christians, in the midst of our afflictions! Let us not be disheartened, let us not murmur against Divine Providence; let us be resigned, if not joyful, at the thought of the salutary effects of sufferings properly endured! Let us recall the example of Jesus, the example of Mary. Let us love to come frequently to rest at the foot of the Cross, in order to derive from it fortitude, patience and energy. According to the thought of a saint, "let us shut ourselves up in the garden of Mary's sorrows: it is one of God's dearest paradises."

— Rev. C. ROLLAND.

St. Joseph Protects the Converted Sinners

A poor young man who had been a victim of the vice of impurity during a long time, wrote the following lines: "I had the misfortune of living in the habit of mortal sin. Oppressed with shame and remorse, I took the resolution to come out of this sad state; but, alas! I had not the strength. A thought came to my mind, it was to recite every day one *Pater*, one *Ave Maria* and one *Ave Joseph*, to ask for the strength to confess all my sins. I recited these prayers during three months, thereabout. At the end of that time, I had the happiness of making a retreat. The first day, nothing extraordinary happened. I redoubled my prayers towards evening. The next day when I awoke, I was all changed; my conversion was effected. St. Joseph whom I had invoked with all my heart was acting powerfully. All day, I prepared my confession and that evening, I was at the feet of my Confessor. In order to have nothing to fear of the devil I took a little statue of St. Joseph with me and I did not feel the least fear to tell my sins. After this first interview, I retired to my room, my heart relieved of a heavy burden. The following days, I continued my confession and after having accused all my sins, the priest reconciled me to God by giving me absolution. What joy! What heavenly peace flooded my soul! This shows of what value the protection of St. Joseph has been to me! Since my conversion, I have been assailed by many temptations against the blessed virtue; however, I have not been vanquished once. At the moment of the combat, I invoke my powerful Protector with confidence and I am victorious in the struggle. Praised be St. Joseph who helped me to purify my heart and protected me from a relapse!

— Reverend Father HUGUET, S. M.

The Greatness of the Cross



*"I would plant on heathen soil
the glorious standard of Thy Cross,
O my Beloved."*

Great is the Cross because God the Son has been pleased to work great things by it. By it, He has redeemed the world and, by it, He continues throughout the centuries His redeeming mission, according to His words: "*And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all things to Myself.*" By it, He will come to judge all men on the Last Day. *Then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven, and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn; and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with much power and majesty.*

Great is the Cross under the form of sufferings, because it elevates and ennobles the soul. He who, ascending a high mountain, looks down upon the plain that he has just left, sees it changing in appearance little by little. At the top of the acclivity, the landscape appears altogether different to him; he perceives new horizons and overlooks every thing in the valley that was higher than himself.

So is it with a person who is advancing in the way of the Cross, which is nothing but a perpetual ascension towards the summit of holiness. When he enters this luminous path by the practice of virtue, self-denial and the loving acceptance of his daily afflictions, he leaves the vileness of egoism, ambition, jealousy and the other passions. According as he proceeds along this ascending route, he acquires a better knowledge of the nothingness of everything here below and, detaching his heart from perishable goods, he fixes it upon those that are eternal. If, by his constancy, he attains the summit of his ascent, what liberty of mind and heart does he not enjoy!... He is then above all that is passing... and if, like Jesus, he lets himself be nailed to the Cross by the complete sacrifice of himself, he embraces the whole world in his charity and merits efficaciously for its salvation. He can then repeat with St. Paul: "*I fill up those things that are wanting of the sufferings of Christ, in my flesh for His Body, which is the Church.*" Then, too, with perfect confidence, he can expect the Divine consolations and the infinite recompense, according to these other words of the same Apostle: "*As you are partakers of the sufferings, so shall you be also of the consolation,*"

and these of St. James: "*Blessed is the man that endureth temptation, for when he hath been proved, he shall receive the crown of life.*"

Christian Friends, in order to attain this happy end, it is necessary to take the road that leads to it: that of the Cross. The trials that God reserves for us are so many invitations to undertake it or means to reach it. Let us not, then, resist grace; but, understanding that our salvation and eternal glory are at stake, let us take the firm resolution to repress our evil inclinations, deprive ourselves of certain superfluities, renounce ourselves on many occasions and, finally, bear our daily crosses patiently and for the love of God.

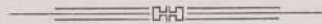
If we persevere in our resolutions, we shall soon become better; our souls, rising above the pettiness of this world, will be ennobled by contact with noble thoughts and generous desires, and their radiance will have a favourable influence upon others. Then, we shall be truly compassionate towards our neighbour; we shall wish him well and do good to him. Friends of the Cross, we shall make him love it.

In our charity, we shall not forget the multitude of pagan souls, of whom we do not think enough; we shall pray for their salvation and shall help by our alms the missionaries who go to bring them, with the teaching of the Gospel, the luminous doctrine of the Cross.



Kindness adds sweetness to everything.

— *Father Faber.*



“*Holy Cross Burse*”

for the support of a Missionary Sister

A burse is a sum of money the interest of which forms a perpetual income for the support of a missionary. The religious whose upkeep is assured by the foundation of a burse becomes for life the missionary of the donor and his representative among the poor infidels. 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 several persons, forms a complete burse.

Offerings received for “*Holy Cross Burse*”

July-December 1939.....	\$176.60	Year 1940.....	\$406.50
January-February 1941.....			\$96.00

All offerings for this Burse will be received with most sincere gratitude.

Address: Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception,
2900 St. Catherine Road, Cote des Neiges, Montreal.

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 will shower them upon earth."

St. Teresa of the Child Jesus.

Thanksgiving to the "Little Flower of Jesus" for favours received through her intercession. Please remember me in your prayers to this dear Saint, that I may obtain another grace. One who has faith in St. Teresa. **Anthony, R. I.** — Thanksgiving to the "Little Flower" for a favour received. **Miss G. A. C., Lewiston, Me.** — St. Teresa of the Child Jesus has been very good to me. Please continue praying for me, that I and my family may keep in good health. **Mrs. J. L., Indian Orchard, Mass.** — Sincere thanks to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a position obtained. **Mrs. P. D., Montreal.** — Lively gratitude to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a favour received through her intercession. **Mrs. M. C., Kénogami.** — Thanksgiving to the dear "Scatterer of Roses" for a benefit obtained through her intercession. May she continue assisting me. **Mrs. Emery Demers, Woonsocket, R. I.** — Heartfelt thanks to St. Teresa of Lisieux for a favour obtained. I request her help for the success of a lawsuit. A Subscriber to THE PRECURSOR, **St. Laurent.** — Lively gratitude to the dear "Little Flower of Carmel" for her visible and powerful protection. **Mrs. L. M., Montreal.** — Sincere thanks to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for favours received through her intercession. May this dear Saint continue favouring me. **Z. Rousseau, St. Monique, Lake St. John Co.** — I am acquitting myself of a promise in honour of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus who has protected my family. **Anonymous, Richelieu.** — My most heartfelt thanks to the Patroness of the Missions, for favours obtained through her intercession. **Mrs. A. R., Clair, N. B.**



A Modern Martyr

Blessed Theophane Vénard

Revised and annotated by the Very Rev. James A. WALSH, M. Ap.

(Continued)



ELANIE had long wished to devote herself to God in a religious life, but her brother's plans had thwarted the accomplishment of her own wishes for a time. She had made the sacrifice generously. Nevertheless, she felt herself strongly urged in the same direction.

"Be comforted, my dearest sister," writes Theophane. "We are made to live together; then let us do so in Heaven. Be patient until God opens the way for you to give yourself entirely to Him. Perfection does not lie in one state of life more than in another, but consists in an entire correspondence with grace in the position in which God has placed us. Above all, do not be discouraged, or give way to sadness and despondency. Your holy and hidden life in the bosom of your family is quite as meritorious in the sight of God, and perhaps safer than a more heroic one."

But although Melanie was compelled to wait for a few years to attain the great object of her wishes, she found she could realize a portion of them by consecrating her virginity to our Lord, even while still living in the world; and on this she writes to consult her brother. He replies, —

"Your letter has filled me with great joy, for I see how anxious you are to advance in the paths of perfection. I have joined my poor prayers with yours and laid them at the feet of our Lady of Victories. Do nothing hastily. You say you wish to obey your director, and you are quite right, for obedience alone is a sure guide. You are very good to consult me, my dear little sister; and I, who am so far below you in everything, — I thank you with all my heart for this fresh proof of your love. Well! what answer am I to give you? You would not like me to say 'No,' and I should like it still less. How can I advise you to remain in a world which I detest as you do, and which I have left myself? I know well that for a long time you have entirely detached yourself from its pleasures and its frivolities; but the last act, the act of entire renunciation, you have not yet signed and that is all that is left for you to do. What is there, then, to stop you? Consult your courage, consult the voice of grace, consult those with whom you live, and if no obstacle presents itself, may your holy desires be fulfilled. May God's will be done. Celebrate your nuptials, give Him your heart and your life, clothe yourself with the bridal robe, place His ring on your finger, take a new name, enter into a new family. I wish you joy, sister *Mary*, virgin spouse of Jesus Christ! May the day come when I shall see my much-loved sister in the choir of virgins, of which *Mary Immaculate* is the Queen, and when you shall count your brother in the ranks of apostles, and perhaps martyrs — who knows? How joyfully we shall each then sing, '*Regina Apostolorum, Regina Virginum, ora pro nobis!*'..."

"You wish me to guess the new name you have taken. I have puzzled my brains in vain and can find only my own. Perhaps, in the eccentricity of your love, you have chosen that one? And now you say you want to be a missionary nun — a tertiary, I suppose? I have a little bit of a doubt as to the reality of this vocation; it seems to me to taste a little too much of fraternal affection."

But the great day came for *Mélanie*, and on the 15th of July, 1852, her brother wrote again, —

"I received your cake on the Feast of St. John, you naughty, little, spoiling sister, and I thought it very good, though a little salt, which is the fault of your confections. Well, be the salt of the earth! So many souls get insipid and lukewarm. Ah, you did not expect me to preach morality to you on a cake!... It is just like you and your love to remember all the little details of that last day, and how I carried my surplice on my arm. Ah! I am sometimes afraid you care for me too much! Perhaps it is to punish us both that God told me to leave you. I congratulate you with all my heart on the step you have taken, and that you should thus have separated yourself from the world, though still living in it. God has inspired you and given you a great grace. I know you will receive it with gratitude and humility; but do not forget that your first duty is still to your family and for your family.... God bless you, sister *Mary Theophane*. All joy be with you in the hearts of Jesus and Mary. —

Your devoted brother,

T. V."

(To be continued.)

The Care of the Little Ones, Canton, China

THE Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Montreal have the care of the little ones in Canton. Their double Foundling-Home of Pak Mai Hong and of Our Lady of Providence of Val d'Or is a replica of that of Bethlehem. They repair the affront endured by the Divine Infant when He was born in this world. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." (John 1, 11.) They forced Him to be born in a stable. From two to three thousand children are received each year by the worthy Religious who replace here below, Mary and Joseph caring for the Saviour born in Bethlehem, presented at the Temple, fleeing to Egypt, a boy at Nazareth.

The Sisters of Val d'Or have for neighbours, Japanese soldiers of the army of occupation. They have won the favour of these gentlemen, whose hearts were softened after a few visits to the Convent. The Japanese, like the Chinese, are very fond of children. You should see them, even at Shun Tak, stuffing them with barley-sugar or with caramels and emptying their wooden-bowls into those of the children. Some of the soldiers of Val d'Or gave their modest alms. "You are not married?" asked one of them to the Sisters. "And how could we? How could we leave our own children to come and assist those who have no longer their father or mother in this world?" The answer extended a vaster horizon before them. And the cornet and veil are for the Sisters the best pass in this outskirts of Canton.

Better still, one of the Sisters speaks Japanese wonderfully. This was to open to her many doors and many hearts. If a simple "*arigato*" touches the Japanese soldier who is far from his family and country, how much more a faultless conversation in his own tongue! Through the Sister's eloquent competence the embargo imposed by the Japanese superintendence on the twenty thousand dollars' worth of rice held at Shek Lung and destined for the Committee of Refugees, was taken off. That which the Protestants of Canton had not been able to obtain of a co-religionist, a Catholic who spoke Japanese obtained it. A conquest more striking still was that of a Japanese captain won over to the Catholic Religion by the Sister's apostolate. All his family (seven persons) still in the Country of the Rising Sun is studying the Doctrine. The mother was conquered especially by the reading of the life of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus.

To the Foundling-Home of Canton, the policemen themselves bring the babies, the little ones picked up on the street. Far gone are the prejudices of former years, the old calumnies stating that the children's eyes were pulled out, their bones boiled to make medicine. Far, are the massacres of Tientsin of 1870 and, more recently, the riot of Foutcheou. Light cannot remain hidden.

The little girls who have grown up are grouped at the house of Canton. They number two hundred and fifty. It has been impossible for the Holy

Ghost College to re-open yet. The orphans and a few neighbours of the College who remained at their post are actively occupied in the study of the Doctrine. Serious examinations control this study. At the Holy Ghost College and at the Sister's Orphanage, God remains the God of sciences; fragile would be the science that does not rest on Him: *Nisi Dominus ædificaverit domum*. To remove the foundation of the Catholic Doctrine would be to build the edifice of life on sand.

While awaiting to be able to give the complete course of study, the dear Sisters give drawing and piano lessons. The human artist has something of God, the Supreme Artist. He can read and appreciate the tableau of the world painted by God, the book written here below by the Creator: God somewhat puts His soul into it. To read it, appreciate it, imitate it, the artist also makes use of his soul. And what book is more beautiful, what tableau more magnificent than the whole life of a Religious which is according to the exemplar written, depicted by Christ.

To say music is to say harmony. Harmony of sounds, harmony of hearts! Music, joy, the same ideograph in Chinese. What a beautiful program for a community!

— A. FABRE, *Miss. Ap.*, Canton.

(Translated.)



Dearest Lord! make me remember, when the world is cold and dreary and I know not where to turn for comfort, that there is always one spot bright and cheerful — the Sanctuary.



The Virtue of Almsgiving

To give alms to a poor person, especially to an old man to honour the poverty of the Patriarch, St. Joseph, is an excellent practice and the source of abundant blessings. A man, indifferent and unbelieving, was about to die; he was about to die with words of blasphemy on his lips and despair in his heart. His wife, an angel of piety, prayed and wept at his side; a priest, a friend of the family, also prayed and wept but God did not seem to hear. However death was imminent. "Go quickly," said the minister of the Church to the woman in tears, "go in search of a poor man and give him an alms in honour of St. Joseph, for the conversion of your husband." Frantic she set off in the streets, met a man covered with rags, gave him a substantial offering, begging him to pray for the conversion of a poor sinner who was at the point of death... and at that same moment, the patient had taken the priest's hand, had kissed it with tears and asked pardon for his sins. The conversion was sincere and edifying. A few hours later, this man entered the glory of God, saved by an alms given in the name of St. Joseph and by the prayer of the poor man. His wife, weeping, looked up to Heaven where she hoped to meet this dear soul one day.

— Reverend Father HUGUET, S. M.



CHINA

Letter from Sister Madeleine Marie, of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, to the Very Reverend Mother Marie du St. Esprit, Foundress of the Institute.

*Catholic Mission, Tsungming,
October 31, 1940.*

VENERABLE AND BELOVED MOTHER,

This letter will most probably reach you around our patronal feast; I therefore confide it to our Immaculate Mother so that it may arrive safely and bring you my lively gratitude, my profound affection, and all that my poor heart holds best for the kindest of Mothers.

Your dear Daughters of the Missions have your name constantly on their lips; in their hearts is always vivid the remembrance of your kindness, and with what joy do they not recall the beautiful days spent at Outremont, or your charming visits to our Convents in Canada. On seeing our dear Mother General, they cannot help thinking of you. Her loving charity, her incessant kindness, her maternal solicitude for each of them, makes them believe that they are, for the time being, under the very roof where they once enjoyed so much happiness!

How good it is to find at divers points of China and Japan a homelike convent, where the customary life as practised at the Mother House, is held in honour, and where the Sisters possess the same religious spirit.

You would no doubt be pleased, venerable Mother, to have a few details of our journey from Manchukuo to Sūchow, then from Sūchow to Tsungming. Here are notes gleaned from our diary.

I shall tell you first of all, how touching it is to see good St. Joseph take to heart his titles of pilot, guide, and protector, which our dear Mother gave him; all the difficulties we meet with during our voyage are, thanks to his protection, reduced to nothing.

After an encouraging "au revoir" to her Daughters of Manchukuo, Mother, on September 25th, directed her steps towards Moukden, accompanied by your humble daughter and Reverend Brother Paquette. The presence of Mother's brother was for her a sweet consolation and dispelled

many an anxiety. Obstacles are quickly surmounted with a good interpreter....

At Moukden, the Sisters of Providence from Portieux were so kind as to give us hospitality for the night. It is needless to speak of the charity of these excellent Religious, for it is well known to you, they have so often sheltered your Daughters.

Around eight o'clock the next morning, we pursued our journey. There is nothing particular about the scenery of this region, which does not vary: small earthen houses, bare mountains, rivers and lakes almost dried up. Around two o'clock, we entered China Proper. Our baggage was examined at the borders, but thanks to a friend of Reverend Brother Paquette, the inspection was soon over.

At Tientsin, two Jesuit Fathers, natives of Holland, awaited us. They conducted us to the Convent of the Reverend Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, a Community of German missionaries, which has its Mother House in the United States. We were struck by the many analogies existing between this Institute and ours, both being consecrated to the same works in the Eastern Empire. These Religious like us, have had to bear the pain of seeing their Mother Foundress stretched on a bed of suffering, without being able to obtain from Heaven the cure so much desired. One of them who speaks English a little, made us visit the Convent, former residence of an old, rich Chinese. This dwelling is really magnificent with its vast apartments, its superb European and Chinese chandeliers, its large galleries with their tiled floors of divers colours and, lastly, its thousand and one details which denote refined taste. The Sister, confused at such luxury, repeated many times: "It is much too beautiful for us, we are here only for a time, only till we can build a Convent of our own, which will be more in keeping with our poverty."

After having assisted at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, we left for Tientsin around eight o'clock in the evening, undertaking the last stage of our voyage to Süchow. The temperature which, at our departure from Manchukuo, was about the same as that of autumn in Canada, grew sensibly warmer as we descended towards the centre. Everywhere the harvest was golden and the farmers busy at work. A few were already beginning to plough their fields for the second sowing, but most of them were peacefully cutting their grain with an ordinary sickle. No agricultural implements facilitate or shorten their work. The Orientals do not try to become more modern, they have the necessary workmen and, especially, much time at their disposal.... The immense expanse of ground is not, as in our country, divided by fences; it is one vast plain stretching as far as the eye can reach. The few mountains here and there, so beautifully undulated, look like immense hills of sand where play the winds. Little by little, the small earthen huts have changed: the square houses have disappeared to be replaced by nicely pointed roofs covered with thatch which, although they always announce great poverty, look really pretty.

On September 28th, around five o'clock in the afternoon, our train entered Süchow. It did not take us long to distinguish our dear Sisters Marie de

la Protection⁽¹⁾ and St. Amédée⁽²⁾ who, beaming with joy, were awaiting us. We were fortunate to get through the Customs without much trouble, thanks to the influence of a kind friend, Reverend Father Leo Paul Bourassa, arrangements were made quite easily. You remember, no doubt, beloved Mother, the eleven-year-old student from St. Mary's College who called you to the parlour one day, to hear speak of the Missions, and who, after that, when there was no school, came to spend the Thursdays at the Mother House to speak with the Sisters of the Holy Childhood and the salvation of pagans? Well, it is that same boy who has now become the Jesuit Father of whom we are speaking. He has not forgotten your kindness.

Just as for the other Missions, the presence of our dear Mother brought to our Sisters of Süchow inexpressible happiness. The day following our



HIS EXCELLENCY MOST REVEREND P. COTE, S. J., REVEREND FATHER J. COURCHESNE, S. J., SUPERIOR OF SUCHOW SEMINARY, VERY REVEREND MOTHER MARIE DE LA PROVIDENCE, SUPERIOR GENERAL OF THE MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, SISTER MARIE DE LA PROTECTION (CÉCILE ROBERGE, QUEBEC) AND SISTER MADELEINE MARIE (MADELEINE LORANGER, WESTMOUNT).

arrival, we assisted at Mass at the Cathedral. It was celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Côté on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of his Consecration. All the Christians participated in the joyful event. On that day, Mother had the happiness of christening a dying babe to whom she gave the name of the great St. Michael, begging him to protect from on high all the interests of the Mission.

On October 5th, I accompanied our dear Mother and Sister Superior on a visit to Tasukia, an out-station situated at about an hour's travel by train from Süchow. This Mission has a beautiful church built by Reverend Brother Sauvé, S. J., who was accidentally killed by the Japanese. Reverend Father Lafêche, Rector, after having spoken to us of the different works confided to him, conducted us to the home of an old Christian woman in the village. The latter eagerly wished to receive the "great visitors".... Many a time before, your Daughters have described to you a Chinese village; this one is, as one might say, a typical one! On the edge of the river which

1. Cécile ROBERGE, Quebec. 2. Emilienne VEZINA, Quebec.

runs through this region, one can see women washing their clothes and, beside them, others cleaning their rice and vegetables. Not far from there, oxen, asses, mules, pigs, etc., come to quench their thirst. To do so, they go into the water nearly up to their necks. It is said that very good fish are to be found in this river; I do not doubt it, for the food is plentiful!...

We were escorted by a crowd of curious folks who, for the majority, were seeing Sisters for the first time. Some children would run ahead of us and then stop to look at us. As we approached them, they would take to their heels....

All the family of the brave Christian mentioned above, was assembled at the gate to greet us. The good grandmother, who wore quite a number of rosaries about her neck and numerous medals pinned to her dress, invited us to enter the house, and offered us Chinese cookies with a cup of hot water. It was really amusing to see this woman who, although we had refused to accept cigarettes, did not herself abstain from smoking. She introduced a cigarette into the extremity of her long pipe which measured two feet at least. While conversing with Sister Superior whom she already knew, she lengthily aspired the precious puffs....

It was in the glimmering light of the rickshaw-lanterns and those of the wayside venders, that we regained the Convent.

What misery reigns in poor China! Every time I had the occasion of going out, new scenes revealed more of it to me; and yet, it seems that I have but a faint idea of it.

A Jesuit Father related to us that, one day, when passing near a graveyard, he perceived a man lying on the ground, half dead and striving with his enfeebled arms to chase the dogs that were preparing to devour his body. He approached the moribund and learnt from him, that being very sick for having taken injections, heartless persons had brought him there and, after stripping him of his clothes, had left him to die of hunger and misery. He had been there a week, struggling against death. The missionary procured him food and had him brought to a neighbouring hut, where he was confided to the care of a charitable Christian. The dying man declared that he had heard of God before and desired to receive Baptism, so Reverend Father had the joy of opening the gates of Heaven to his soul.

As time was flying rapidly, on the 17th we had to leave Süchow. The presence of our dear Mother had been a real comfort to the Sisters of that Mission after the cruel trials they had undergone. Their works are yet paralysed, but they are confident that it will soon be possible for them to exercise their apostolic zeal with perfect freedom.

At our departure, kind Providence gratified us once more of two guides and devoted interpreters, Reverend Brothers Pesant and Fontaine, S. J. — the latter, brother of Sister Léon Marie⁽¹⁾ — who were going to Shanghai on business. We crossed numerous fields inundated by the recent rains, where glided pretty sail-boats; we met immense herds of buffaloes, which are very precious to the peasants even in Southern China.

1. Lucille FONTAINE, St. Ephrem d'Upton.

From Peking, a ferry took us to Nanking via the Blue Sea, whose waters, strange to say, are of a very dark yellow. We passed the night at the Convent of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, who received us with great kindness.

The following day, while it was still almost dark, we took the train to Shanghai. Nature is very attractive in this country: everywhere, canals wind through the rice-plantations and the vast fields of wheat. At the sight of the ears waving in the wind, we could not help thinking of the other harvest, that of souls, which is ripening also, and to which the Divine Master invites us. How beautiful is our vocation! I realize more fully its sublimity,



WASHING IN THE POND, SUCHOW, CHINA.

since I am in contact with the pagans and ascertain the degradation in which the devil keeps them. Most of them are souls of good-will that are awaiting but the help of friendly arms to break their bonds.

At Shanghai, our dear Sisters Marie Bernard⁽¹⁾ and Marie de Jésus⁽²⁾ were at the station. After a short visit to the Procure of the Canadian Jesuit Fathers, we went to the Convent of the Helpers of the Holy Souls, who kindly gave us hospitality.

As we had not yet received the permit required to enter Tsungming Island, we profited by that day to organize our coming visit to Hong Kong, which certain circumstances render more difficult. After a visit to the English Consulate, then to the Canadian Pacific Offices, we returned to the Convent, glad to find a little tranquillity.

Reverend Mother St. Alice, a Canadian Religious, had us visit the interesting orphanage of over a hundred little girls, that she directs. There are twelve nationalities among these children, but all speak English and can say a few words in French.

1. Emma VANASSE, St. Guillaume d'Upton.

2. Elmina MELANSON, Rogersville, N. B.

The following day, Reverend Father G. Brassard, S. J., brother of Reverend Father Albert Brassard, of Jean de Brébeuf College, and Reverend Brother Pierre Laramée, S. J., brother of our Sister Marie Jeanne⁽¹⁾, came to greet our dear Mother and were happy to have news of their families and their dear native land.

Provided at last with the famous permit, we embarked for Tsungming about half-past seven in the morning. As the voyage was calm, we were able to land on the Island early in the afternoon; but we had to travel for more than an hour and a half in rickshaw before coming to the end of our journey. Finally, we perceived the pinnacle of the church-steeple, then the native Novitiate, the Orphanage and other buildings of the Mission.

Our Sisters' house is lost to view, but that only increased our desire to reach it. Outside the wall, we found your dear Daughters, Venerable Mother, the Teresians, the orphans, the old women of the Home, in short, the entire personnel of the Mission, singing a song of welcome in French. After a *Magnificat* in the white chapel, we had to return to the workroom, where the big family of Tsungming, in a cantata on the air of *O Canada*, expressed its joy to receive *Tsong Da Momo* on its poor Island.

The following morning, a man brought to the Foundling-Home two big baskets containing seven babies each. How impressed we were by such a spectacle! Our Sisters themselves say that they cannot become accustomed to it. Dear little privileged souls that, in a few days, a few hours, after their Baptism, are borne by the Angels to the Heavenly Abode!

Almost every day since our arrival here, our dear Mother has had the happiness of baptizing one, two and, even, as many as five, of these little abandoned creatures. One morning, a young lad came to the Mission, carrying a baby in his arms. Giving it to the Sister portress, he said: "Take it, I'm giving it to you; we have enough of them at our place!"

How many other details I could give you, beloved Mother, but I must bring this long letter to a close. I cannot tell you all the happiness that I am enjoying on Mission, nor can I sufficiently express to you the gratitude that I owe you; for it is thanks to you, after God, that I am a Missionary of the Immaculate Conception.

May the Immaculate Virgin grant you all that my heart wishes for you, and be assured, venerable and dear Mother, that the distance only increases my sentiments of filial affection and lively gratitude in your regard.

Your unworthy but loving child,

Sister MADELEINE MARIE,⁽²⁾ M. I. C.



There is no more powerful means for converting souls than prayer — intimate familiar burning prayer, which moves and bends God's mercy towards the sinner for whose return you are asking.

— *Père de Ravignan.*

1. Jeanne LARAMEE, Outremont.
2. Madeleine LORANGER, Westmount.

Gleanings from the Diary of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Tsungming, China.

VERY REVEREND MOTHER MARIE DE LA PROVIDENCE, SUPERIOR GENERAL,
VISITS TSUNGMING MISSION.

What a memorable day has been the 21st of October, 1940, in the history of our little Community of Tsungming!

Early in the morning, the whole personnel of the Mission set to work to decorate the different houses, for we wished to prepare as grand a reception as possible for our dear Mother General who was arriving on our Island that day.

The girls of the Orphanage donned the white uniforms they wear on special occasions and how delighted they were!... "I am so glad," said Ya Sieu, "that my legs are trembling!" Mei Quoe, one of the youngest was very tired. "It doesn't matter," she said, "I offer all that up for *Tsong Da Momo* to arrive not too tired to-day. I could die, of happiness!..."

Towards a quarter to three in the afternoon, one of the domestics arrived, all out of breath, telling us that four rickshaws were advancing in the direction of the Mission. Our hearts throbbed... What indescribable moments of expectation!... We were not deceived, it was our dear Mother hastening towards her poor children of Tsungming. Tears of joy dimmed all eyes and our lips were silent with emotion... We first of all conducted her to the chapel with her companion, Sister Madeleine Marie⁽¹⁾, then we took her to the reception hall where she was eagerly awaited by the Sisters, Teresians (Native Sisters), and orphans, who wished to welcome her. Although very tired, our dear Visitor said a kind word to everyone, and all dispersed with the hope of seeing her soon again.



THE MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, TSUNGMING, CHINA, AND THEIR SUPERIOR GENERAL.

Who can tell the joy of the eight little Missionaries of Tsungming as they grouped around the Mother they had so much longed to see, they eagerly listened to her wise and precious counsels! How often was evoked the remembrance of the venerable Mother who, although riveted to a bed of pain, thinks of her daughters exiled in a foreign land, whom she was never able to visit! What a consolation it will be for her to hear her faithful substitute speak to her in detail of each one of us and of our works!...

In turn, Sisters, Teresians and orphans expressed their filial love and inviolable attachment to our kind Mother, in pretty little plays prepared for the occasion. Even

1. Madeleine LORANGER, Westmount.

the tiny tots, metamorphosed into angels, borrowed the language of these heavenly spirits to express their candid affection. Despite her manifold occupations, every day, *Tsong Da Momo* would go and see these dear little ones and visit the cradles of the Foundling-Home which had won all her compassion.

These three weeks spent in the company of our beloved Superior General certainly passed very rapidly, but the remembrance of these days will long remain vivid in our minds, for our fervour has been rekindled in contact with such a kind Mother, and the edifying examples she has given us will even be an encouragement and a stimulant in the accomplishment of our daily duties.

RELIGIOUS MANIFESTATIONS AT THE MISSION

On Thursday, May 23rd, there was a beautiful religious manifestation at the central Mission of Tsungming: The Corpus Christi Procession.

For several years, our Divine Prisoner had not gone beyond the walls of Da Kong Sou, so this was a real triumphal march. The Missionary Fathers had spared nothing to attract the attention of the Christians and even of the pagans, who came numerous to escort the King of Love. Over five hundred children of the neighbouring missions came to join the members of the Eucharistic Congregation of our district. Immediately after Benediction which followed the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, the Vicar General served a delicious lunch to all the assistants, and an amusing and edifying playlet then rejoiced these brave folks.

Another touching ceremony was held on the following Sunday, May 26th, in a pagan centre. Ken Tcin, sacristan of the parish who was very anxious to begin this magnificent day of faith, rang the Angelus at four o'clock, so everybody was up and going an hour sooner than usual.

At a quarter to six, Communion was followed by Mass and breakfast. At seven o'clock, the whole Christian community of Da Kong Sou began to move onward, and the long file of wheelbarrows advanced towards Blessed Trinity Parish for the pilgrimage of the last Sunday of May. All along the way, the pilgrim's pious *Aves* were mingled with the noise of the wheelbarrows and the *hen ha* of the drivers till the rallying-point where the procession was organized to the sound of the band. The pathways were adorned with flags attached to long poles, and nothing was lacking in the decorations. A splendid arch had been erected at the entrance of the church-wall, where the cortege advanced between two hedges of students wearing their Congregation badges and holding in their hands flags and banners.

Reverend Father Yeu, of Da Kong Sou, delivered an eloquent sermon on the Blessed Virgin, then followed a solemn High Mass with deacon and sub-deacon. The statue of Our Immaculate Mother was carried in procession on a rich sedan-chair. On the return, all made the Stations of the Cross, recited the beads and prayers to obtain peace. A Chinese lunch brought the program of this pleasant and pious feast to an end.

AT THE FOUNDLING-HOME AND ORPHANAGE

The abandoned children have been brought to us in greater numbers than ever, this year. Most of those who had been put out to nurse returned half clad, dirty and covered with sores. Within two months, two hundred babies were received. Fourteen were brought to us from Paochen, eight of them were almost dead; the next day, twenty-one, the majority of whom just had time to receive their passport for Heaven. Another time, eleven were sent to us from a neighbouring mission. One of them was partly gnawed away by worms, the others were in a pitiful condition.

Eight healthy-looking babies were brought to us one morning of April. We were very much rejoiced, for this seldom happens and we were hoping to rear them, but the dear little souls only awaited the Regenerating Waters to go and sing with the angels the praises of God. Tetanus which prevailed among the children this year carried them away.

The measles also visited the Orphanage. As soon as the disease appeared, the older girls became very anxious for they knew that eight years ago, half of their companions had died during the epidemic. However, as we have more space now, thanks to the charity of our devoted benefactors, it has been easier to isolate those who were affected with the disease. Most of the children were sick, but fortunately, after two weeks, they began to get up although feeble and somewhat shaky. The fine weather, space and comfort, contributed to their perfect recovery.

Ai Yin, a three-year-old little tot, died of the worst kind of canker. Her little body exhaled such a noisome odour that the helpers of the Foundling-Home felt much repugnance in taking care of her. "Come and stay with me," would she say to the Sister who brought her something to drink. — "Don't cry," Sister answered, "to-morrow you will go and see the little Jesus and the Blessed Virgin in Heaven. Tell God: "I am glad to suffer for You, for I want You to give us peace! " and that poor little face in which the eyes only were left, tried to smile. After her death, her body was but a mass of corrupted flesh which the worms were gnawing away. The older orphans requested a white dress for her. "In Heaven," said Lai Yin, "she will be an angel, so she must be nice to arrive before God!..."



SISTER ST. GERMAIN (IMELDA LAPERRIERE, PONT ROUGE) AND POOR GNON SIE, WHO IS SHELTERED AT THE ORPHANAGE OF TSUNG-MING, CHINA.

Have we already spoken to you of our poor Gnon Sie?... She is certainly twenty-years old, her companions say. A Sister who was returning from an apostolic round brought her to us one evening. She had been so ill-treated by her brother-in-law that she is now a miserable cripple; moreover, she is insane and has a mania for tearing all her clothes, so we must isolate her from the other orphans. In lucid intervals, she recites the principal prayers and sings all the hymns she hears at the Orphanage. She says to those who tease her: "In Heaven, I shall be brighter than the brightest of you, because I am crazy."

Sieu Lang, twelve years old, is very sad. Sold at birth to a poor family, she was brought to us, thanks to the devotedness of the Vicar General who took an interest in her fate; but her future mother and father-in-law opposed to her being baptized. It is a bitter grief for Sieu Lang: "If I died," she said one day, "I could not go to Heaven..." "You ardently desire to be baptized?" asked Sister, "well do not fear, if you died, you would go straight to Heaven. God is satisfied with your desire." The child was consoled but she none the less cherishes the hope of becoming a child of the Church.

"I love you seven times very much," said Dzai Ming, a little six-year-old tot, to Sister Superior who was entering the Orphanage. And all the others repeated after her: "We love you very much because you give us biscuits, sugar, and because you also love us very much!"

Our dear orphans made their retreat at the end of April. Before such an important event, the older ones asked for memorandum-books in which they would insert their impressions; Sister Superior was pleased to grant their request. Pink Sie was glad but somewhat embarrassed in thinking of all her big defects of which she would have to speak a little...

"You are very miserable," said little Ming Tching, six years old, to the Sister in charge of the Orphanage, "you are alone during the big girls' retreat. I shall help you. Now you little ones, keep silence during the meals and, especially, take care not to let anything fall under the tables, it is I who shall be doing the cleaning this week!..."

"Why are you sad?" asked a Sister to Ya Faong, who cries sometimes because she is blind. "Just think what glory you can give to God by bearing your infirmity with resignation and what an amount of merit you can acquire for yourself!" — "It is true," replied the poor child, "I shall try to be more generous in the future." The dear little girl has a charming voice and much talent for music. Under the direction of her teacher, Sister St. Camille de Lellis⁽¹⁾, she can already accompany the orphans who, more favoured on other points, are inferior to her in this branch. Ya Faong also spins the cotton which grows in Tsungming and, what is better still, she is the great helper of the teacher of Doctrine at the Orphanage. She also helps to prepare the little ones of the Foundling-Home for their First Communion and this brings sunshine in her life.

Vei Heu returned to us after a month's absence. On arriving he said to Sister: "I have sores, but it is because I am dirty; when I shall be clean, I shall be nice like before." Fong Keu, a little taller, asked him very seriously: "Are you still a Christian?... "Yes," answered the little one making the Sign of the Cross with his left hand....

GREAT TRIALS

Reprisals are continuing in Tsungming. Terror reigned everywhere at the beginning of August; all one heard of was murders, brigandage, etc... A terrible conflagration consumed the greater part of our poor Island and thousands of families have been left without shelter. We heard but weeping

1. Yvonne JOLICOEUR, Joliette.

and lamentations everywhere. Hundreds of women and children came to seek a refuge at the Mission. Needless to say, we have given them the little we could, highly appreciating the contents of the cases coming from Canada.

Our joiner, his brother and nephew saw their two-century-old house crumble away. An old doctor fell on his knees before those who were setting fire and implored: "Oh! do not burn my house, see all my grandchildren and their mothers..." He was spared. Another placed a large medal of the Blessed Virgin on the central door of his house which remained untouched. "That is a holy thing," said the evil-doers, "let us pass." Elsewhere, everything was destroyed and a great number of persons killed in spite of their innocence. Although surrounded by fire during two days, the Catholic Mission remained intact. It must be said that the Sisters, the Teresians and the cherubs of the Foundling-Home and Orphanage multiplied their *Aves*. Even the cook and his elderly father wept and prayed while they boiled their rice. When the flames were at twenty feet only from our walls, a sudden storm arose and the pelting rain forced the evil-doers to decamp.

In the beginning of October, the somewhat traditional typhoon was followed by an inundation as we had not seen for a long time. At the Mission there was no considerable damage, save the loss of all the winter vegetables the gardeners had sown a few days before. Near the sea, most of the straw huts were carried away by the waves and there was a great number of deaths. Really our poor Chinese are to be pitied... If great trials buy great graces, it is to be hoped that these brave folks will receive exceptional favours from God.

MISSIONARY CONSOLATIONS

When the danger of conflagration and brigandage is less great, the Sister-Infirmarians set out in search of miseries to relieve and, especially, of souls to save. Sometimes big fishes are caught in their nets. One day, a poor leprous woman of sixty-five came from Posso to beg. Covered with sores and gnawed by worms, she was really a pitiful sight when the Sisters met her. The compassion they showed her, soon touched her aching heart. Having been baptized, she died in the best of dispositions. Her wretched body was rolled in a straw mat and thrown into a hole, but her soul had winged its flight to its Maker and its God.

Another time, a poor leper, almost seventy years of age, who had formerly been a noble mandarin, but had since fallen from his rank after losing all he had in transactions, saw his house burn, it was his only shelter for his last years. One of his sons was killed during the fire of August last, another is a doctor in Canton and the third, a prisoner of the enemy. He has had no news of his daughters since the beginning of the war. The unfortunate man was almost in despair but now that the God of peace and of love has made Himself known to this soul, he is happy to suffer to amass merit for Heaven and have a greater resemblance to his Saviour. Happy misfortune which brought him the signal gift of Faith!

*Gleanings from the Diary of the Missionary Sisters of the
Immaculate Conception, Sūchow*

Monday, April 29, 1940

How consoling it is to bring joy and peace to poor unfortunates! We went to see a sick beggar to-day, and he told us as he restrained his tears, that he had neither family nor shelter, that life had for him very gloomy hours and that if our remedies brought him no relief, he had no longer the strength to suffer so much... We consoled him the best we could, but understanding how powerless are our words, we confided him to our Immaculate Mother.

Recently, we came across a poor wretch who has neither legs nor arms and who, to go where he wishes, is obliged to roll himself on the road. There are legions of unfortunates in this poor country of China. How we wish we were able to bring a little bit of sunshine to these miserable outcasts of humanity!

Thursday, May 2 — Feast of the Ascension

On this beautiful Solemnity, more than two hundred new Christians were confirmed at the Cathedral. Among them was a pupil of our Apostolic School. The day was one of rejoicing for all the pupils and how touching it was to see the little attentions, surprises, and kindnesses of the girls for the heroine of the day. It is for us a joy ever new to see how they love one another. We try to keep up this family spirit in their midst, for is not charity the key that will open to these future catechists the hearts of the pagans, when Divine Providence will entrust them with the conversion of their fellow-countrymen?

Sunday, May 12 — Pentecost

Our generous Christians make great sacrifices to come and share in the Eucharistic Sacrifice. For the greater number, the journey is one of several miles on foot by dangerous roads. The mothers, especially, with their many little tots, arrive tired out; nevertheless, all are cheerful and happy. It is the hour of Divine forgiveness, of spiritual resurrection, of numerous Communions, when the Holy Ghost suffuses the souls with His love and His Grace!

In our family circle, a cloud casts a shadow upon the joy of this feast. Sister Superior⁽¹⁾ and Sister Imelda de l'Eucharistie,⁽²⁾ who left us on April 8th, for a few days' trip to Shanghai, have not yet returned, the authorities of that city refusing to give them their passports. Very fervent are the prayers we address to God to hasten their desired return.

As a compensation for our sacrifice, Divine Providence granted us a very sweet joy — the glad news of Mother General's arrival at the end of September. Our happiness is so great that it can be more easily felt than

1. Sœur MARIE DE LA PROTECTION (Cécile Roberge, Quebec.)

2. Simone BOISCLAIR, Almaville.

expressed! It is at the feet of our All-loving Master that we pour our exuberant happiness and that we form ardent wishes for the success of her visit.

Sunday, June 9

Very many are sick with the measles just at present. A few days ago we were visiting a family to give medical care to a little chap, a victim of the epidemic. The mother repeatedly begged us to give him our best remedies for, she added: "he is a little boy." Just as she was saying this we perceived in the corner a little girl much more seriously affected with the disease. As we made this remark to the mother, she replied: "Oh! that's only a girl..." The boy is now enjoying perfect health, but the poor little girl has almost lost her sight. Ah! the boys!... in China they are little gods... for them the greatest sacrifices are made while their little sisters are disdained, despised and, unfortunately, often abandoned.



SISTER MARIE XAVIER (BERTHE PARADIS, TINGWICK) VISITING A CHINESE MERCHANT, SUCHOW, CHINA.

Thursday last, we visited a dying woman. With pleasure, she listened to us speak to her about God and His beautiful Heaven and, soon, the Baptismal Waters flowed upon her brow resplendent with heavenly joy. Beside her a charming baby, a few days old, was sleeping. The father, with contempt, told us that it was a girl and that having two already, he wished for no other. Neighbours confided to us that the day before, the baby had been left all day long without food in a corner of the yard, and exposed to the scorching sun. As night fell and the child was still living, they decided to give it some care. On hearing this we hastened to give this rejected babe the wings that would permit it to take its flight to Heaven.

To-day we heard that the mother had left this land of exile. The baby was thrown on a public ground and left at the mercy of famished dogs. The Angels must have stooped with joy to cull this floweret, freshly blossomed in the genial rays of Divine Grace, to carry it into the garden of God.

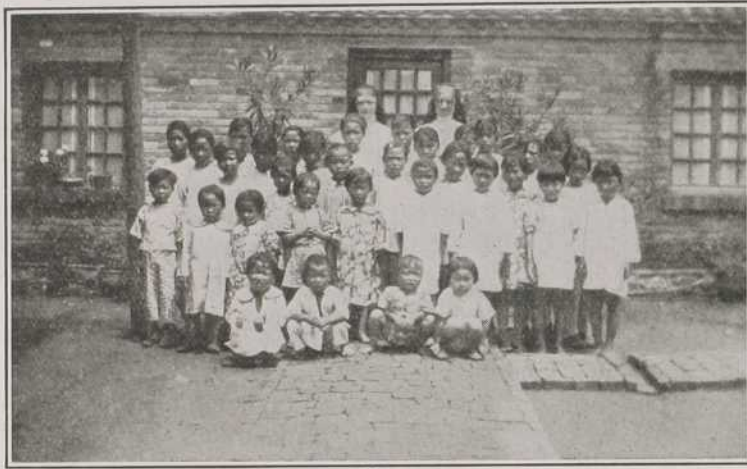
Monday, June 17

Mrs. Tch'en, who lives near the Cathedral, is a fanatic pagan. Very often the native virgins spoke to her of Religion, exhorted her to renounce

Buddhism and her diabolical superstitions, but without success. A few years ago, when her grandson fell ill, close watch was kept that no one might administer Baptism to him. To-day, one of her granddaughters, seven years of age, is seriously ill, and upon the entreaties of the neighbours, fervent Christians, the grandmother consented to solicit our care. We found the child in agony and we hastened to christen her. She was very pleased to be named Mary for although a pagan, she loved to sing the *Ave Maria* she had learnt of Christian pupils. It was these *Aves*, no doubt, that opened to her the doors of the Eternal Country.

Saturday, July 13

Reverend Brother L. Tremblay, S. J., arrived from Peking this evening. The apostolic career of this new Missionary was marked at the very outset



THE PROTEGEEES OF THE PATRONAGE OF SUCHOW, CHINA, CLAD IN THE PRETTY DRESSES RECEIVED FROM THEIR BENEFACTRESSES OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.

by a touching protection of Divine Providence. At half an hour's distance from Süchow, when passing on an embankment about eight feet high, the train derailed and the first seven coaches made a double turn, killing or seriously wounding more than fifty persons. The eighth coach in which Brother Tremblay happened to be was the first which remained on the rails.

These accidents caused by skirmishers are not rare. At the most dangerous spots, the brigands sometimes replace the steel bolts by wooden ones painted black, as it was the case here; sometimes, they dynamite part of the rail or, profiting by a moment when the train is entering a narrow valley, they attack it vigorously.

When visiting a sick person, some time ago, we came across a long file of trucks loaded with machine-guns and armed soldiers. The purpose of their incursions is to exterminate the partisans of a pernicious sect who are by thousands at a few *li* from the city.

In the regions that are not occupied by the Japanese, this sect is spreading so rapidly that its diffusion is quite alarming. Its adherents live up to their convictions which they often impose upon others by violence. The peasants are compelled to give up their portion of land to an authority which sees to a common distribution. At certain places, the rights of the Catholic Mission have been respected so far; elsewhere, hospitality has been exacted and, at Heoukiatchoang, Reverend Father L. Beaulieu, S. J., was summoned to pull down the Mission wall. If our new masters abandoned their conquest, our situation would be far from interesting.

A campaign has just been organized to exterminate another kind of enemy: the flies. Each family must bring two hundred of these insects to the Board of Health; this debt acquitted, every person receives ten cents for a surplus of five hundred flies. The regulation will certainly have happy results, for many children look upon it as an amusing game and display much enthusiasm....

Tuesday, July 30

At the beginning of the month, we were going to one of the poorest sections of the city to seek recruits for our Patronage. The task was easy, for the aim of our visit being known, a whole crowd gathered round us and every one strove to show us his misery. The children, supposed to arrive at the Convent towards eight o'clock in the morning, take two meals and return home at about three in the afternoon. This work is a great assistance for the families in distress.

On July 3rd, a noisy and cheerful crowd was playing in the school-yard: thirty-six little girls were having a grand time. The former pupils, knowing it would please us, chanted their prayers for us and assured us they had recited them every day. These children are pagans but we feel confident that the Blessed Virgin to whom we have confided them will, sooner or later, obtain for them the Gift of Faith.

Their number has increased every day; actually, we have ninety of them. The people now know the aim of our visits in the poor sections and they themselves come to meet us.

To-day Sister Superior⁽¹⁾ distributed to the little ones, dresses received in the cases recently arrived from Canada. How we wish our generous benefactresses were able to assist at the demonstrations of joy the children make on seeing and receiving such treasures! Really, they would consider themselves rewarded for their charity. The dear little ones ask us to thank the godmothers they love very much and for whom they promise to pray every day.

Some time ago, we received an alms which brought much joy to the happy beneficiary, Ma Pai Choui, twelve years old, who will now see his great desire for study realized. Belonging to a very poor family, this gifted

1. Sister MARIE DE LA PROTECTION, (Cécile Roberge, Quebec).

child saw himself like so many others condemned to a life of poverty and trouble. The outlook is more encouraging now. First of all, he wishes to become a Christian and, when he goes home at night, he teaches his family the principles of Christian Doctrine he himself has learnt during the day. In the near future all will most probably enter the Catholic Church. Is it not a sweet consolation for the generous donor?...

Wednesday, September 25

According to a Chinese superstition, the 15th of each month is an unlucky day, especially for the sick. They believe that on this day, the dreaded spectre of death has a more intense craving for victims than in any other time of the year.

On the other hand, the twenty-fifth being a happy day, it is chosen for the celebration of weddings. Two of our neighbours are married to-day and for one of them the circumstances have been really typical. The future husband who had gone to Nanking was expected yesterday evening. His parents and friends were at the station to meet him but they waited in vain. This morning, new deception, the fiancé was not on the train... However, everything was ready: apparel, banquet, musicians, etc., and, as the great question of the *face* was at stake, it was decided that the celebration would take place just the same. As the future husband had neither brother nor sister, he being an only child, one of his girl cousins replaced him for the *Keteaou* (prostration) ceremony before the ancestral tablets, by which the union is officially acknowledged. That was indeed a typical marriage, was it not? We are wondering what the impression of the young man will be when he returns? His betrothal, according to the custom, was effected by means of intermediate agents, without his being able to be present; according to the custom again, he never saw his fiancée and, to crown all, his marriage took place during his absence!... Very strange are the customs of our good Chinese!...

Tuesday, October 15

What happiness is ours! Since September 28th, our dear Mother General has been in our midst... What sweet moments of close intimacy we spend with one who reminds us so much of venerable Mother Foundress!

On the feast of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, Patroness of the Missions, His Excellency Bishop Côté, S. J., did us the honour of celebrating Mass in our humble sanctuary. After a modest breakfast, His Excellency paternally blessed us and left, telling us to fully enjoy the passage of our dear Visitor. Needless to say, the recommendation was faithfully carried out...

In the afternoon of that same day, our kind Mother went to the Apostolic School. The pupils and little girls of the Patronage executed a short program, joining to their spiritual bouquet the offering of a few modest gifts and the recitation of an address, which may be translated as follows:

VERY REVEREND MOTHER GENERAL,
REVEREND SISTERS,
TEACHERS, AND DEAR COMPANIONS,

"What is this beautiful day? I think you all know, Mother General honours Süchow with her visit and it is for us a day long expected, a day of great joy. See the clear blue firmament, the white clouds in the sky, the sun which illumines all things on earth with its bright rays, these bring gladness to all but how much more to us!

"Mother General already loved us very much several years ago, it is why she sent Sisters to Süchow in spite of the thousand mountains and the ten thousand waters, the dangers of the wind and tempests, to spread the Religion, save souls, guide the pagans in the right path, make known to them the Creator of all things, and a year ago to-day, she opened the "Cheng Mou Yuen" to receive a group of "big and little sisters" who wish to remain virgins and help to spread the Religion. Is it not in the merit of Reverend Mother that this great benefit has its source? Besides, has not the opening of a Dispensary afforded to many the opportunity of finding the cure or relief of their numerous ills? Moreover, every severe winter, the Sisters gave alms to the poor; it is impossible to enumerate all their good works which however came from you, Reverend Mother.

"Several days ago we heard about your arrival and we were very happy; yet, small as we are, we were wondering how we could receive this condescension.

"So on one hand we were happy and on the other, somewhat confused on thinking that we had nothing that could please you, our learning is limited, what gift could express our joy? We have found it. We shall beg God every day to bless you and grant you health, happiness and many years of life."

It was our turn on the 8th of October, to express the sentiments of the tender and filial affection with which our hearts were overflowing.

How happy we were to hear speak of venerable Mother Foundress by one who, for many years has been her faithful companion and her discreet helper. What good it does to receive fresh news of the Mothers and Sisters of our dear country! We could imagine we were again for a moment at that dear home in Outremont, blessed sanctuary so rich in happy memories, or at the new Mother House, whence the white messengers of the Virgin now take their flight.

During her trip to the Missions, our dear Sister Madeleine Marie⁽¹⁾, the privileged companion of our Mother, is initiated little by little, to the apostolate; on October 10th, she christened a ninth little child.

Yesterday, as Sister Marie Xavier⁽²⁾ had to go and visit a sick person several *li* from here, she profited by the occasion to have our beloved Mother visit the city. "I saw true China, old China!" said the latter on her return.

1. Madeleine LORANGER, Westmount.

2. Berthe PARADIS, Tingwick.

In fact, Süchow is one of the oldest cities of the Country. It can even boast of having been the capital of China before the Christian era. Except for a few boulevards with their modern buildings, the past centuries have here retained their antique figure.

Thursday, October 17

Scarcely had the stars disappeared in the sky when already all were busy in our Convent... A strange atmosphere enveloped us, it was one of indefinable sadness mingled with hope and abandonment, it was the moment



PREPARATIONS FOR A CHINESE BURIAL.

of departure which had struck for our dear kind Mother. Putting into practice the strong resolutions which have been inspired to us by her maternal counsels, we tried to be courageous and joyfully accept the painful sacrifice of separation. After an interchange of affectionate feelings, our dear travellers took their leave... We gazed upon them as long as they could be seen; then, when our eyes were tired looking and they had disappeared, we sought strength and consolation at the feet of our loving Master.

Sunday, October 20

An Oriental scene excited our curiosity to-day, the burial of a rich widow who had no children and whose fate is very pitiful, it seems, because she has no one to weep over her death. To make up for this, paper miniatures representing persons and animals escorted her mortal remains to the burying ground. The cow is a pledge of happiness for her soul, the paper money and flower banners have the power of appeasing the wrath of the gods. It is in a flowery catafalque to which the men were giving a finishing touch, that the coffin was placed; it was then surmounted with an immense dragon. With a similar superstitious equipment, the people think that a favourable welcome will be given to this lonely soul.

Wednesday, October 30

We have the pleasure of having in our midst three Sisters of the Precious Blood, one of whom is Reverend Mother Thérèse de Jésus, who has been in China for nine years and has been called back to the Joliette Monastery. We afforded her a real joy on inviting her to open Heaven to a little soul that seemed to be awaiting but its passport to fly away. If such consolations are not often met with by these kind religious, we are sure that in Heaven, the army of little souls owing them their happiness is very beautiful. Is it not their life of prayer and abnegation that ripens the ears of wheat we garner for the Heavenly Granaries?...

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Gleanings from the Diary of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Canton.

Saturday, February 10, 1940

The blessed feast of Our Lady's Smile at Lourdes is for a few of us the anniversary of a very happy day! Twenty-five years ago our dear Sisters Marie Immaculée⁽¹⁾, Marie Céline⁽²⁾, Marie de l'Espérance⁽³⁾, St. Viateur⁽⁴⁾, and Marguerite Marie⁽⁵⁾, gathered around our venerable Mother Foundress, pronounced the formula of their Holy Vows, which made them spouses of the King of kings. Among the elect of this memorable day was also good Sister Marie Eugénie⁽⁶⁾ whom obedience retains at the Mother House. She is represented here by dear Sister Marie de la Miséricorde⁽⁷⁾ who is anticipating the celebration of her Silver Jubilee by a few months. What remembrances to be evoked in this first cycle of religious life!... What graces received, what joys experienced during these twenty-five years!

February 11th falling, this year, on the first Sunday in Lent, the joyous feast prepared in honour of our jubilarians was celebrated the day before. The chapel, the house, the school, the orphanage had assumed an air of joy and gaiety.

As His Excellency Bishop Fourquet was in Hong Kong, Mass was celebrated by Reverend Father Narbais, of the Foreign Missions of Paris, then on a visit in Canton.

Before breakfast, our happy Sisters received the crown of silver lilies to the sound of the *Veni sponsa Christi*. With our dear Sisters Agnes of Jesus⁽⁸⁾ and St. François d'Assise⁽⁹⁾ of Shek Lung, St. Etienne⁽¹⁰⁾ and Thérèse de l'Enfant Jésus⁽¹¹⁾ of Hong Kong, our Sisters of the Foundling-

1. Alice VANCHESTEIN, St. Michel de Napierville.
2. Gracia BLANCHET, Drummondville.
3. Auréa VANNARD, Montreal.
4. Aurore LAPOINTE, Montreal.
5. Marguerite LATOUR, Montreal.
6. Octavie ROBERGE, Sanford Maine.
7. Berthe DUFRESNE, Ste. Hélène de Bagot.
8. Margaret SHERRY, Montreal.
9. Clara HEBERT, Montreal.
10. Aurore PLOUFFE, Montreal.
11. Yvonne GERIN, Coaticook.



THE TWENTY MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ASSEMBLED AT CANTON, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SILVER JUBILEE OF SIX OF THEM: SISTER MARIE IMMACULEE (ALICE VANCHESTEIN, ST. MICHEL DE NAPIERVILLE), SISTER MARIE CELINA (GRACIA BLANCHET, DRUMMONVILLE), SISTER MARIE DE L'ESPERANCE (AUREA VANNARD, MONTREAL), SISTER ST. VIATEUR (AURORE LAPOINTE, MONTREAL), SISTER MARGUERITE MARIE (MARGUERITE LATOUR, MONTREAL), SISTER MARIE DE LA MISERICORDE (BERTHE DUFRESNE, STE. HELENE DE BAGOT).

THE PERSONNEL OF THE HOUSE: OLD WOMEN OF THE HOME AND ORPHANS.

Home "Our Lady of Providence", and of the Fong Tsun Asylum (insane asylum), we numbered twenty at the modest Silver Jubilee banquet. We all the more enjoyed the sweet family intimacy as we had not been able to be together since the beginning of the war, multiple works requiring our efforts here and there.

As at the Mother House on Profession days, the hymn of the wedding at Cana was sung at the end of the dinner. It reminded the elect of the grandeur and sublimity of their mystical union with Jesus and also increased in their souls the holy desire to be eternally faithful.

Towards two o'clock, in a little entertainment, we offered to the jubilarians our wishes for happiness and success in their apostolate, in the poor country of China.

As early as four o'clock, dear Sister Marie de l'Annonciation⁽¹⁾ had to return to her orphans on the knoll, Sister St. Pierre Apôtre⁽²⁾ and Sister Joseph de la Ste. Famille⁽³⁾, to Fong Tsun Asylum, for the last preparations of the feast which is to have its close there to-morrow.

Sunday, February 11

We had the privilege of having the Blessed Sacrament exposed all day; this permitted the six jubilarians to pay their court to the Divine King. What thanks have they not to render to God so good Who, during these twenty-five years, gave them many signal tokens of His love!

The dinner, to-day, was served in Chinese fashion by our orphans.... The dear children did their utmost to prepare it well, to prove their gratitude to their adoptive mothers. After the meal, a procession of tots set out for the riverside to embark for Fong Tsun. What a feast for these little ones! To go and spend the night at Fong Tsun is a real picnic for them! They were one hundred and two, and fifteen Sisters accompanied them; among these were the three jubilarians stationed at the Asylum. The whole personnel lent a helping hand for the decorations; a few patients, even, did their share and embellished the trees of the Compound. After chatting cheerfully at supper, the orphans repeated the little entertainment executed the preceding evening in honour of the elect of the day. The weather was ideal, so the poor patients whose minds are lucid enough to appreciate the ingenuity of the children were looking out the windows. An address was afterwards presented to each of the jubilarians.

Saturday, March 16

Last week, we received two new orphans. The first, a blind child of eleven, was brought to us by her grandfather who pretended having found her on the street. The second was a little six-year-old girl with only one arm. She had had the other cut off during a bombardment two years ago. The father of this child being in great distress, thought it would be a good

1. Annonciade STRASBOURG, Chénéville.

2. Léocadie LANDRY, St. Jean l'Évangéliste.

3. Jeannette DELISLE, Worcester, Mass.

idea to throw the little one in the water but, fortunately, she was rescued from this peril.

However wretched were the homes of these two newcomers, they regretted it and were heard planning: "We shall leave at noon. I can see, so I'll tell you the way; you are strong, so you can carry me on your back." But the daily bowl of good rice they were given here and which they were not in the habit of getting at home, soon made them feel less lonesome, and they abandoned their projects of flight.

Sunday, May 12

Radiant was the dawn of Pentecost for the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception in Canton! The Holy Ghost seemed to be hovering over our humble cenacle; we had the joy of preparing for Him a hundred and fifteen new temples freshly adorned with Baptismal purity.

This morning, forty-five of our protégés partook of the Divine Banquet for the first time, and seventy-five received at the Cathedral the Sacrament which makes us soldiers in the Christian militia. It was a charming spectacle to see our little tots walk up the aisle with their long white veils falling over their shoulders and their clasped hands. How Jesus must delight in these innocent souls!

With as much fervour, an old sexagenarian also made her First Communion; a labourer of the eleventh hour, she offered her Divine Master her good will. The little ones answered with more assurance to the questions of the catechist, but she believed, she loved, and that was sufficient. Her happiness was all the more intense as she had experienced the hardships of life.

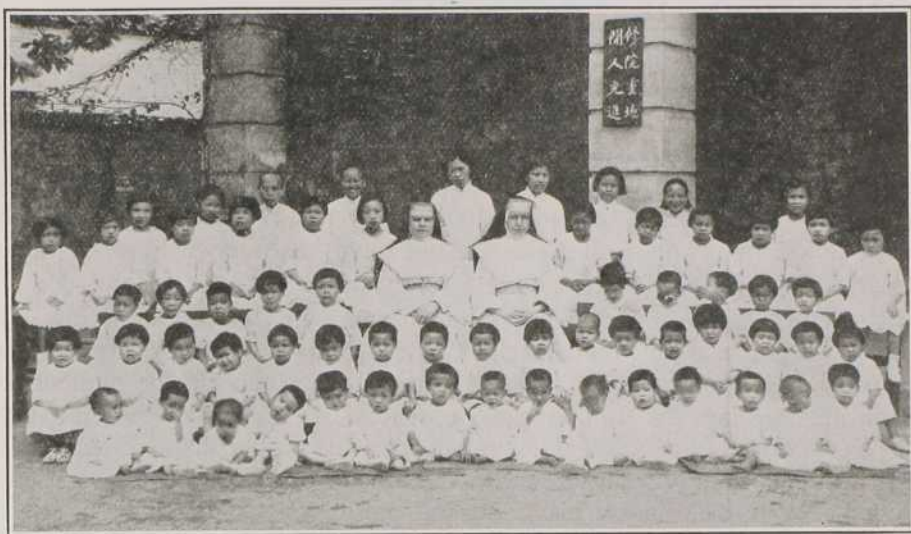
As early as four o'clock this morning, our good old women had preceded us to the chapel to prepare for the reception of the great Sacrament of Confirmation. They brought Our Lord the candour of their second childhood and the fervour of the first Christians.

A feast-day dinner increased the joy of this beautiful day!

As the shadows of night began to envelop the earth, we felt somewhat tired but very happy! Does not the conquest of one soul largely compensate for the sacrifices and fatigue of the apostolic life? We offered the sheaf of this day to our venerable Mother Foundress whose patronal feast it was. Is not the fruitfulness of our work due to the merit of her sufferings. Poor dear Mother, she has been attached to the cross of immolation for such a long time!...

Thursday, August 1

We were awakened this morning by plaintive cries coming from the door.... Three babies wrapped up in rags were lying there on the stone steps. Although this scene has been renewed every day, for some time past, we have not become accustomed to it, and our heart shrank on seeing these poor little victims of misery and superstition. We hastened to purify their souls in the Baptismal Waters for most of them soon winged their flight to the Heavenly Abode.



SISTER DE LA NATIVITE DE JESUS (CECILE PAQUETTE, ST. ELZEAR, LAVAL CO.)
 SISTER MARIE IMMACULEE (ALICE VANCHESTEIN, ST. MICHEL DE NAPIERVILLE.)
 MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, AND THE SIXTY-THREE BAP-
 TIZED ON WHITSUNDAY, 1940, AT CANTON, CHINA.

A few days ago, a person brought us a basin filled with rags containing a baby dressed in a scarlet sweater and bonnet. The unfortunate mother who had abandoned it, hoped by this means to call the attention of the god of happiness upon her child. Poor mother! she did not know that the only true God was watching over her little one and preparing to open to it the gates of Heaven.

Thursday, August 15

With unutterable joy we celebrated the triumph of our august Queen. All bade us to be cheerful, the radiant sun which darted its golden rays through our windows, the palms and lilies which adorned the chapel, the azure flambeaux which added a Marian note to this charming decoration! But that which thrilled our souls most was the entrance into the Church of four new Christians: Doctor Wong, the doctor of the Insane Asylum, Mrs. Soung, nurse, and two helpers of this establishment.

After the Baptism ceremony at the Cathedral, dinner was served in the large school-hall; then the orphans executed a little play in honour of the neophytes.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given at three o'clock, that all the guests might be able to assist. At the foot of the golden Ostensorium, the Protestants and pagans like the Christians, inclined their heads to receive the Master's blessing. We are pleased to think that our dear Saviour looked lovingly at several of these souls of good will and that soon the brilliant light of the Faith will shine for them.

Friday, September 13

The enlargement of the Orphanage begun in April is about terminated. We hastened to finish preparing the dwelling which was to receive the protégées of the Immaculate Virgin. Beds and tables were symmetrically placed, and our little ones opened their eyes wide on seeing the white nest awaiting them. During the past year, they have been crowded like sardines in a box. Their health will surely benefit by a sunny building in which each one will find a place that she will not have to share with two or three companions.

However, we shall not have too much space in this new building, for misery which is actually prevalent in Canton, brings us a few of its victims every day. It almost seems a daring enterprise to increase the number of our protégées when the supplying of provisions has become so difficult; but it is very hard, impossible even, for missionaries to shut their doors and keep their hearts closed to poor children who will die of hunger. We hope Divine Providence will continue furnishing us the daily ration of each one of these little abandoned children; besides, the past is a guaranty for the future! How often, already, have we not been assisted in the hour of distress or of danger?...

Wednesday, October 9

Famine is making itself felt more and more in our poor city of Canton. Some fifty persons die of hunger every day, it seems. This morning, we



SISTER DE LA NATIVITE DE JESUS (CECILE PAQUETTE, ST. ELZEAR, LAVAL CO.) BAPTIZING A DYING BABY, AT CANTON, CHINA.

saw on the side of the street, a beggar preparing to cook a rat which had been thrown into a garbage can. Two bricks were his stove, and dried leaves his fuel; a little later, this food which the most mortified would have rejected, permitted the poor unfortunate man to prolong his existence until the next Godsend.

How we wish we could have a ray of Divine light shine for all these unfortunate people! Such painful privations would at least be of some value to them for everlasting life! May all Christian hearts understand the urgent need of prayer and sacrifice to hasten the reign of God in pagan lands.

Sunday, October 20

At recreation-time, we saw to opening the precious cases recently received from Canada. It is for us a joy ever new to unpack these treasure-

chests!... Exclamations of surprise are uttered as each piece is taken out. There are religious articles, warm garments, lingerie of all kinds, precious remedies, dainties from our kind parents and even maple sugar....



REVEREND FATHER F. X. LEU, CHINESE PRIEST, SISTER DE LA NATIVITE DE JESUS (CECILE PAQUETTE, ST. ELZEAR, LAVAL CO.), SISTER MARIE CELINA (GRACIA BLANCHET, DRUMMOND-VILLE) AND THE FOUR BAPTIZED ON AUGUST 15, 1940: DR. WONG, MRS. SOUNG AND TWO HELPERS OF FONG TSUN ASYLUM.

If all those who have lent their co-operation for the making or sending of these things witnessed our happiness and the relief and comfort they afford our protégés, they would consider themselves rewarded for the pains they have taken. But as this consolation cannot be granted them, may the Divine Master Himself be their reward!

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PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

*Apostolic Activities of the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception,
Manila, Philippine Islands.*

A touching conversion rejoiced us a few months ago.

An old lady of the Fo tao Co family, was brought to the light of the Faith after having reared her children and grandchildren as far as the fifth generation in the shadow of paganism.

For two years already we had been following this great-grandmother who was exposed to severe assaults on the part of the Prince of Darkness. The Evil One seeing his prey about to escape him, made supreme efforts to reseize it.

The first explanations of the Catholic Religion were well received, but how was it possible for her to renounce all of a sudden practices which had filled a life of almost a century? At first, dear old granny tried to liberate her conscience by asking a servant to accomplish the rites which she had been forbidden to observe. Little by little, however, grace triumphed over this rigid nature and the grotesque idols were definitively abandoned. A standing crucifix was given the place of honour in our catechumen's home, and she very fervently prepared for the reception of the Sacrament of Baptism.

Eight days before the end of her long career of ninety-four years, this labourer of the last hour was admitted into the Lord's vineyard. She did not wait long for her salary, for she soon went to enjoy the infinite happiness of Heaven.

March 27th this year brought us another sweet consolation: that of conducting thirty-three pupils of our Catechism courses to the Eucharistic Banquet. Twelve of these had been baptized the preceding day. A good old grandmother was among the First Communicants.

Mrs. Uy's vocation began to germinate two years ago when her little children were preparing for their First Communion. Her study of Religion was often delayed; as mistress of the house, mother and grandmother, she had to answer for children and grandchildren, and devoted more of her time to the others than to herself; but these difficulties, it seems, were but a benefit, as they gave her time to reflect seriously on the importance of the decision she was to take. The grace of God made of this brave woman a fervent Christian who, by the radiation of her faith and charity, will exercise a beneficent influence over those around her.

The second school term, which had begun on January 5th, ended on March 30th.

The distribution of prizes was presided over by Reverend Father Garcia, Pastor of the Parish. Three other Dominican Fathers also honoured us with their presence. Our dear children had prepared a little entertainment for the occasion. It was very much appreciated; the principal number was "The little sailors' dance".

In the evening, diplomas were awarded to the twelve graduates of the Chinese Intermediate Course and to twelve of the English Course. The Missionary priests delivered a short allocution in the Mandarin and *Amoy* languages to congratulate the pupils on the success obtained, and encourage them to walk in the path traced out for them by their teachers.

The vacation afforded us the opportunity of having our old school repaired. The walls were white-washed, the roof mended, new partitions made in certain rooms; finally, the classes looked fresh and attractive.

While some of us handled the saw, the plane or the paint-brush, in the school, others strove to increase their store of knowledge by studying the Doctrine or the Tagalog language which is adopted in the Government Schools.

In the beginning of June, our pupils returned to us, light-hearted and cheerful. We registered three hundred and fifty; this means that three



THE FIRST COMMUNICANTS OF THE ACADEMY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION,
MANILA, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

IN THE CENTRE: REVEREND FATHER GARCIA, O. P., P. P.; SISTER ST. PIERRE CLAVER
(ALDEE HEBERT, MONTREAL) AND SISTER MARIE DES VICTOIRES (JOSEPHINE BOLDOC,
ST. VICTOR DE TRING), MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

hundred and fifty are prepared to receive the seed of truth. On watching these noisy children at play and elsewhere, we can almost tell what they will be to-morrow. Some have a characterized aptitude for war and handle with dexterity pocket-knives or simili-guns. Others more peaceful, command respect and awe their comrades. The latter are for us precious auxiliaries in the maintenance of discipline.

The education of all this little crowd is a difficult task which requires much abnegation but which, on the other hand, affords many consolations.

Nancy, four-year-old tot, is a very interesting child. Her mother died a month after her birth and her father confided her to us as soon as she was two years old. As she was continually in contact with adults, her intelligence developed rapidly. At the age of three, she already knew that the little white wafer the priest raised for the adoration of the faithful and deposited on the Sisters' and nurses' tongues, contained Jesus whole and entire. Ever since, she eagerly longed for the day on which she would have the happiness of receiving her first Host. "When shall I make my First Communion?" she unceasingly repeated. Despite her beautiful qualities, Nancy gets into many a scrape. One day, after many pranks, she had been put to bed in the middle of the forenoon. When her punishment was over and Sister went to tell her to get up, the child was quite sad and, after listening attentively to the recommendations that were made to her, she asked: "Sister, what I did, is it a *big* bad thing or a *little* bad

thing?" Her candid face brightened up when Sister told her that little children like her do only *little* bad things.

Two of the boarders, Buenvenida and Mariano, say night prayer in common with their little companions. When comes time for the examination of conscience, these two little men with their head in their hands seem absorbed in profound reflections... but one must not judge according to appearances and here is a proof of this. During the Catechism lesson, their teacher happened to fall on the illustration of a man kneeling down with his head in his hands and entitled: "The examination of conscience." "Give the explanation of this picture," asked Sister addressing one of the two little tots. No answer... "But, tell me," continued Sister, "what do you do at night during the few moments of silence granted you at the beginning of prayer?" — "We look at the bench, Sister."

With filial joy we celebrated the patronal feast of our beloved Mother General; our prayers rose fervent towards Heaven requesting abundant blessings for her.

What happiness it is for us to think that this dear Mother is coming closer to us every day and that, in a short time from now, we shall have the inestimable privilege of welcoming her in our midst! Her visit is the ordinary subject of our conversation during recreation hours and the hope of enjoying her presence, be it only for a limited time, is already a stimulant and a comfort in our work and difficulties. May God in His loving and sweet Providence, continue watching over her, that she may without any obstacle pursue her important trip!

Because He Wanted Me To

We ought to go to Holy Communion at least every Sunday! Yes — we ought to get up early; go out fasting, perhaps walk a good way in cold biting winds, with hunger gnawing at our vitals, and think to ourselves: "Well—I'm doing it for God—because He wants me to."

We don't do these things to be comfortable, warmed and fed. Did Christ think of comfort when He chose Calvary? Many of us could go to Communion more frequently if we sacrificed ourselves—"pulling our weight" again!

One does feel hungry; one does feel inclined to lie in bed; one does feel a natural dread of turning out into the cold and possibly wet air, for a long walk; one envies those who live "a stone's throw from the Church. (Here let me cheer you with a whispered reminder: Sometimes those nearby neighbors of the church are the least enthusiastic attenders. Why? Because it's too easy, I suppose.)

But it is only by doing violence to ourselves that we make progress, only by pulling at the oars most vigorously, each one of us, that we can help our Boat, our noble Boat, to weather the adverse tides, the angry waters. Let us each pull at our own special oar with as much precision as we can manage, and certainly with the utmost vigor.



EXTRACTS FROM THE
NOVIATE CHRONICLES
DEDICATED TO OUR DEAR PARENTS

Friday, November 15, 1940

This afternoon, in an English contest presided over by our Mistress, our ambition reached quite a high pitch.

Both sides employed every imaginable stratagem to win the victory. But neither one nor the other let its standard-bearer come to a humiliating defeat and, even after a supplementary trial both sides were even.

We were all alive with enthusiasm; a few of us even saw in the outcome of the contest, the Master's approval of our zeal in exploring the rich treasure-trove of Shakespeare's noble language. At any rate, the good God Whom we serve, well knows what are our intentions for the future in all these efforts: our aim is to facilitate the spread of the Kingdom of Christ and to save a countless number of souls.

Wednesday, November 20

This week, a delightful trio of feast-days brought great joy to all the denizens of the Novitiate. First in the trio came the feast of St. Octavius, patron saint of our dear Sister Superior.

During Holy Mass our prayers, replete with earnestness, petitioned Heaven for a real shower of blessings on her behalf. It was a pleasant duty, a tribute of gratitude, gladly paid while we awaited the occasion of offering our wishes in all their plenitude.

Moreover, as joy usually slips in wherever gratitude is present, a great holiday was necessary to express it, and, consequently, as nine o'clock struck, the bell pealed gaily, inviting us to rejoice.

In the evening we assisted at a recreative program. We could almost call it a "three-in-one" concert since it really concerned and interested the different groups of the House. For our kind Mothers and devoted elder Sisters have not forgotten that to-morrow is the feast of the Presentation of Mary and also the feast of the little Novices; and the Postulants, anticipating the feast of St. Cecilia, profited by this occasion to present their heartiest wishes and sincerest thanks to their dear Mistress who bears this saint's name.

That explains why Professed Sisters, Novices and Postulants succeeded one another on the scene. Each group did its utmost to give utterance to its wishes and happiness. The program was as follows: Cantata to the Blessed Virgin, by Paul Vidal; two short plays rich in moral lessons and encouragement; a song by our young Sisters the Postulants; congratulatory

address and spiritual bouquet offered to the heroines of the day. The vibrant *Magnificat* crowned the whole. Thus, as the day ended, our souls were lifted in thanksgiving to God and to our Immaculate Mother, and we were each given, as souvenir, a lily in the chalice of which we gathered the honey-sweet words of our Heavenly Queen.

To our kind Mothers and devoted Mistresses we repeat our filial thanks for the joy and the good they strew along our path.

Thursday, November 21

To-day, we honoured our dear Patron, the sweet Virgin of the Temple. Our prayers and hymns, and even the pure white lilies and azure lamps gracing the altars, sang the glory of Mary. Everything proclaimed this Royal Child, the most attractive of all Models, on which every soul setting out on the road to perfection must pattern its life. The customary Guard of Honour was specially reserved for the Novices so, all day long, successive groups of four had the happiness of being delegated for this enviable duty.

Everyone was in a festal mood. Our Mothers, always attentive to please us, had organized a game of "Perfection" that brought delight and gaiety to all.

This day inlaid with gems of pious and fraternal joys, ended with an oft-repeated "thank you" to all those who had spared neither time nor trouble to afford us such a pleasant holiday.

Friday, November 22

It was the Postulants' turn to be extremely busy. Their liveliness contrasted strangely with our recollected silence. But we did not forget that it was the feast of St. Cecilia and, therefore, we approved everyone of their doings.

Monday, November 25

To honour St. Catherine we enjoyed a short recess spent in the company of our kind Mistress. As the saying goes, we know not whether we chatted while working or worked while chatting, but after all, what difference does it make?

At our midday and evening meals, like spoilt children, we were given some delicious toffee. But, lo and behold! some among us received an extra bar! There reigned a moment of mystery, oh! just a second, for, in a twinkling, those Sisters realized that the intriguing bar was awarded only to those who had reached their twenty-fifth year, and they were greatly amused. Three cheers for St. Catherine who has revealed us secrets!...

Tuesday, November 26

Two good surprises awaited us to-day. Firstly, we had the joy of welcoming our dear Mother Ste. Marie Madeleine and this happiness we are told, is to be ours for four days. The Novitiate always has its quota of joy, but needless to say, such visits bring it to its maximum.

Some time after supper we had the pleasure and advantage of being treated to a cinematographic production obligingly presented by Reverend Fathers Poitevin and Sarrasin of the Foreign Mission Society.

A phonofilm entitled "War in China" represented the tragic period of the conflict when Shanghai was destroyed. What serious reflections these scenes awakened in our minds! We beheld the teeming millions abandoned to direst misery and ignorance and what can idols do against human power?

The second film carried us into far-away Manchukuo and Mongolia, vast fields evangelized by the Foreign Mission Seminary and where we have several Mission posts. While these captivating scenes passed before our eyes and awakened in us holy ambitions, we enjoyed the beautiful music which was so appropriate to the time and place.

A beautiful trip to such a distant country made in less than two hours was beyond all we could have wished for, on this November night. How the good God spoils us! We did not neglect to show Him our gratitude, and we cordially thanked the benevolent missionaries who had contributed to render the evening so pleasant.

Saturday, November 30

In our Religious family this day has a very special significance for it has been chosen by our Venerable Mother Foundress as a day of Thanksgiving. It affords us the opportunity of repeating to our Heavenly Father the gratitude welling forth from our hearts for the innumerable favours, both spiritual and temporal, that He ever showers upon us.

Unable to render adequate thanks, we beseeched the Blessed Virgin to offer her Divine Son as an acquittal of our debt to the Adorable Trinity.

Sunday, December 8

The beautiful Feast of the Immaculate Conception preceded, as is the custom in our Institute, by a triduum of silence, dawned like a star of unspeakable brightness, folding our souls in its rays of happiness and peace.

As soon as we entered the chapel, our gaze was attracted by the graceful lilies adorning the altar and, above all, by the blue and silver drapery above the statue of the Virgin.

After Holy Mass, during which all present took part in the liturgical Gregorian Chant, was sung like a mighty pean of victory and of blessed enthusiasm, the beautiful hymn: "Glory be to Mary, the Immaculate Virgin".

Yes, may you be honoured, to-day and ever, throughout the whole universe, O Spotless Virgin! You were first and foremost in the creative thought of God the Father. Privileged Heroine in the drama of love which the Redeemer proposed to enact throughout the ages. You were also the unrivalled Tabernacle of the Holy Ghost. Masterpiece of grace, you enraptured the Glorious Trinity Itself. To you, after God, we give the first place in our hearts and in that of all men! Thus will ever resound our dear motto: "May the Immaculate Virgin be known from pole to pole!"

This whole day marked by a solemn *Deo Gratias* was replete with purest joys. As night was falling fast and Nature, having ended its hymn of praise, had slowly been hushed and stilled, we stealthily stole into the reception hall where a surprise-concert had been prepared for our dear Professed Sisters. The program was totally Marian, for all the items were to the praise of this incomparable Virgin or reminded her that a torrent of gratitude flowed from our hearts as we recalled the numberless favours she has bestowed upon our dear Institute.

As a souvenir, each one of us received a beautiful blue star indicating the way to be followed to become privileged stars in the crown of our Immaculate Mother.

At the close of this happy day we could do nothing but yearn for the eternal Feast which shall unite us all around our dear Mother to sing her praises.

Monday, December 23

Our neighbours, the Fathers of the Foreign Mission Society, sustained a heavy loss a few days ago in the death of their first Superior, Very Reverend Canon Roch.

To-day, with sentiments of the deepest religious sympathy, we replaced one another near the mortal remains to pay the tribute of our pious suffrages and to ask that the Divine Master reward without delay this ardent labourer, this worthy father of numerous militant Apostles.

Tuesday, December 24

We spent this day in immediate preparation for Christmas. While engaged in our humble tasks we recited with devotion the thousand "Aves" and accompanied in spirit the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph in their voyage to Bethlehem. We redoubled our love and solicitude in the preparation of the crib of our heart in which the Loving Child will soon come to repose. Since the beginning of Advent our sacrifices and acts of virtue have been made in view of providing a trousseau which must be as complete and as perfect as possible. We begged our Heavenly Mother to add the finishing touch in order that our hearts be truly a "realm of pleasure" a place of rest in which Jesus will take His delight.

Before the usual hour, we hear the bell inviting us to take our night's rest. Would it be that on Christmas there are surprises in the Convent as there are at home? O Blessed Dawn, hasten to appear!



St. Anthony of Padua daily returned thanks to the Blessed Virgin for all the blessings he had received from her and by her. What ingratitude to pass a single day without remembering that admirable benefactress! Let us, then, be grateful, and let us implore her to forgive our past negligences, and beg of her the grace to correspond more faithfully to her goodness.



The

Children's

Page

DEAR CHILDREN,

In my last chat, I promised I would continue speaking to you about little George. You are very anxious to know what was this good little boy's trial. Well, this is what his uncle, Reverend Father Hermann, relates:

"His father presented a book to him and said: 'Let us say the prayer.' — 'Father,' replied the child, 'I cannot pray in this book of the Israelites.' 'And why not?' — 'I am Christian, I am Catholic.' — 'You are playing a cruel game, child; you are not speaking seriously, I think. Besides, you know quite well that your Baptism would not be valid without your father's consent.' — 'I beg your pardon, father, in the Catholic Religion, it is sufficient to have the age of reason, faith, and religious instruction to be validly baptized.' The father, at first, dissimulated his anger; but a few days later, on December 3rd, he set off with his son for a Protestant country, four hundred and fifty miles from his mother.

"All efforts to find out where the child had been relegated, were vain. Civil and political authorities were looking for him, but as he had been placed under a fictitious name in a boarding-school directed by heretics, all their attempts were unsuccessful. The mother remained alone... and the child, like Daniel in the lions' den, was exposed to relentless assaults intended to make him deny his faith. 'I would like to see my mother,' he often said, weeping bitterly. — 'You shall see her,' came the reply, 'if you abjure.' — 'Oh! no, I am a Christian, I am a Catholic, and I am ready to suffer anything rather than deny my faith.'

"And despite this heroic fidelity, letters were sent to his mother, informing her that her child had returned to the darkness of Judaism. But she trusted in Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, she believed nothing of it, and knowing not what to do with herself, all alone as she was in Paris, she came to Lyons, where she was received by her son's godmother.

"Three months more elapsed, and a letter coming from one of the remotest countries of Germany contained the following injunction: 'Come, your son is here.' She set out without delay, and after a long and fatiguing journey of more than five hundred miles, on meeting her family she exclaimed: 'My son, where is my son?' — 'Your son... you shall see him only after having sworn before God that you will bring him up in the Jewish religion and that you will give no outward sign of the Catholic Religion you have embraced.'



CHILDREN, do you understand this heart-rending situation?

"We have left the poor child in the anxiety and anguish of his lions' den; but God will not permit that he be harmed by the ferocious beasts. After a few weeks of indescribable agony, the father relented and permitted an interview, in his presence, on condition that there would be no question of religion. The son threw his arms around his mother's neck; she bathed him in her tears; they were unable to pronounce the sweet names of Jesus and Mary; but in a letter to me my poor sister stated: 'He could not say a word to me; but I understood, I felt it and, I am positive that he has remained faithful. Yes, his look and his tender kisses told me that my son was yet a Christian.'

"But little George was deprived anew of the treasure for which he had faced all this religious persecution; he had become a Christian to be able to receive Holy Communion and, from All Saints' Day to Easter, close watch had been kept on him to prevent him from going to church; moreover, he was placed in a boarding-house.... Do you know where? In a city where there was not a single Catholic priest.... Can you imagine his torture?... He found his mother, but his Jesus, when would he see Him again?... Several months went by. One day he finally managed to escape the vigilant eye of his guardians and went and played in a wood; it was not flowers and butterflies he was seeking... his wistful eyes were trying to detect a heavenly messenger. He soon recognized him in a man who passed by and looked at him with evident interest. Yes, it was he. A missionary priest whom the mother of George had interested in her son's unhappy fate. He had disguised himself and come for a stroll, as if by chance, in this same wood; and, for the first time since his banishment which had occurred ten months previously, George was able to make his confession. He made it in a wood, in the shade of a protecting tree.... But that was not all; how could he go to Communion? The priest had to cross the river which separated his mission from this corner of land where the poor neophyte lived. Prayers were said, the situation studied and, finally, a few days later, the Missionary disguised himself anew, took with him a little silver vase containing the Heavenly Treasure, the Sacred Host, and embarked on a steamship in the midst of a senseless crowd, which did not suspect that Jesus Christ, true Man, was hidden on the bosom of this happy priest. The child had managed to run away from school to go to his mother's room and, in that room where they had prepared a little altar covered with flowers and lights, both kneeling awaited the ardently desired visit of their Saviour, Jesus in person, Who deigned to come and fortify them in their exile.

"At last the priest, after going through all the dangers of this perilous enterprise without any obstacle, arrived with his precious Treasure and, in this country without faith, in this city without priests, without a true church, in this modest room, the child was finally able to make his Easter duty and unite himself to his beloved Jesus.

"Here is what the child wrote to me a few days later: 'When I wake up dur-

ing the night, O my dear Uncle, and think of all the graces Jesus has bestowed upon me while I have been here, far from all religious consolation; when I think, especially, of the almost miraculous Communion I received in Mamma's little room, I leap with joy, and bite my quilts in a transport of gratitude!

"A few months later, he wrote again: 'Christmas is coming and as this Solemnity is drawing nearer, a closer watch is kept on me to prevent me from receiving my God. Alas! shall I have to spend these beautiful feasts in bitter fasting, deprived of the Bread of Life! Pray the Holy Child Jesus that my fast may soon end'."

Jesus finally put an end to little George's sufferings. He was given back to his mother and they were never separated after that.

On hearing this fact, dear Children, have you not compared your fate to that of this young hero? Born in the midst of Judaism, how difficult it was for this brave child to embrace our Holy Faith and practise it. Whilst for you who have been born of Catholic parents, it has cost nothing to become children of God and of the Church and heirs to Heaven. You have been baptized at birth and, at that moment, by the virtue of that great Sacrament, your purified soul became pleasing to the Lord. Even before the age of reason you learned of your mother to clasp your hands before the Tabernacle and to adore and love the God of our altars. When it came time to make your First Communion, you met with no opposition, on the

contrary, your whole family was happy to see you approach the Holy Table. Ever since, you have been perfectly free to partake of the Divine Banquet which is offered to you each day.

O my little Friends, how grateful you should be for this inestimable grace and how much you should fear to become unworthy of it like the prodigal son who enjoyed all the wealth of his father's home and left, unfortunately, to seek afar off, false pleasures in guilty amusements....

How much you should strive to profit by the facility with which you can presently receive this most excellent Gift of God, this Manna which is so ardently desired by fervent souls and of which you may be deprived some day.



You have been perfectly free to partake of the Divine Banquet...

Actually, in the countries that are at war, there are, no doubt, a great number of children and grown-up persons who are unable to satisfy their hunger and thirst for Holy Communion! Oh! how sorry they must feel if they have abstained from it without reason when it was offered to them daily.

Let these thoughts, Dear Children, increase your devotion to the Blessed Eucharist. May they prompt you to come frequently to the foot of the Altar and to receive Communion. It is there that you will become strong to face the struggles of life, meek to convert souls, humble to please God and edify your neighbour, loving to be loved by God and make all your actions with merit. It is there that someone will be very happy to meet you and, that *someone* is...

Your Great Friend,

THE PRECURSOR.

Which Loved Best?

"I love you, mother," said little John,
Then forgetting his work, his cap put on,
And he was off to the garden swing,
Leaving his mother the wood to bring.

"I love you, mother," said little Nell,
"I love you better than tongue can tell,"
Then she teased and pouted half the day,
Till mother rejoiced when she went to play.

"I love you, mother," said little Fan,
"To-day I'll help you all I can."
To the cradle then she did softly creep,
And rocked the baby till it fell asleep.

Then stepping softly, she took the broom,
And swept the floor and dusted the room;
Busy and happy all day was she,
Helpful and cheerful as child could be.

"I love you, mother," again they said,
Three little children, going to bed.
How do you think that mother guessed
Which of them really loved her best?

— Joy Allison.

Thanksgivings to the Blessed Virgin

for favours 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.

I wish to thank you for the Novena you made for my intention a short time ago. I might say that it was not fruitless, as I improved greatly in my health and, for the time being, I do not have to receive treatments any more. I feel that it is all due to the intercession of Our Blessed Mother. Mrs. E. C., **Detroit, Mich.** — I have obtained work. Please thank the Blessed Virgin for me. C. J. C., **Madison, Me.** — Thanksgiving for a special favour received. Will you kindly make a Novena for me, for another special request. M. H., **Outremont.** — Thanksgiving for favour received. I ask your special prayers for more favours. Mrs. M. C. R., **Kitchener, Ont.** — Many thanks to the Blessed Virgin, I am feeling fine now. Mrs. L. B., **Three Rivers, Mass.** — Thanksgiving for a favour obtained. I would like to start another Novena soon and would appreciate deeply your burning a few candles for a very special intention. Miss M. H., **Millbury, Mass.** — My heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin for favours received. Please pray for all my intentions. Mrs. A. D., **Malartic, Que.** — Thanksgiving for a favour received. I would like you to pray to the Blessed Virgin for my baby. Mrs. W. J. B., **Plympton, N. S.** — Thanksgiving for a special favour granted. My health is greatly improved and my husband is better also. Please pray, that our health may continue in the future. Mrs. R. D., **Millbury, Mass.** — I wish to thank the Blessed Virgin with all my heart for saving my father's life. On Christmas, he kept having heart attacks one after another. I asked the Blessed Virgin not to let him die; the next day he had much improved and is getting better every day. Thanks to the good Blessed Virgin who heard my prayers. M. DeF., **Villeray.** — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for a favour obtained. I will again ask you to pray to her for me, that I may succeed in business, also for a very special favour. Mrs. O. D., **Montreal.** — Heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin and St. Teresa of the Child Jesus for a favour obtained. L. L., **Indian Orchard, Mass.** — Our Lady obtained a very great favour for me a few days ago. I wish to thank her. Mrs. G. H. M., **Newcastle, N. B.** — Heartfelt thanks for favours received. I request the help of your prayers for myself and persons dear to me. Mrs. E. C., **Detroit, Mich.** — I wish to thank our Good Mother of the Miraculous Medal for favours received. I am gaining every day in health and I have obtained work which, although it is not permanent, helps. Please publish my thanksgiving and continue praying for my intentions. Miss Irene Keigh, **Montreal.** — I am pleased to acquit myself of a promise in thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for a favour obtained. Please pray for me, that I may have good health to continue working. Miss C. L., **St. Agnes de Dundee.** — The Blessed Virgin has granted me my favour so far. I am very grateful to her. Mrs. D. Z., **Rumford, Me.** — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for a special favour I received to-day. Please pray for my intentions during the next couple of weeks as I need help so much. Miss E. MacM., **North Adams, Mass.** — Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for past favours. I would like you to start another Novena for my complete recovery. Please pray for my husband whose knee is still very sore, that he may be able to continue his daily work. Mrs. R. D., **Millbury, Mass.** — Thanksgiving for a favour obtained through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin and St. Francis. Please remember my sister-in-law in all your prayers. Mrs. E. L., **Fitchburg, Mass.** — My lively gratitude to the Blessed Virgin for the cure of my little girl. Mrs. A. B., **Grande Baie.** — Thanksgiving to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart for favours obtained. Mrs. B., **Montreal.** — Heartfelt thanks to the Blessed Virgin for a cure and another favour obtained. A Subscriber. — My most sincere thanks to our Immaculate Mother for a position obtained. Mrs. C. S. — Sincere thanks to Our Heavenly Mother for a position obtained after promising to publish my gratitude. Miss M. D., **St. Urbain de Chateauguay.** — Lively gratitude for a cure obtained. M. C. B. — Thanksgiving for a favour received. May the Blessed Virgin continue protecting my family. A. G. — Heartfelt thanks for a cure obtained. Mrs. A. D., **Granby.** — Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Perpetual Help for a favour received. A Subscriber, **Bergerville.** — Homage of gratitude to the Blessed Virgin for a favour received. Mrs. L. B., **St. Zotique.** — A thousand thanks to Our Heavenly Mother, through whose intercession my son has obtained work. Mrs. A. P. — My prayers have been heard. My husband has worked all summer without being sick. Sincere thanks to the Blessed Virgin! Mrs. O. C., **Montreal.** — I thank the Blessed Virgin

for a favour she has granted me, and I beg her to obtain work for the father of a family. Anonymous. — Thanksgiving to Our Lady of the Missions for favours obtained. M. G. T., **Dolbeau**. — Heartfelt thanks for a position obtained. Mr. J. F. O., **Jonquiere**. — I am acquitting myself of a promise in thanksgiving for a favour obtained through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. H. B., **Three Rivers**. — Thanksgiving for a cure obtained. Mrs. N. C., **Verdun**. —

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."

Please pray for us. Mrs. J. L., **Pittsfield, Mass.** — May I ask you to please pray for my intentions. M. B. T., **Schenectady, N. Y.** — Kindly pray for my recovery. Mrs. D. Z., **Rumford, Me.** — Will you be so kind as to continue praying for me. Miss M. T., **Montreal**. — Please pray for my son, that he may never take any more convulsion-spells, and for my other two boys, that they may go to Mass regularly, on Sundays and Holydays. A Friend. — Please pray to our Blessed Mother, that she may help me out of my troubles. Mrs. M. McG., **Chute Rouge**. — Please pray to our Blessed Lady, that I may receive two special favours for myself and one for a friend. Mrs. W. L. R., **Worcester, Mass.** — Please pray for my brother who drinks to excess and does not go to church. I would like you to remember my little boy who suffers from an unknown disease, and I would be ever so thankful if you prayed for the return of money that I paid and did not owe. Mrs. H. D. — I beg your prayers or novenas to help me to sell my property. Miss H. B., **Simcoe, Ont.** — Please pray for an intention of mine. Mrs. J. O. G., **Timmins, Ont.** — Would you say a little prayer for me, that I may have better health, also for another favour. Miss J. H., **Montreal**. — Please think of me in your prayers for a special petition. Mrs. S. M. M., **Fletcher**. — Kindly pray for the conversion of a fallen-away Catholic. I know our Heavenly Mother can bring him back, for she is the Refuge of sinners. Mrs. G. N. T., **Troy, Vt.** — Kindly make a Novena for a special intention of ours. Mrs. T. J. F., **McAlpine, Ont.** — I wish you to start a Novena for two intentions for which I have been praying. Mrs. M. B. M., **Kirkland Lake, Ont.** — I recommend a special intention to the Blessed Virgin. Mrs. G. W., **Outremont**. — Please make a Novena for my intentions. Mrs. P. H., **Montreal**. — Please pray for me. Mrs. Wm. H., **Verdun**. — Will you please pray, that my father and brother may get work very soon, because we are in serious circumstances. My mother is dead and we have a large family. Miss E. G., **La Salle, Ont.** — A mother begs prayers for the complete recovery of a son and son-in-law who are both seriously ill. Mrs. T. T., **Verdun**. — Will you please pray for me to our Immaculate Mother and her Dear Son, that I may be cured of gall stones without an operation, and regain my health. A Subscriber. **Watford, Ont.** — I am writing to ask you if you will please pray for myself and my son, that we may have a good position. Mrs. P. B., **Philippsburg, Que.** — I had high blood pressure and heart trouble and I asked you to pray for my health. I have obtained my favour. Thanks to the Blessed Virgin for having cured my heart trouble, I am now asking for a complete cure. Mrs. R. S., **Barry's Bay, Ont.** — Would you please make a Novena to the Blessed Virgin for the cure of my husband and myself. Mrs. A. M., **Zurich, Ont.** — I am worried incessantly. Kindly pray for a special intention of mine. I ask you very earnestly to make a Novena immediately for two special favours. M. K., **Montreal**. — Please pray, that I may rent my property soon. Miss H. K., **Outremont**. — I request prayers for my husband. Mrs. E. C., **Detroit, Mich.** — Please pray to the Blessed Virgin for our two sons who are in the Navy. Anonymous. — Would you kindly pray to Our Blessed Lady for a very special intention of mine. Mrs. M. B., **Notre Dame de Grace, Montreal**. — Will you please make two Novenas to the Blessed Virgin for a favour. Mrs. A. M., **North Adams, Mass.** — Kindly pray to the Blessed Virgin and Holy Jesus for a special intention of mine. J. A. K., **Montreal**. — Please help me to pray so that I may obtain my daughter's recovery, for I am very anxious. Mrs. A. B., **Skowhegan, Me.** — Kindly join me in praying to Our Blessed Mother, that if it is God's Holy Will, my husband may obtain work and that I may be delivered of an awful nervous fear. Mrs. G. D. — Would you please make a Novena to the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Virgin, that I may obtain two special

favours which will mean a great deal to me. H. M., **Montreal**. — Will you please make a Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary for me, that I may obtain good health, that my husband may change his mind, and for two very special favours. A Subscriber to **THE PRECURSOR**, **Linwood, Ont.** — Will you kindly make a Novena to the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Virgin, that my son may get better and work again. Mrs. D. G. — Would you make a Novena to the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Virgin, that my niece may be able to talk soon. Miss C., **Windsor, Ont.** — Would you please make a Novena to the Sacred Heart and Our Immaculate Mother, that my father will prosper in his work. Miss L. S., **Marlboro, Mass.** — Would you make a Novena to the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Virgin that my husband may be protected and be successful this month. Please pray also for my dear Mother who is in England suffering, and for myself, that my hands may be cured. Miss F. C., **Verdun, Que.** — I am requesting of the Blessed Virgin a position for my husband. A Subscriber, **Ste. Marie de Beauce**. — Kindly pray for my son. Mrs. J. L. — My son is inclined to drink, please pray to the Blessed Virgin for him. Anonymous. — Please pray for the following intentions: The cure of my feet, the sale of a property, and work for my two children who are without a position. An afflicted mother. — Will you kindly pray to the Blessed Virgin for a very special intention of mine. Mrs. O. L., **Almaville**. — With confidence I request the help of the Blessed Virgin to obtain my cure without having to undergo an operation, and other favours. Mrs. R. L. — Kindly pray for a young lady who is threatened to have her leg cut off. May the Immaculate Virgin grant her her cure. Mrs. E. B., **Almaville**. — Please pray for my husband's health. Mrs. H. McN., **Shawinigan Falls**.

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



NECROLOGY

Very Reverend Canon J. Avila Roch, ex-Superior of the Foreign Mission Seminary, **Pont Viau**; Very Reverend Canon Donat Binette, **Montreal**; Reverend Father Leopold Pauzé, C. S. C., Superior, St. Laurent College, **Ville St. Laurent**; Reverend Sister Marie Théophile, Sister of St. Anne, sister of our Sister Marie Immaculée, **Montreal**; Reverend Sister Marie de St. Martin, Sister of the Good Shepherd, **Montreal**; Mrs. Cyrille Paquette, **St. Elzéar**, mother of our Sister de la Nativité de Jésus; Mr. George Frenette, **St. Jean l'Évangéliste, Bonaventure Co.**, father of our Sisters St. Michel Archange and Marie de la Salette; Mrs. N. Samuel Papillon, **Quebec**, mother of our Sisters Gertrude du Sacré Cœur and Mechtilde du Sacré Cœur; Mr. Alphonse Anctil, **Montreal**, father of our Sister Alphonse Rodriguez; Mrs. Honorius Filion, **Lachute**, mother of our Sister Gabriel de Marie; Mrs. A. Roy, **St. Fabien, Rimouski Co.**, grandmother of our Sister Marie Claudine; Mr. G. S., Théberge, Notary, **Ste. Marie de Beauce**; Mrs. Charles Morin, **Springfield, Mass.**; Miss Margaret Ryan, **Montreal**; Mrs. Helan Hogan, **Stamford, Conn.**; Mrs. Marg. Bullan, **Liverpool, England**; Mrs. Frank Kaufman, **Valois, Que.**; Mrs. M. J. Beaulac, **So. Bellingham**; Mr. Wm. Coleman, **Montreal**; Mrs. L. Griffin, **Notre Dame de Grace**; Mrs. Margaret Toohy, **Montreal**; Mrs. James Kane, **Montreal**; Mrs. J. Carson, **Montreal**; Mrs. J. P. McDonald, **Montreal**; Mrs. Charles Haynes, **Montreal**; Mr. Hall Cartier, **Montreal**; Mr. William P. McVey, **Westmount**; Mrs. Virginie Guertin, **Brockton, Mass.**; Mr. Silva Guay, **Salem, Mass.**; Mr. Daniel Driscoll, **Lawrence, Mass.**; Mrs. A. Bouvier, **Haverhill, Mass.**; Mr. William McDonnell, **Haverhill, Mass.**; Mr. John W. Thorton, **Haverhill, Mass.**; Mrs. Patrick Ahearn, **Newfoundland**; Mrs. Jane McLaughlin, **Outremont**; Mrs. G. Murray, **Westmount**; Mrs. Mary Hynes, **Verdun**; Mr. John Lockett, **St. Henry, Montreal**; Miss Rose Gregoire, **Spencer, Mass.**

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School for catechists. Catechumenate. School for Christian and pagan pupils. Orphanage. Foundling-Home. Workrooms.

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TSUNGMING, Catholic Mission, Paochen, Kiangsu, (Founded in 1928).

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PAMIENCHENG, Catholic Mission, (Founded in 1929).

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FAKOU, Catholic Mission, (Founded in 1930). Dispensary. School

TAONAN, Catholic Mission, (Founded in 1931). Dispensary. Boarding-School.

SZEPINGKAI, Catholic Mission, (Founded in 1931).

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IN ITALY

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Procure for the Missions.

Benefactors of the Society

of the

Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

1. — **Founders**, those who donate \$1,000.00 or more.
2. — **Protectors**, those who by a donation of \$500.00, provide the dowry and trousseau for a poor novice. By combining their alms, a parish, community or family may have a right to this title.

A Founder's or Protector's Diploma is given 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 a 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 Granted 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 labours, as also in the prayers and sufferings of all the poor unfortunates confided to their care.

Besides, Benefactors are entitled to the following spiritual advantages:

1. — A special intention in all the Masses heard and Communion received by the Sisters.
2. — A Mass offered every month for their intentions.
3. — Every Friday and Sunday 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 placed on the Altar of Exposition).
4. — For the same intentions, the members of the Community make, every day, the Guard of Honour to Mary, which consists in the continual recitation of the Rosary before the altar of the Blessed Virgin. The Guard of Honour is also made at the Shek Lung Lazaretto. There, the poor leper women, in successive groups of fifteen, continue the 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 granted to deceased Benefactors.
7. — Two Masses are 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 Benefactors, living and deceased.