MISSIONARY CATECHIST

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Apple Blossom Time at Victory Noll. The postulant, Joanne Karnitz, is now a novice, Sister Joan Marie.

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Visiting Day at the Hospital

by SISTER JANE FRANCES



Sister Jane Frances (left) and Sister Gertrude Marie scan the register for names of new patients.

"IT IS TUESDAY," surmises the receptionist at Glenn County Hospital, Willows, California, as she sees two sisters enter the door. Ever since we opened our convent in Willows eight years ago, we have made weekly visits at the hospital.

We stop briefly at the desk to check the register for names of patients recently admitted. We whisper a prayer to the Holy Spirit as we begin our tour of the general ward.

One can never predict what the outcome of our hospital visits will be. We meet young and old, rich and poor, Catholics, "Christians," and non-believers. There are those who like to read and who appreciate a pamphlet or magazine. Some are too ill to talk. Not infrequently their confinement in the hospital gives some a chance to think seriously about their relations with God. This may be the opportunity He is giving them to receive the sacrament of penance which they have postponed for years.

Our visit in Ward C brings us into contact with old people who have no one to care for them. We become better acquainted with these patients

than with the others, since the turnover here is not so rapid.

Hospital authorities have done everything to give the ward a homelike atmosphere. The patients naturally hope to be able to return home sometime, but they admit unanimously that they are well provided for in the hospital.

Some of these patients are habitually cheerful; others are not. A hobby provides a splendid pastime for some. These hobbies include crocheting, knitting, quilt-making, and raising African violets. The room in which the television set is located is a popular place.

We first visit a patient who spends every possible moment sewing quilts by hand. Though she is over ninety years old, her vision is remarkably clear. Each week she proudly shows us how much she has accomplished since our previous visit.

This woman's roommate spends most of the day embroidering pillow cases. One day we found the two of them having a friendly argument. The point of discussion was not whether the blinds should be open or closed, or whether the heat should be turned on or off. It was which one would win if they could race down the corridor in their wheel chairs!

Usually we find the patient across the corridor from them sitting by her bed reading with the aid of a magnifying glass. It was happy news she had for us when we returned to Willows last fall. After more than eighty years she had become a member of the Catholic Church. "I should have done it years ago," she mused. Now she is learning to pray the rosary — a task not so easy at her age.

In the next room we visit a husband and wife who are both paralyzed and unable to speak. They nod their heads in ap-



Sister Gertrude Marie admires a patient's embroidery work.

proval to almost everything we say.

Another woman whom we always stop to see suffers terribly from arthritis. She has been a faithful member of a Protestant Church for years and it is edifying to witness her faith. "I am suffering very much," she will remark. "Christ suffered very much for

me. I am ready to go whenever He comes. I hope it will be soon."

We show our interest in each patient by listening to their problems and offering a bit of encouragement. Their aches and pains, attitudes and preference might differ, but their appreciation of our weekly visits is common to all.



Sisters leave the hospital after their weekly visit.

TO SEE OR NOT TO SEE

The lady returned from the dentist's chair looking anything but relaxed. Being next, we began to feel nervous.

"It certainly took a lot of faith for me to sit in that chair," she explained to my Sister Companion and myself. "The doctor forgot his glasses today so he wore mine that he might be able to see to pull two of my teeth."

Apparently the doctor liked his patient's glasses. He called out to her as she was about to leave the office, "What is the name of the doctor who fitted your glasses?"



The May altar was far from pretentious, but the children left their flower offering with love.

MY BOYS and girls were to have a May Crowning Ceremony on our regular class day, and the children were lining up for it. A woman who walked by the yard saw the May altar and exclaimed, "Oh, the Virgin Mary!" I explained to her what we were going to do and invited her to join us. She would like so much to do so, but first she would have to find a place to put her dog.

She tied him a safe, but barking distance away. By now the noise of the dog had attracted the attention of three more neighbor ladies who also decided to join us. They chimed in enthusiastically on the **Ave** part of the hymn, "Immaculate Mary."

The lady with the dog appointed herself chief flower arranger after the children had placed their slightly wilted offerings at Our Blessed Mother's feet. During the Rosary, one of the women knelt right down on the cement in front of the

And the Neighbors Came

by SISTER SHARON

shrine. At least twice she removed her glasses to wipe her eves.

A rocking chair appeared from somewhere and one of the women occupied it, accompanying our Hail Mary's with well-timed squeaks. The fourth lady stood off to one side, taking it all in through not-toodry eyes.

After the little ceremony was over, the children walked into the garage for class and our four new friends, without a word, went back to their duties at home.



The neighbors joined the May Crowning, but first the lady had to tie up her doa.

Doubling for St. Joseph

by SISTER JOAN

IF YOU WERE to question the sisters in our convents across the length and breadth of our country, I am sure they would all agree with me when I say we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the "men behind the scenes."

What do I mean? Well, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker prompted this little bit of reflection. Every parish usually

Mr. Bassett adjusts the shelves in the combination cabinet and bookcase he made for the Sisters' community room.

has at least one, sometimes more valiant men who come to the aid of sisters in distress.

A pipe springs a leak, the furnace is on the blink, extra shelves are needed for storage, or — it could be almost anything. There is always some generous and willing man to come to the rescue of the sisters.

I think it is fitting to pay tribute to all these men on the feast of St. Joseph the Worker because they are so much like the Foster Father of Our Lord. They work quietly and unostentatiously. They seek no praise nor commendation. God alone knows how much they do to further the work of us sisters.

Such a man is Mr. Walter Bassett, the father of Monsignor Ronald Bassett of Marygrove Retreat House. When we arrived in Garden, it did not take us long to get acquainted with him. Tell-tale marks of his work and skill were evident everywhere in our convent.



The wood-paneled walls, the stations of the cross, the artistic niche for St. Joseph—all are Mr. Bassett's work.

Just like St. Joseph, Papa B, as he is affectionately called by everyone, is adept at the art of carpentry. Not only have we benefited from his craftmanship, but St. John's Church and Marygrove Retreat House have profited as well. If there is any carpenter work to be done, Papa B usually gets a call. His patented response is "I'll do that while I'm resting!"

You see, Papa B is past seventy and he came to Garden to retire. Woodworking is his

hobby, but it has become more than an avocation with him. Many hours are spent in his shop where he turns out beautiful pieces of work. We have been the recipients of some of them and we are most grateful for all that he has done for us.

We salute Mr. Bassett and all the other men who are so generous in giving sisters everywhere a helping hand. May St. Joseph the Worker commend their labors to the Heavenly Father for a just reward!

Mary Is Crowned Every Day

by SISTER MARY KEVIN

MOST OF US associate the crowning of Our Blessed Mother Queen solely with the month of May. Once a year we pay this tribute to Mary and then, unfortunately, too often forget it until another May comes.

But do you know that there is at least one place where Our Blessed Mother is daily crowned Queen? That is at Kundig Center in Detroit, a home where senior citizens enjoy "campus living."

The Center was a direct answer to a request of our late Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, asking Catholic Social Services to sponsor a new charity in honor of Our Blessed Mother during the Marian Year of 1954.

A statue of Our Blessed Mother, from the time the Center was established, occupied a prominent place in what is known as the Fountain Court. A crown, made by one of the residents, was placed on the statue in a solemn ceremony May 31, 1955. It was the first celebration of the newly established feast of Mary's Queenship.

Gradually the idea grew to have Our Lady wear a differ-

ent crown every day. Interest in the project spread throughout the city of Detriot and beyond it. Crowns were donated to the Center. Some are replicas of crowns famous in Marian history. Others are original in design.

There is a crown for each state in the Union. The gem in the crown was taken from the earth of the state it represents. We use this word "gem" in a broad sense. For some states — Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida,



Sister Mary Kevin making the Our Lady of Victory Crown for Kundig Center.



Sister adjusts the crown on the statue.

Oklahoma, and several others— it is petrified wood. The Colorado crown contains a dinosaur bone! Our two youngest states boast of the most beautiful gems: jade for Alaska and mother-of-pearl for Hawaii.

It was our privilege to supply the crown for Our Blessed Mother under her title of Our Lady of Victory. It is made of 4,000 tiny, imitation pearls sewed on a stiff background. The inside is lined with satin.

Every day at noon the residents of the Center gather around Mary's statue. They recite the Angelus and place the crown for the day on Our Blessed Mother's head. In this little service there is a special commemoration for those members of the Center who have gone to their eternal reward. The intentions of the benefac-

tor of the particular crown for the day are also remembered.

The titles by which the crowns are listed are varied and even fanciful. Among them are: Our Lady, Queen of Glass. Queen of Brides, Queen of Thanksgiving, Queen of Cobblers. Queen of Butterflies. Queen of Girl Scouts, Queen of African Violets. The crown honoring Our Lady with the poetic title Queen, Rose of Eternal Freshness, was nated by a woman in her The crown for Our eighties. Lady, Queen of Russia, made by a Maltese shipbuilder. an original member of the Center, now deceased.

But no matter what her title, she is the same loving Mother and Queen and must be touched by the honor given to her every day by her eldest children of Kundig Center.



The simple ceremony takes place at the hour of the noon Angelus.

WHERE THERE'S A WILL . . .



Sylvia buys a book from Sister Kathleen.

Classrooms were ready and we waited for the children for religion class. They should be coming any minute now, but few were in sight. We began to say to one another, "Where are the children?"

Soon several appeared with the news bulletin: "The teacher in school gave us all free tickets for the circus."

Some of the boys and girls who came for class had intentions of going to the circus afterward; others did not care to go because "catechism is more better."

In the Home Field

Among those who came was Sylvia who surprised Sister Kathleen by handing her a shiny quarter with the explanation, "This is for a book, Sister."

Knowing that Sylvia had not been able to afford a book, Sister was surprised. Sylvia hastened to explain, "A girl wanted an extra circus ticket so since I was coming to class, I sold my ticket to her for twenty-five cents. Now I have my own book!"

SISTER CLAUDIA

THREE - THEN FOUR

I asked a little boy how old he was. "I am three," he replied .

"And when will you be four?"

"When I get finished being three," was the wise reply.

SISTER MARY ROSELLA

PLEASE CALL A PRIEST

One of our lay teachers accompanied her non-Catholic neighbor to the hospital where she was to undergo an emergency operation. When she was asked what religion she belonged to, the good woman answered, "I am a Methodist, but if there is any danger, be sure to call a Catholic priest."

MAKING THE MISSION

We sisters "made the mission" in our parish this year by taking care of the children in the convent while the parents went to church. The missionary thanked us publicly and privately for this service. He said he attributed much of the success of the mission to our "baby sitting." The parents had no excuse for missing because the children of all ages wanted to come to the convent.

One four-year-old boy enjoyed the mission so much that he wanted to give the sisters a gift of appreciation. It had to be something he treasured, so he emptied the contents of his bank into a brown paper bag and presented it to us. It contained \$3.85, mostly in pennies—his life time savings. His mother begged us to keep the gift because it gave the child so much joy to bring it to us.

SISTER REGINA

STARTING YOUNG

When Janet and Bobby came to register for first grade religion class, I asked each one for the usual information to fill in their registration blank. The conversation went something like this: "What is your phone number, Bobby?"

"Ummmmm. I don't know.

"But I know!" piped Janet bashfully.

"Are you sure? You know his number?" I asked doubtfully.

She was sure and she gave me the number without hesitation. When it was Janet's turn, I expected her to give me her own number in the same confident manner. But to my surprise she didn't know it.

"But I do!" Bobby came to the rescue. And he did!

SISTER RITA THERESE



Bobby and Janet



Sister Social Worker

Photographed by FRANK LODGE



Sister Francesca, staff member of Catholic Social Services, Fort Wayne, Indiana, begins her day with prayer in the convent chapel. From left: Sister Rose Elizabeth, Sister Francesca, Sister Theresaleen. At the office Monsignor Reed, Director of Catholic Charities, discusses a case with Sister Francesca and another staff member.



Early morning interview.



Sister gives a warm quilt to a grateful invalid.

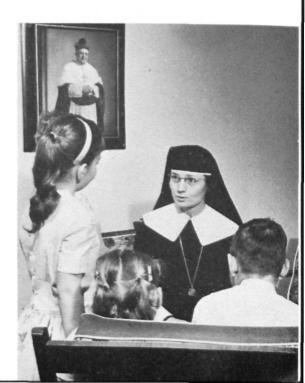




A trip to St. Joseph's Hospital and then back to the office for a pick-up lunch before the afternoon's work. Sister usually returns at noon to the convent located in the chancery building in downtown Fort Wayne, but often on "field days" she eats lunch at her desk.



Sister records data for future reference and afterward drives to St. Vincent's Villa to see three children she has recently placed there.





Sister Francesca's privilege it is to help dissolve heartaches and mend broken homes. Seeing Christ in all with whom she comes in contact makes her task easier. Very often the victims are wholly innocent.



"I was in prison and you visited Me."
Sister recalls Christ's words when her
work takes her to prison — as it
frequently does.

"The special end is to impart sound religious instruction . . .; also to nurse and care for sick people in their homes, and to engage in social welfare work, always in favor of the poor."

Constitutions: Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters



Back home again, after community prayers and the evening meal, Sister relaxes at recreation.



Is it necessary to have the office of Vice-President in the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine? I have held that office during the past year, but it seems to me it is more or less nominal. We will hold elections soon and I would like to suggest eliminating the office altogether.

Unless your Confraternity is a very, very small organization, it would be best to have a Vice-President. His duties are chiefly to assist the President of the Executive Board in promoting Confraternity activities. Like the Vice-President of every organization, he takes the President's place in his absence or inability to function.

These are, in general, his duties. Some diocesan manuals define other specific work for him.

Perhaps during the past year your President has been able to attend all the meetings and you feel that your office is

Your CCD Question

superfluous. If I were you, I would not suggest eliminating it. As sure as you do, your Board will wish it had a Vice-President.

Could you tell me just what is expected of the Chairman of the Parent-Educators of the CCD?

From your letter it does not sound as if you understand clearly the whole purpose of the Parent-Educator section. It would be well for you to attend a short course that demonstrates its work.

If this is not possible, then consult the CCD Manual. You can also learn many details of the work of the Parent-Educators from Sister Michael's book. See advertisement on the back of this magazine.

Here are a few recommendations. Pick out a married couple in each part of your parish and have them act as home visitors. Supply them with literature for distribution. Above all, meet with all the visitors from time to time to help them and evaluate their work.

BOOKS



Sing to the Lord! Recordings of Confraternity Choir of St. Monica's School of Religion, Willows, California. Directed and Accompanied by Sister Alma Marie, O.L.V.M., and Sister Jane Frances, O.L.V.M. Order from Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, 562 West O'Farrell St., San Pedro, Calif. \$3.00

Two grades (7th and 8th grade girls) of the Confraternity Choir, Willows, California, made these recordings to demonstrate that public school children can learn to sing both Latin and English hymns.

On one side of the record are hymns used for Confirmation and Benediction Services. The other side contains hymns selected from those proper to the Church Year.

The voices are clear, the attack always precise, and the Latin pronunciation good. The accompaniment is light and unobtrusive. It is just enough to sustain the voices and serve

to modulate from one hymn to the next.

The singing does not pretend to be "professional." The recordings were made simply to encourage other public school children to learn and love these well-known hymns of Mother Church.

Introduction to Spirituality by Louis Bouyer, Cong. Orat. Translated by Mary Perkins Ryan. Desclee Company, New York, N.Y. \$5.75

This book was recently desribed in the book review section of a large-circulation Catholic monthly as "a practical manual directed toward the lay apostolate." To list it thus is an injustice to the book and its distinguished author. It is difficult to believe that the "reviewer" even examined it, much less read it.

It is also very difficult to do justice to it in a review. No matter what one writes about it, it is bound to fall short of the book itself.

It is true that Father Bouyer himself describes the work as a manual for practical use and tells us that it is an introduction and nothing more; yet this is a very modest appraisal of the book. It is actually a deeply penetrating analysis of the spiritual life.

Briefly, as its author tells us, one of the chief objects of Introduction to Spirituality is to define clearly what the love of God is that is announced by the Word, the love which St. Paul tells us has been "poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit." (Rom. 5,5)

Father Bouyer's presentation is highly traditional. Its special value lies in the fact that he takes into account recent developments in Scripture, catecheses, liturgy, etc. Nor does he neglect the contribution of depth psychology to modern spirituality.

The basic principle which Father Bouyer builds is that our spiritual life must be constructed on the Word of God and faith: the Word by which God calls man to Himself: the faith by which man recognizes, accepts the call. To this principle he adds another: that our spiritual life will be Catholic to the extent to which our personal relationship with God is developed in the Church; for the Word of God is spoken to us in the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ.

Later, when he describes the state of mystical union, Father Bouyer demonstrates that it is arrived at through the preliminary stages of the purgative and illuminative ways by progressing along the lines provided for by these basic principles. Over and over the author points out that it is in the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, that the living Word of God speaks to us today.

It is in the liturgy that we encounter Christ, the Word of God. This makes the spiritual life very simple and attainable by all. Unfortunately, it has been made complicated by so many "methods" that the ordinary person is easily confused.

There are many passages one would like to quote from this book, but it must be read in its entirety to be appreciated. We know of one seminary in which it is being used as a manual on the spiritual life. We hope that others will adopt it also. There are a complete index and some pages of notes on the great classics of the spiritual life.

A word must be said about the excellent translation. Only someone with Mrs. Ryan's penetrating knowledge of the liturgy could have made such a smooth translation from the French. Eternal Thoughts from Christ the Teacher Vols. I and II revised and re-edited by Richard Cardinal Cushing. Daughters of St. Paul, 50 St. Paul's Avenue, Jamaica Plain, Boston 30, Mass. Cloth, \$3.00 (each volume); paper, \$2.00

Last summer a Jesuit missionary called the attention of Cardinal Cushing to an old book that had been given to him, a book that had been a gift of Bishop Cheverus, first Bishop of Boston, to Elizabeth Bowes, presumably one of his converts.

Aside from the book's historical value, (it was written in the seventeenth century by an anonymous author), it was found to contain a number of excellent meditations. Cardinal Cushing determined to save it from oblivion. He revised it slightly, edited it, and saw to its publication.

Each volume is complete in itself, but whoever uses the first volume will probably want to make use of the second also. Each begins with reflections on the end of man, sin, death, judgment, hell, purgatory; and then devotes the rest of the book to the life of Christ. These considerations are different, however, in each volume. For example, although each book contains two meditations on the Visitation, the mystery is approached differently each time.

The meditations are brief, each containing three short paragraphs. The author uses Holy Scripture generously. In fact, there is not one meditation in which Scripture is not quoted.

We can share with Cardinal Cushing his esteem for these meditations and we can thank him for making them available to us.

In Memoriam

Ralph Murphy, Tucumcari, N. Mex., father of Sister Marie Celeste, O.L.V.M.
Rt. Rev. Msgr. D. Lawrence Monahan, Fort Wayne, Ind.
Sister John Francis, S.C., Mount St. Joseph, Ohio Dr. Clarissa Glendore, St. Louis, Mo.
Mrs. Marie Ammaccapone, St. Louis, Mo.
Fred Feldkamp, Baileyville, Kans.
Mrs. Helen Smith, Fort Wayne, Ind.
Charles Chandler, Fort Wayne, Ind.
Mrs. Alice Nix, Huntington, Ind.
Mrs. Esie Affeld, Cleveland, Ohio

Editor's By-Line

You often hear sisters use an expression that might sound odd to the unitiated. They will say, "When I was in the world . . ." Translated, it simply means, "Before I entered the convent. . ."

Of course one could gently ask, "And exactly where are you now?" Most people, however, let it pass, thinking — and rightly — that convent life, like baseball and a few other things, has a vocabulary of its own.

From time to time we who are stationed at Victory Noll go out "into the world." And the sights sometimes strike us as odd as anything an astronaut might see in outer space.

Fashions, for instance, especially women's hats; and hairdos! The last time we were away was around the feast of St. Patrick, and we actually saw high school girls with green hair! It was weird, to say the least.

On automobile trips one can be easily amused. One route took us along a winding country road dotted with small towns. We would be making fairly good time when we would come upon a sign warning of a speed zone ahead. More directions brought us almost to a crawl and then came the identifying sign — the name of the town and underneath: Population 235.

In front of what seemed to be the town's one store was a notice: 15 Minute Parking. I am sure one could have parked there for a day or all week without causing any trouble.

Ten miles farther we came to another small community — Population 278. A further sign warned of a congested district ahead. It was about ninethirty on a Saturday morning and as we drove through the congested district, the only inhabitants we saw were three little boys evidently on a pop bottle collecting expedition.

In the next town the Christmas decorations were still up. (This was in March.) Maybe they leave them up from year to year. It would be a good idea, at that. Christmas gets earlier every year and it's almost a waste of time taking down the decorations.

For the ninety miles we had to travel on the road, we went through towns like there. It could have been frustrating if we had been in a hurry. As it was, it was only amusing.

Someday, God willing, we will go out into a transformed world, the world to come. This will be after we have been through our true Passover, our passing in Christ to the reality

of the future Kingdom.

This is the theme that runs through the liturgy of the Sundays after Easter and culminates in the mystery of the Ascension when Our Lord went up to heaven so that, as the Preface expresses it, "He might give us a share in His Godhead." SEA

Around Victory Noll

T WAS a musical spring Around Victory Noll. The Crosier Singers — a group of priests, brothers, and seminarians from the Crosier House of Studies in Fort Wayne — gave us a concert one Sunday; and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Wall of Huntington, another. We could mention also our own novices who entertained us on Laetare Sunday.

The Crosiers, under the direction of the Rev. Ronald Kidd, O.S.C., presented a program of vocal numbers. Mr. and Mrs. Wall delighted us with piano-organ duets. We especially appreciated their going to the trouble of bringing their own organ out to Victory Noll for the occasion.

Temporary Moves

For a number of weeks the auditorium became our community dining room. Repair work on the postulancy which is above the dining room necessitated the move. The professed sisters used a substitute community room for a time, too, while acoustical tile was being put on the ceiling.

The dining room and community room are back to normal now and we appreciate especially the improvement in the acoustics in the community room during recreation. The postulants are still in temporary quarters, but their rooms should be finished very soon.

Stations Erected

During Lent the Rev. Carmel Flora, O.F.M.Cap., Guardian of St. Francis Friary, Milwaukee, blessed the stations of the cross in our new chapel. The stations, which seemed so long coming, were well worth waiting for. They are wood carvings from Italy and depict just the head of Our Lord. They harmonize well with the simplicity of the chapel.

There were the usual outside events the sisters had to attend — Confraternity of Christian Doctrine workshops, vocation exhibits, various meetings, etc. These things are necessary in a community like ours, but the nicest part about them is getting home again and back to the regular routine Around Victory Noll.

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