

The Missionary Catechist



The Ministry of Mercy



New Mexico in the City of Las Vegas. It is only through the help of their friends and benefactors that they can hope to equip this free clinic, which is as yet practically unfurnished. Before the doctors who have already volunteered their services can begin their work in this clinic it must be furnished with an examining table, instruments and other necessary equipment. The Missionary Catechists have generously given their lives for the relief of the suffering and for the care of God's stricken little ones. Surely their friends and benefactors will consider it a privilege to assist them in realizing their noble ideals by contributing toward the equipment of this clinic for the sick poor in New Mexico!

The healing of bodily ills and diseases was not a mere afterthought with Jesus, our Divine Savior. It was part of the divine plan for the amelioration of the sufferings of the human race. From the very first days of His public ministry the Gospel tells us that He healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, and even raised the dead to life. And when John, the Baptist, sent his messengers to ask if He was really Christ, the Messiah, Jesus said to them: "Go back and tell John what You have seen and heard; the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the dead raised to life, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them." John needed no further proofs of the divinity of Our Lord. Were not His deeds of mercy and His wondrous healing power sufficient credentials that He was the Son of God?

And so, from the very beginning of the Christian era the bishops and priests of God's Holy Church have considered that the healing of the bodily ills of the poor formed no small part of their holy ministry.

Today it is no less our duty to provide for the medical needs of the poor in the field at home as well as in the field afar. A very large proportion of our needy Catholic people living in the missions of the Southwest are born, live and die without ever having the services of physician or nurse. Living oftentimes at great distances from centers, or cities where medical practitioners, hospitals and nurses are to be found, these needy sick are unable to pay for the services that would in so many cases save the lives of their ailing little ones. There exists, therefore, an imperative need to provide medical attention for these suffering poor. To do anything less would be less than Christian, less than the very least that charity dictates.

From the very beginning it has been the aim of the Missionary Catechists to provide medical aid and attention for the sick children of the poor. For this purpose they have opened a clinic in the heart of one of the poorest mission districts in northern

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God Help The Poor!



Only the other day we met poor Mrs. Garcia and her three little children on the street. The wan expression on her face and the mute appeal in the big, black eyes of her little

ones at once attracted our attention.

"Where are you going?" we asked the mother.

At first she seemed unwilling to answer our question. Then with bowed head and a catch in her voice she answered: "I am going with my little ones to the place where they take the city garbage. This is now the second day since we have had anything to eat. The neighbors told me that we might at least satisfy our hunger with some scraps from the garbage."

Grief-stricken at the thought that in our very midst,—at our very doors, are those who fare far worse than the commonest beast of burden, which while it lives has at least food enough to satisfy its hunger, we hurried the starving mother and her suffering little ones to our home and spread before them the first substantial meal they had had in days.

"God help the poor," exclaimed my sister-Catechist as the grateful Mrs. Garcia and her now contented little tots left our home with a lunch-basket filled with such articles of food as we could spare.

"Yes," I answered, "and may He and His Holy Mother enable us to help our hungering and suffering poor in the long dread months of the hard times that are before us."

Our hearts are grieved when we hear, in our daily house to house visits to the impoverished families of our unemployed

mill-workers, that thousands of these willing laborers are tramping the streets in search of employment where no employment is to be had. These unskilled laborers employed for the most part only two or three days a week during the past year, are of necessity forced to live in wretched hovels. Is it any wonder that in these low, dismal, unsanitary basement rooms we find sometimes as many as four or five little ones huddled together on a pile of rags on the damp, cold floor, some of them even in the advanced stage of tuberculosis, with neither food nor medicine on hand to alleviate their misery?

During this terrible period of business depression the number of destitute is increasing alarmingly. The sufferings of these needy ones are constantly becoming more acute. So large and so sudden an increase in the number of the dependent poor has overtaxed the various

quently, under these dire circumstances, where it is a matter of saving little lives which would otherwise be snuffed out, we cannot help but feel that our charitably-disposed Catholics who have been blessed by Providence will not fail, at this critical time, to do their share towards relieving the crying needs of God's poor.

"Surely," we say to ourselves, "Our Heavenly Father, Who provides even for the birds of the air, will not leave so many of His poverty-stricken children deprived of the hope of relief in their present distress." We cannot help persuading ourselves that our good Catholic people will not fail to realize that "this obligation of charity" is also an opportunity. Let us remember that the good Samaritan who cared for the stranger was held up by Our Lord as the true lover of his fellow-men, and that the one great means by which Our Divine Judge will measure our worthiness of Heaven



A DISMAL BASEMENT HOME

city and county bureaus of charity which in normal times should be able to take care of the ordinary cases of the year. Heretofore it has been a consolation to us to know that we could turn to the city and county charity agencies to supply, at least in part, those needs which we in our poverty could not hope to supply. But now, alas, we may no longer look to these agencies for relief for our poor. Conse-

will be the charity we exercise towards the poor. "I was hungry, and you gave Me to eat. Inasmuch as you did it to one of these, My least little ones, you did it unto Me."

SURELY, GOD WILL HELP THE POOR BY INSPIRING YOU, DEAR FRIEND, TO COME TO THEIR AID!

BE RICH IN FAITH BUT BE NOT LESS RICH IN CHARITY

Heralds of Christ in Arizona

"Few ages have seen such a perfect abandon of missionary activity as was experienced by the newly-discovered continents of America in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. All Mexico, Central and South America were missionized. The Cross was carried and planted everywhere. Every tribe and nation, people and tongue was exhorted to receive the saving ordinances of the Church, be baptized and enter the fold of the saved. Every hillside, forest, canyon and valley resounded to the singing of hymns, chanting of chorals, saying of Masses, and preaching of the Word, while the hearts of the missionaries thrilled, and their eyes filled with tears as their divine passion met with response from the untutored savages of the New World."

In the above quotation from "Arizona, the Wonderland", George Wharton James pays a glowing tribute to the labors of our devoted missionaries in bringing the Faith to the American continent.

*Arizona, which in the sixteenth century was an integral part of New Mexico, early felt the impulse of the heroic Franciscan Padres. The honor of having discovered Arizona belongs to a devoted son of the Seraphic St. Francis, Father Marcos de Niza. He it was who first entered that vast territory from Mexico in the year 1539. Having heard glowing descriptions of the populous and prosperous Indian settlements visited by Cabeza de Vaca and his companions in their frightful march across the continent, Fray Marcos volunteered to explore these regions and to preach the Gospel to the natives.

He set out from the town of San Miguel in the province of Culiacan, Mexico, on March 7, 1539. Accompanied by Father Honorato and the negro, Estevanico, one of the companions of de Vaca, and a number of Indians proceeded north to Rio Sinaloa. Travelling through various Indian settlements where he was kindly received, the intrepid explorer reached, on March 23, 1539, a settlement of considerable size called Vacapa, forty leagues from the gulf of California. From here he ordered the negro Estevanico to proceed sixty leagues to the

north in search of the rich and populous country,—the Seven Cities, and to report to him the results of his discoveries.

Receiving information from Estevanico and several Indians that there were "Seven large cities containing big houses, all under the rule of one lord", in the first province to the north, the intrepid explorer left Vacapa and pushed on to the village where he expected to find Estevanico. Arriving there, he was disappointed to learn that the negro, contrary to his instructions, had left for Cibola. He was further informed that it was a thirty days' journey to the city of Cibola, the first of the Seven Cities. Determining to follow the negro, Father Marcos proceeded up the Sonora Valley and crossed the desert. Here he halted in his march and was met by one of Estevanico's Indians, who informed him that the Indians of Cibola had killed the negro.

to kill him. Nothing daunted, however, he could view the famous city. He finally arrived at the summit of a mountain and there viewed Cibola, set up a cross within sight of the city, took possession of the whole region in the name of the King, and called the country the "New Kingdom of St. Francis". He then returned to Campo Stella.

The following August Fray Marcos returned with Coronado to Mexico and there presented the Viceroy with a detailed account of his expedition. He had scarcely made his report to the Viceroy, Mondoza, when Coronado set forth on his famous expedition. With Coronado Father de Niza again passed through the same territory he had explored the preceding year. On this second trip he was accompanied by the famous Father Juan de Padilla, Father Juan de Cruz, and a lay brother, Louis de Ezcalona. Worn out by hardships and physical sufferings.

Father Marcos did not long remain away with Coronado's expedition after it had reached New Mexico, but returned in the fall of 1540. He settled at Jallupa and died in the year 1558.

Father Zephyrin Englehardt O. F. M., the learned Franciscan chronicler of the California Missions quotes as follows from Shea's History of the Catholic Church in the United States: "Father Marcos de Niza stands out in history as the earliest of the Priestly explorers of the vast southwestern country. This zealous explorer initiated a mission of the great Franciscan order which was destined for years to spread the light of the Gospel over the southwestern part of our continent. Long before the advance guard of Protestantism had appeared either in Virginia or Massachusetts he was the forerunner of many zealous confreres of the Franciscan order who were to preach the Gospel to Christ and the Church." He was the first herald of that intrepid army of saintly Franciscan missionaries

who preached the Gospel to the Indians and sealed their testimony with the crown of martyrdom.

*From Fr. Zephyrin Englehardt's "The Franciscans in Arizona."



INDIANS IN PROCESSION ON THE FEAST OF A PATRONAL SAINT

The Indians who accompanied Fray Marcos succeeded in persuading them to accompany him to a point where Marcos were panic-stricken at the news. They threatened either to desert him or

REMEMBER YOUR DEAR DEPARTED



TRUE DEVOTION AND DEVOTION TO THE HOLY ROSARY

After the love of Jesus, the heart of Blessed de Montfort, founder of the True Devotion, went out with the fulness of affection to his Most Dear and Blessed Mother. "The love of Mary seemed to be born with him". It would appear that this good Mother had selected him even as She had selected St. Bernard, St. Dominic and St. Alphonsus Liguori to be Her own special apostle and the most dear child of Her Immaculate Heart. Like St. Dominic She commissioned him to spread far and wide that devotion so dear to Her Heart,—devotion to the Holy Rosary.

From his earliest years Blessed de Montfort had the beads continuously in his hands, and he would recite them on the way to and from the village church, and oftentimes while on his way thither would throw himself on his knees in the middle of the road and devoutly embrace the Crucifix on his Rosary. On his way to the seminary he stripped himself, for Christ's sake of all that he had, retaining as his only property and possession his Crucifix and his Rosary.

Blessed de Montfort always began his missions to the poor by carefully explaining to them each mystery of the holy Rosary before reciting it, offering each decade in praise of his Blessed Mother for some special grace or virtue. In the processions which concluded his missions very often he wore the Rosary around his neck or attached it to banners as a chain and crown of love. He left as his legacy of the mission his favorite devotion to the holy Rosary.

It is impossible to count the number or pious confraternities which he established with this end in view, and of entire communities who, at his persuasion engaged themselves to recite the Rosary daily.

The devout daily recitation of the Rosary is one of the external practices of the "True Devotion". It is a mark of a true child of Mary and a devoted slave of the love of Her Immaculate Heart to love the Rosary and to seek by every means to engage others to love it and to recite it daily.

If you desire to love Mary, follow the advice of Blessed de Montfort. Every day recite the beads in honor of your Most Dear Mother.

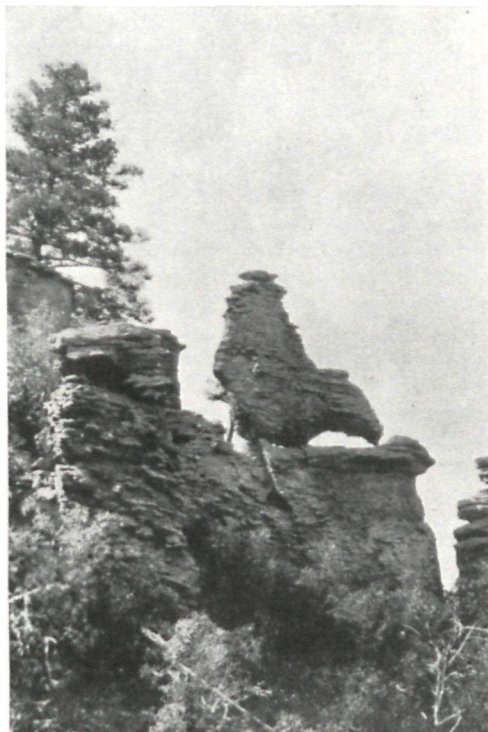
As a member of the Confraternity of Mary, Queen of Hearts, you will recite the Rosary in union with innumerable

Let our ANNUITY PLAN
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Write us today for free particulars.

The Missionary Catechists sacrifice their lives for God's glory and the salvation of the poorest and most neglected souls. You can help to make their consecrated services, their missionary labors, their sacrifices effectual in this greatest of all works—the saving of immortal souls and the alleviation of human suffering—by giving any amount, large or small according to your means, towards the completion of a BURSE for the support of a Catechist.

Help complete:

IN THE HEART OF MARY.....\$305.00
HOLY ROSARY, No. 2\$ 16.00
QUEEN OF THE SOULS IN
PURGATORY BURSE\$ 000.00



Courtesy "Progressive ARIZONA
and the Great SOUTHWEST

The Hen, one of the realistic images in rock, in the Wonderland of Rocks of the blue Chiricahua Mountains, Southern Arizona

holy souls, servants and children of Mary, all over the world, and with them you will gain the priceless merits and indulgences granted by Holy Church to all who are devoted to this holy practice.

Enclosed find membership fee of \$1.00. I wish to be enrolled as a member of the Confraternity of Mary, Queen of Our Hearts:

Name.....
Address.....

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

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The poorest Catholics in our country are the Mexicans. Unabated misery, hard labor, dire poverty, sickness and disease is their common lot. And the supreme pity of it all:—That thousands and tens of thousands of them are being lost to God and Church because of the lack of Priests, because of the lack of Missionaries.

VICTORY-NOLL NOTES

"You have not chosen Me—I have chosen you!" Beautiful and consoling are these words to the soul who embraces the religious life,—who longs to love only Jesus, to serve only Jesus; yes, and even to give up her life for Jesus. A happy thought it is for those who have long since answered the call of this good Jesus and happy too—sublimely happy—are the hearts of our eleven Candidates who, on the 8th of September, took the first step in the service of Jesus and Mary by renouncing the world and offering themselves as Their true servants and children.

The reception ceremonies, simple and beautiful, were conducted by Rev. Ivo, O. M. Cap. Father Sigstein gave a touching talk to the Candidates expressing the thought that their Spiritual rebirth into this new life was taking place on the beautiful feast of the Nativity of Our Blessed Mother.

Our new members representing many cities are: The Misses Mary Navratil, Exira, Iowa; Ellen Walsh, Tampa, Fla.; Adela Mauer, Detroit, Mich.; Catherine Larson, Green Bay, Wis.; Helen Beall, Gary, Ind.; Francis Lott, Goltry, Okla.; Mercedes Perez, San Juan, Porto Rico; Marguerite Fourie, Belleville, Ill.; Mary Stech, Mary Cihak and Otilia Mendoza, of Chicago, Ill.

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We have adopted a new mailing system which will facilitate our office work. Please advise us whether or not the magazine reaches you IN GOOD CONDITION!

WE THANK YOU.

P. S. We depend on YOU for this information.

CONTRIBUTE TOWARD THE SOULS IN PURGATORY BURSE

A VAIN SEARCH.

We are quite well established for another year's work in our Mission at Indiana Harbor, Ind. Due to a very full daily schedule, we are spending our evening hours preserving fruit for the coming winter. Being accustomed to the continual presence of children in and about the Center, we paid little heed to the faces peeping in at the kitchen window, the first time we attempted this interesting and necessary occupation; except to, now and then, send a smile or greeting in that direction to some new arrival. It grew late and one by one the faces disappeared until one alone remained. Thinking it about time for him to be going home and to bed I called the child into the kitchen to speak to him.

He stood before me clutching a large, torn hat with two dirty, brown hands. His unclean garments were so badly tattered that they scantily covered his equally dirty body. But he stood squarely on both bare feet and with a genial smile opened the conversation: "It sure does smell good in here, Catechist. What-cha cooking?"

"Oh, I'm canning peaches."
"Gee, they look good, too."

I couldn't miss the longing look in those large, dark eyes. "Would you like to sample them, and see if they taste good too?" I asked happy to see his face brighten. But it drooped in an instant and he cried plaintively, "Catechist, I'm hungry!"

My suspicions were aroused. "Child, did you have supper?"

"—Last night, Catechist—"

"And no breakfast or dinner—?" He shook his head and his eyes filled with tears as he shifted from one thin foot to the other. While we talked, Catechist L. searched the icebox and in an unbelievably short time our visitor was silently gulping down the first food he had tasted in twenty-four hours. He had searched the garbage cans in vain that day!

—Catechist E. McConnell.



A class of boys at Indiana Harbor, Ind. — Is it worthwhile to preserve their Faith?

THE MISSION BEAUTIFUL.

In our work as Catechists, all the Missions hold a charm for us and we love each and everyone of them. But there is one, Ojos Calientes, near Las Vegas, N. M., which I like to call "The Mission Beautiful".

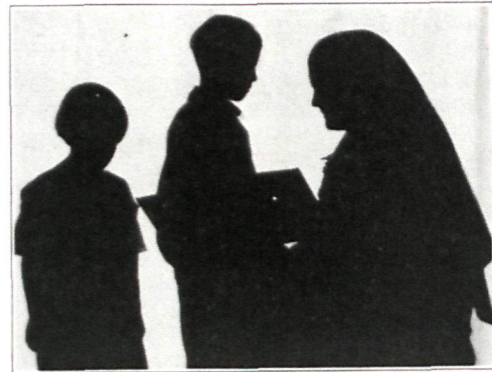
The secret of its appeal does not lie in its stately pines or the rushing falls of the Gallinas river as it hurries over the huge, colored rocks to the valley below. No, it is the sweet simplicity and tender faith of its inhabitants as yet unspoiled by contact with outside influence that endears one to this spot. Here can be found the descendants of the early Spaniards keeping up the customs of their ancestors and possessing many traditions of our Holy Religion forgotten by the outside world.

The district school takes its name from the nearby spring called "Ojos Calientes", Hot Springs. This building serves as Chapel whenever Holy Mass is offered. Here also, we teach Catechism and conduct sewing classes. In the school yard one may see burros and, oftentimes, a herd of goats, while its caretaker attends our instructions. The parents are in attendance regularly as well as the children.

—Catechist Julia Murphy.

TRUE FRANCISCAN GENEROSITY

Our vacation over, we were delighted with the news that we were to return immediately to New Mexico. But more than that, we were to go to St. Mary's Hospital at Gallup for a short course in



nursing. The knowledge of Nursing means much to us, working as we so often are among poor people living thirty or more miles from the nearest doctor!

True, the time allotted for the course was very short. We were, however, hardly prepared for the kindness of the Sisters who spared no effort in trying to teach us as much as possible in the limited time we had, and in giving us every opportunity of doing practical work.

The hospital is conducted by the good Franciscan Sisters of Lafayette, Ind. These Sisters who have several schools, orphanages and hospitals throughout the Southwest, have ever been most interested in our work and have

always given us every possible help, extending to us the greatest co-operation at all times.

Their hospitality never runs out. During the past year the Catechists at Grants, our mission center, drove eighteen miles to San Fidel every Sunday to attend Mass. After Mass, Sunday after Sunday, nothing would satisfy these noble Sisters of the Seraphic Saint, who conduct the public school there, but that the Catechists should all remain for a delicious breakfast. This and so many other manifestations of their hospitality have been received by the Grant's Catechists that they have long since realized they can never hope to repay the kindness and generosity of these Sisters except by their fervent prayers.

The amount of charitable work done by these Sisters is known only to Our Divine Lord and Our Blessed Mother. But we know that regardless of the overcrowded condition of orphanage or hospital, they have never refused to take a case which we have brought to their attention. They always have room for "just one more".

Several of our Catechists have also been privileged in receiving practical training at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Lafayette, Ind.

With sincere appreciation and gratitude the Catechists pray that Jesus and Mary may ever bless and reward these generous, self-sacrificing daughters of St. Francis.

IN THE HOME FIELD

"LIBRARY"

"Catechist, how soon are we going to have Library?"

This was one of the first questions put to us when Catechism classes opened here in Indiana Harbor a year ago.

Mt. Carmel Mission, being new, not much could be promised. The answer always was: "Well, Children, just as soon as we have a place to keep the books and get the books to keep."

Now, thanks to kind friends, books—good ones too—Catholic books for boys and girls—are coming in. To be sure we can not rival the Public Library in variety or number of volumes, but we have made a start and, without doubt, persons who have thought of contributing towards our Library will yet send in their donations.

It is interesting and amusing to look-on and listen-in when the children come for "Library" as they insist upon calling it.

"Catechist, ain't you got a book about St. Albert?" queried twelve-year old Albert Garcia. "He's my Saint and I want to know a lot about him."

Then came small Carlos: "Catechist, give me a book with lots of pictures in it. I like 'em best."

"And fairytales, too," chimed in dark-eyed Marguerita.

And so on goeth each child's version of his likes and dislikes told in his own characteristic way.

How grateful we are for even the semblance of a Library! Why? For several reasons. The older boys and girls, fired with their love of hero worship, are eager for all stories of adventure and action. Unless supervised, their reading selections are likely to be questionable and un-Catholic in character. Another reason is that library books are a drawing-card for class attendance. Since we give books only to those children who attend class we are having a noticeable increase in our enrollment.

Join the 2500 CLUB. Your only obligation is to contribute \$1.00 each month toward the support of a Catechist.

OUR PRIDE

Lupe and Alberto are only seven and eight years old, respectively. Though their cassocks are several sizes too large and they present rather a spectacular appearance, they make you think of two cherubs when you watch them serve Mass. Some one fittingly described them thus: "They are as big as a minute, as bright as the dawn and as good as the day is long."

Every morning these youngsters arise early enough to assist at the 6:30 Mass. The first morning they were scheduled to appear—now several months ago—Lupe was not there. Later we found him, standing in the sacristy, with face downcast and battling to keep back the tears.

"What's the matter, Lupe?" Father asked. "Why weren't you here to serve Mass?"

"I didn't wake up in time."

"So you were late, Eh? Well, why didn't you come in anyway?"

"Father, —I—I—was so ashamed to be late that I couldn't go in!"

Father knew that he could talk to Lupe as he would to an adult and that the child would take it "like a man". So he patted him on the back, man-fashion, and admonished him not to let it happen again. Meanwhile, I stood by and hoped that many habitually tardy grown-folk would get a tiny twist of conscience and be "ashamed to be late".

Catechist Mary Whitefield, Gary.



WHAT A PRIVILEGE!

Not being a priest but only a lowly Missionary Catechist, it required a little presence of mind to proceed properly the first time a pious, old soul reverently knelt and begged my blessing.

The first one to surprise me with this unusual request was a lonely, old man who works on the section and lives in a box-car near Hammond, Ind. He was not feeling well and had come to Indiana



Lupe and Alberto.

Harbor seeking the priest in order to make his confession. He has two sons studying for the priesthood in the Convent of the Augustinians at Valladolid, Spain. The father stated this simply and humbly, but I knew he was proud of his sons,—and justly so,—because he insisted on my seeing the letters he had lately received from them. Needless to say, I considered it a privilege to beg heaven's blessing upon this simple, humble soul. Many Americans might look upon him as only another Mexican, but to me he was one of God's true noblemen.

—Catechist L. Smith.

HOW PROTESTANTS PROSELYTIZE AMONG OUR OWN.

A few weeks ago we visited Father Felix's missions in the coal mining towns just out of Gallup, New Mexico. There are seven Missions grouped together, only two, three and four miles apart. About one hundred families live in the smallest of these Missions, and three or four hundred in the larger ones.

The Protestants had summer school there this year and their lowest attendance was 150 children. They taught sewing and cooking to the girls and manual training to the boys. The one and only requisite for enrollment in this mission school was that the children attend the afternoon bible classes.

Besides instructing the children, a capable worker went about visiting the sick and giving material aid to the needy. This, of course, is one of the best methods of drawing the poverty-stricken Catholics away from the true Faith.

—Catechist M. Srill.

Mary's Little Helpers

Dear Little Helpers:

I am very anxious to hear what each Little Helper thinks about the new Burse. I hope you will write and let me know. Everybody is happy to see how hard the Little Helpers are working for the Missions. Keep up your good work. I wish every Little Helper would get another boy or girl to join. Wouldn't that be fine? Each Helper must take an active part and help to get new members if we want the Little Helpers to keep on growing the way it has in the past. Next year, we ought to have twice as many bands, and twice as many members in the Victory Band as we have now, so let's all get busy. If each one will do his share, then it will be easy.

During the vacation days I suppose many of our Little Helpers were away from home and could not find time to write to me. Now that vacation is over, I hope that you will all make a good resolution—to be real worth-while Little Helpers for Jesus' poor little children. Write me, send me suggestions, or little stories for your page. Why not send me a picture of yourself? And don't forget to pray for the poor children in the Missions.

Poor Wee Willie Winkles feels very badly because he has been neglected too. He says he supposes that the Little Helpers have been having such a good time during vacation that they didn't have time to think of him. But you will remember him, and his poor little First Communicants now again, won't you?

I know you will be happy to know that some of the Bands think the new Burse is a fine idea. The Band from Lafayette, Indiana, raffled off a watch and made \$37.20. Isn't that wonderful? The Little Helpers of Mary, at Hamilton, Ohio, had a lawn party. They strung Japanese lanterns in their yard, had a little show, served ice cream and cake, and made \$15.70. Then in Chicago, the Little Flower Club, which was started by Marie



Dear Guardian Angel, pray for me!
Night and day watch over me.
In all my work and all my play
Be at my side, throughout the day.
Keep me from danger and from sin,
And teach me, Angel, how to win
The Heart of my sweet Jesus.

C. R. T.

Garritty, had a party at Marion Casey's home and made \$10.30, so we have \$61.70 for the new burse already. Don't forget, you have a chance to pick a name for the new burse, too; all that you have to do is to send in a donation to help get the Burse started. I know you can all save at least a few pennies. As soon as I get some more names I will print them, so hurry and send me the name you would like.

Missionarily yours,
The Catechist Supervisor.

Dear Little Helpers:

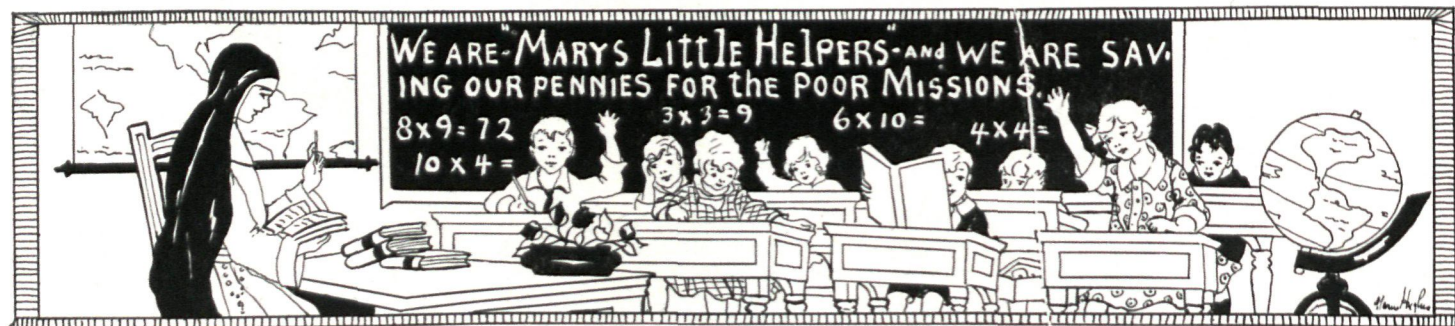
The other day I saw a funeral of a little boy, and it made me think of something I have wanted to tell you. It's real sad, but I hope you won't cry. One day while I was visiting a little place near San Antonio, we went pinon hunting—pinons, you know, are little nuts that grow on the pine trees in New Mexico.

We passed through San Antonio and saw a funeral. We stopped a little boy and asked him who was being buried. He told us three of his little playmates and just died, and then he told us the sad story of how they died. Just a few days before this, nine little boys took shovels and picks and went out into the woods to hunt for chimaja. Chimaja is a little plant with a yellow blossom that grows in New Mexico and is very good to eat. It has a big root and when this is peeled it is very sweet and juicy, and all the children love it. But there is also a very poisonous weed that looks just like chimaja, and the children have to be very careful not to eat the poison instead of the good root. Now, this is just what happened. Three of the little boys dug up some of the poison root by mistake and ate it. As soon as they had eaten it, they fell over deadly sick. One little boy ran back to San Antonio as fast as he could and told the parents what had happened. When the parents got there, the poor little boys were rolling around the ground in terrible pain, and before the doctor got there the three boys died. You can imagine how sad the other little boys were. They had all started out to have a good time in the woods and now three of them were dead. I'll bet the other children will be careful after this when they go chimaja hunting, and will be sure that it is chimaja root they are eating and not the poison root.

Now that you are back in school again, I hope you will start saving your pennies again for the First Communion Fund.

Adios,
WEE WILLIE WINKLES.

Jamie MacDonald and Paul Murphy are two Little Helpers who didn't forget Wee Willie Winkles and they each saved a dollar for him. Mary and Buddy Mul-kerrin are new Little Helpers, but they have already sent us \$2.00.



EVERY LITTLE HELPER GET A NEW MEMBER

The Associate Catechists of Mary



Winter is coming and I have no warm clothes.

Dear A. C. M. Friends:

Now that vacation time is over, the next thing to think about is Christmas. And really, the sooner we begin to plan, the more we can do. I wonder how you would like a suggestion about Christmas? The idea is to make Christmas stockings—get your friends to help you. Make the stockings and fill them yourself. There are some friends, perhaps, who will not be able to help you sew the stockings,—then ask them to give you a pound of candy or nuts. When you have, say one dozen stockings finished, sell them to your friends. Let each friend give you just what he thinks the stocking is worth—having no set price. With each stocking that you sell, give a slip with the name of one of our Missions and let the purchaser send the filled stocking direct to the Mission he draws. This, besides helping the Mission cause, will add interest to the work.

Mrs. J. Klein of Chicago has organized two new A. C. M. Bands. We extend a hearty welcome to these new Bands and we know that many souls will be saved through their great charity. At the first meeting of these new bands a card party was held, and as a result \$34.00 was sent for the poor sick. Since this first meeting we receive approximately \$25.00 each month for our poor Missions and for St. Paschal's Burse,

A MITE BOX THAT WAS A TREASURE BOX

Most people usually associate the idea of pennies only with a mite box. Many think that a nickel, a dime or a quarter is out of place in a mite box, but those who feel that way, should have seen the mite box we received the other day. Not a penny was to be found in it, and very few nickels—but many dimes and quarters. And, after these dimes and quarters had been added up, the total amount was \$15.75.

I think it is always interesting to know something more about our bands, and I was delighted to learn how the Dolorosa Club originated, and how it received its name. Miss Burke, who was one of our recent visitors, told me the girls felt that they ought to do something for the Catechists. They met one Sunday afternoon and talked things over. They decided to have card parties and to support a Catechist. The first meeting happened to be on the third Sunday of September which is the Feast of the Seven Dolors, so the name chosen was the Dolorosa Club, and the same name was chosen for their Burse. Another interesting feature is their Thanksgiving party. This is an annual affair and the purpose is really a toy shower for Christmas.

Rev. George Lescher, one of our most loyal supporters has just returned from an interesting and inspiring trip through the Southwest. Father Lescher also visited our Missions.

After hearing of the vast amount of work to be done in our Missions, Mrs. Marg. Cusack, Barbara Mayer and L. Etten, decided that something must be done to help this condition. So they immediately visited their friends, told them of the poverty in the Missions, and succeeded in raising \$30.00 for God's poor. Their generosity will surely be repaid a hundred-fold in Graces and Heavenly Blessings.

Mrs. Catherine Service, promoter of St. Joseph's Band; Mrs. J. S. Scheuer, promoter of the Sacred Heart Band, and her mother, all of whom were recent visitors at Victory-Noll.

BAND ACTIVITIES

Mrs. J. S. Scheuer, who has been promoter of the Sacred Heart Band for five years, never plans a party without first asking Our Blessed Mother's aid for the success of her good work. In this she imitates St. Vincent de Paul who never failed to visit Our Lord and beg His assistance for his plans in relieving the needs of the poor. During the past year her work has been very successful and this is surely evident that work and prayer go hand in hand. We again received \$100.00 from the faithful workers of this Band.

St. Mary's Band, of which Mrs. Annie Hansen is the promoter, has also been keeping up its splendid record, and another check for \$35.00 has been added to their Burse.

St. Luke's Club has added \$50.00 to St. Paschal's Burse.

"We need clothes for our poor" is quite an old story, but with the cold weather coming, it is an important thing to talk about. We need shoes for men, women and children, and stockings; and underclothing, sweaters, warm bed clothing and warm gloves. And, please don't forget the boys. It is almost impossible to find enough clothing for our boys, and the result is, on bitter cold days, we find our boys walking around shivering in their old torn overalls—oftentimes without any underclothing.

I wish to thank all who have responded so readily to our appeal for medical supplies, and I sincerely pray that Our Dear Lord and His Blessed Mother will reward you for your generosity to Their sick poor. CATECHIST SUPERVISOR.



DON'T FAIL TO READ THE BACK PAGE

Dear Catechists:

I am inclosing one dollar for the 2500 CLUB. I will try to get the habit of sending a similar amount every month. Please remind me if I should forget.

Yours in the Lord, O. R.

There are more than ten thousand Catholic Parishes in the United States without Catholic Schools. It is estimated that less than one half, perhaps even only one third of our Catholic children are attending Parochial Schools. This is very serious for the Church of our country. In the increase of the number of our Catechists, organized effort would be made to reach the Catholic children outside the ordinary sphere of religious instruction.

Dear Catechists:

Please remember me in your prayers. I am a widow and have three little children to raise. I can raise them right only with the help of Jesus and Mary and the prayers of all my dear friends.

R. D.

NOVENA

Are you praying for some special temporal or spiritual favor? If so, unite with our Catechists in our perpetual novena to Our Blessed Lady of Victory. Fill out the petition blank below and send it to us. All your intentions will then be offered to Our Immaculate Mother.

Spiritual Favors
Temporal Favors
Special Favors
Restoration of Health
Employment
Conversions
Peace in Families
Vocations
Successful Operation
Happy Death
Poor Souls
Miscellaneous

Name.....

Address.....

Paris, France

Reverend Dear Father:

I have the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your letter. Your intentions shall be strictly fulfilled; we shall be happy to offer them at the Holy Altar and to recommend them at the pious meetings of the Archconfraternity.

I am, Rev. Dear Father,

Yours respectfully,

Director General of the
Archconfraternitiy.

READ ABOUT AMERICA FIRST
Our Southwest has a vivid story
to tell

Read

HOME MISSIONS OF THE
SOUTHWEST

By Catechist Blanche Richardson
Published by Catholic Students'
Mission Crusade

May be ordered from Victory-Noll.

Price, 50c plus postage (3c)



FIRST AID FOR OUR DEAR DEPARTED.

We are told in the Gospel that one day after Our Blessed Lord had preached to a large number of people in a desert place the Apostles came to Him and asked Him to send away the crowd that they might go into the town and buy food for themselves and their little ones. But Jesus said, "Why send them away hungry? You yourselves give them to eat."

Now, the advice given the Apostles by Our Divine Saviour might also be applied to us with reference to the souls in Purgatory. Purgatory may truly be likened to a desert place. There multitudes of souls are in the greatest need. They are utterly unable to help themselves. They depend upon earthly relatives and friends for assistance. Having departed this life in the state of grace, they are detained in Purgatory either to satisfy for venial sins or to expiate the temporal punishment due to sin. In their exile they plead with us, their dear relatives and friends, to bring them prompt relief and to obtain for them without delay admission to the Heavenly Banquet.

Unfortunately there are few among the generality of Catholics who, when the funeral is over and the bell has ceased tolling, remember to pray and perform good works for the efficacious relief of father, mother, sister, brother, relatives or friends. No longer present, they are soon forgotten—and yet, how easily we could bring them prompt and efficacious relief! How easy for us to render "first aid" to these dear souls! A Hail Mary, an act of self denial, a Holy Communion, a Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, a contribution for the relief of the poor, all these, or any one of these, is an act of pure charity for the prompt relief of our dear departed.

An act of charity never impoverishes us. On the contrary, it enriches us. The Apostles, in obedience to their Divine Master's command, fed the Jews with the multiplied loaves and fishes, and yet twelve full baskets of fragments remained. So it is with us; so it happens when we assist the souls in Purgatory. By performing even the smallest act of charity, say for the poor, for the benefit

of our departed, we gain the double merit of a good work: we render "first aid" to our dear departed while at the same time rendering "first aid" to the poor. In so doing we earn the gratitude of the souls in Purgatory, who will not fail to remember us most generously when they have reached their heavenly home.

The Society of Missionary Catechists, by establishing the Souls in Purgatory Burse, provides a prompt and efficacious means of assisting the suffering souls in Purgatory. Those who contribute towards the support of the Catechist laboring under the patronage of the Souls in Purgatory Burse share in the merits of her Masses, Communions, prayers and works of charity. These merits, which may be applied to the departed souls, do not cease with the acts of a day: they are continuous throughout the life of the Catechist laboring under this Burse.

The month of November,—the month of the poor souls, is your OPPORTUNITY for rendering "FIRST-AID" to your dear departed.

Your LIFESUBSCRIPTION—\$10.00—will help to support a Catechist in her labors among the neglected little ones of the Missions. It is payable in installments of \$1.00 per month.

Recently we opened two new Mission Centers:—at Brawly, California, and at Santa Paula, California. Don't forget them when you mail your offerings or boxes to our Missions.

Please ship all items intended for the needy missions direct to our mission centers. Address: "Society of Missionary Catechists" at:

- 1 Anton Chico, New Mexico.
- 2 Chaperito, New Mexico.
- 3 Dos Palos, California.
- 4 Grants, New Mexico.
- 5 620 W. Fifteenth St., Gary, Indiana.
- 6 Holman, New Mexico.
- 7 3868 Block Avenue, East Chicago, (Indiana Harbor, Indiana.)
- 8 Box 30, Montezuma Route, Las Vegas, New Mexico.
- 9 Cerrillos, New Mexico.
- 10 Lubbock, Texas, Box 1658.
- 11 Santa Rosa, New Mexico.
- 12 Catechist Blanche Richardson, Supervisor of Archconfraternity of Christian Doctrine, Victory-Mount, Las Vegas, New Mexico.
- 13 Brawly, California.
- 14 Santa Paula, California.

Express and freight shipments for Holman, Anton Chico and Chaperito are sent via Las Vegas, New Mexico.

SUBSCRIBERS, ATTENTION

We have adopted a new mailing system which will facilitate our office work. Please advise us whether or not the magazine reaches you IN GOOD CONDITION!

WE THANK YOU.

P. S. We depend on YOU for this information.

\$25.00 WILL SUPPORT A CATECHIST IN THE FIELD FOR ONE MONTH.

Missionary Catechists in the Field

The United States a MISSION country? How absurd! Aren't there 26,846 Priests in this country? Yes, according to the latest Catholic Directory.

But what about it? The Catholic population of the United States, according to the same authority, is 20,203,702. Divide and you have one Priest for about every 750 people.

Well, that's that in a broad way!

But a large number of these Priests are engaged exclusively in giving Missions and Retreats, in Institutional and educational work, etc. Subtracting them and still thinking in numbers, each Priest would have about 1000 persons to care for. And how would you enjoy the task of caring, single-handed, for the spiritual needs of 1000 people?—Besides, were people and Priests ever apportioned out numerically?

But what about this MISSION Problem? Let's consider a few dioceses termed by their Bishops "Missionary."

Santa Fe, New Mexico, for instance; fifty-six churches with resident Pastors; 306 Mission churches; Catholic population 142,934; area of the diocese 104,168. Think it over!

Amarillo, Texas, with 33 Priests, 72,000 square miles, Catholic population of 31,156; 22 Churches with resident Pastors and only 51 Churches in the entire diocese. Astounding figures! But consider this: 13 Parochial Schools in 72,000 square miles! How about the Religious Education of children living in this diocese?

Monterey-Fresno: 43,714 square miles; 53 Churches with resident Pastors; 23 Missions with Chapels; 17 Parochial Schools and a Catholic population of 76,000 people, to say

nothing of the thousands of migrant Mexicans! Something to think about, NO?

Los Angeles and San Diego: 212 Churches with resident Pastors; 61 Mission Churches; 79 Parochial Schools, and a population of 301,775, according to the last census. Then too, there are thousands of migrant Mexicans in these dioceses whose spiritual and temporal welfare is clamoring for Catholic attention and sympathy.

Food for thought, and then some!

There are other Mission dioceses in the West and Southwest, to be sure. But these are the ones in which the Missionary Catechists have established Mission Centers. From these Mission Centers, seven of which are in the State of New Mexico, one in Texas, three in California,—not considering for the moment the two in Indiana,—the Catechists go to all the surrounding out-Missions within a radius



of about fifty miles, instructing the children, preserving the Faith, reclaiming the lost sheep, caring for the sick and suffering, relieving want and misery.

Their work in the Mission Field is only eight years old: they have just begun to scratch the surface, yet they are reaching thousands of native Spanish-American and Mexican children as well as immigrant children of other nationalities.

Is there a need for the Society of Missionary Catechists with its distinctively American ideals and aspirations, in our Home Mission Field? Think it over!

A C M

ASSOCIATE yourself with the Missionary Catechists
COOPERATE in their good work of saving souls
MERIT the priceless graces that are won by charity

JOIN THE ASSOCIATE CATECHISTS OF MARY!

The Associate Catechists of Mary is an auxiliary organized for lay-workers who wish to do their bit for the Missions. Anyone can join.

1000 NEW MEMBERS means
\$500.00
which will support a
CATECHIST
for
TWENTY MONTHS

There are no obligations. You pay 50c a year, and help the Missions in any way you wish—by sending clothes, old or used, making First Communion Outfits, spreading our work by telling your friends about it, and praying for the Catechists and their Missions.

IN RETURN, YOU RECEIVE MANY BENEFITS

You share in all the prayers and good works of the Catechists, and in the prayers of the children under their care. Your intentions are included in the special Mass offered in honor of Our Blessed Lady of Victory every Saturday. A Mass is offered in honor of the Sacred Heart on the first Friday of each month for your special intentions. Your intentions are included in our perpetual novena to Our Blessed Lady of Victory which is said by all of the Catechists every day.

BE ONE OF THE 1000 NEW MEMBERS

Dear Catechist Supervisor:

Enclosed find 50c. Please enroll me as an ASSOCIATE CATECHIST OF MARY and send me membership card.

Name

Address

Members are entitled to wear one of our attractive sterling silver pins. They cost 50c each.