

The Missionary Catechist



Father Burton Explains

CATECHIST D. SCHNEIDER

Dorothy May sat rigidly erect on the stiffest chair in Father Burton's reception room. She wouldn't admit, even to herself, that she was really nervous, but she did feel queer! It was a very important matter she wanted to discuss with Father Burton; important enough to inspire her with certain "quav-ery" sensations. While she waited, she debated for the hundredth time how to open the subject.

Then Father Burton entered.

"Well, well, Dorothy May! How are you this evening?"

"Fine as ever, Father; thank you."

"And now, I suppose you have thought up another hundred ques-tions about your Sodality picnic?"

"Not ex—exactly, Father."

Dorothy May drew a deep breath.

"Father, just how may one whether or not she has a religious vocation?" There, the cat was out of the bag!

"Why, Dorothy May! Is that what's on your mind? Come let us walk in the garden while we talk it over."

Wisely Father Burton led her out of doors into his spacious garden. Beauty and closeness to nature ever lend freedom to mind and soul.

"Now, Dorothy May, this question of vocations is not shrouded in all the mystery some people seem to expect. Our Dear Lord does not work miracles, or send angels from heaven to invite young men and women to the religious state. No, He acts in quite a different way. A learned Benedictine Father has said: 'When Divine Providence destines any one to a certain state of life, it bestows upon him a natural inclination thereto, and gives him the dis-position necessary for the fulfillment of what that state of life implies.'

"Now, just what does that mean? It means that



if we are attracted to the religious state, if our will is upright and our intentions pure, and if, at the same time, we are in good health and possess the necessary moral and intellectual qualities, then we may be certain God is calling us to that state. Is that perfectly clear, Dorothy May?"

"Yes, Father, I think it is.

The substance of it all is that if I feel a strong inclination to the religious state, if my health is good, and if I make up my mind to do all that is required of me as a Religious, then I have a vocation. Is that right?"

"Yes, Dorothy May, it is, provided there are no other impediments to your entrance, and in

your case there are not. Have you thought of any particular Sisterhood you would like to join?"

"Why yes, Father, I have. You know for some time our Sodality has been sending clothing and medical supplies to the Missionary Catechists. About two months ago I met two Missionary Catechists and became deeply interested in their work. They invited me to visit them at Victory-Noll, and I have been thinking of going there during my vacation time. But before I did, Father, I wanted to talk it over with you."

"That was right, Dorothy. And now you must pray fervently to Our Blessed Mother that She may counsel you. Tomorrow morning I shall offer my Mass for your intentions, that you may be quick to follow the promptings of Divine Grace."

Eight months later Dorothy May, or rather, Catechist Blaine, stood in the patio at Victory-Noll, waving farewell to Father Burton and her own dear father and mother, who had just attended her investiture as a Consecrate in the Society of Missionary Catechists.

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Volume VII

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Number 3

Harbor's Community Center

Catechist Blanche Richardson

If ever there existed a need for Community Centers, surely the present "hard-times" demand such recreational units. The dark, cheerless abodes of the poor,—rendered even more gloomy by the ill-concealed anxieties of a host of unemployed husbands and fathers, and the fretful wives and mothers who find it quite beyond their powers somehow to maintain an even tenure, with hungry children clinging to their skirts and no immediate relief in sight,—are something to get away from, if only for an hour.

And so the Harbor Catechists, sensing the need of a pleasant gathering place for the poor people under their care,—and more especially for the youth,—have established a Community Center. There were other factors, too, which induced them to open such a house at this time, and to open it in something like haste. A non-Catholic institution in the vicinity, for some time previous, had been furnishing the children with congenial surroundings and pleasant pastimes, and a second one opposite the Mexican church was about to be opened. Was not there urgent need, therefore, to provide immediately these same recreational advantages where the Faith of their fathers

might not, as a natural consequence, be placed in jeopardy?

With the long ranged vision with which our separated brethren are peculiarly equipped, the Katharine House had been established at a wonderfully advantageous location where the children of three different public schools must needs pass on their way to and from school. This house, a neat brick affair, has a most inviting appearance from the outside. There are pretty green window sills, and dainty white sash curtains which gleam through the window panes. We learned it is an \$8500.00 building, consisting of a church and twenty club rooms. There are paid workers in charge, including an apostate Mexican who serves as a minister. Various opportunities for study and play are afforded.

It was exactly ten days from the time that the basement of Our Lady of Guadalupe church was given a thorough renovating and a couple of coats of bright, fresh paint,—the preliminary steps toward the establishment of the center,—that the doors were thrown open for the entertainment of the poor. Catholics our little ones were, Catholics they were to remain.

With the help of interested, Chicago friends, even the humble basement, which houses the Catholic Community Center, was rendered an inviting place. The general color scheme of the woodwork and furniture is a restful green, outlined with ebony. There are cretonne curtains at the windows with attractive tie-backs. There are tables of graduated sizes, to accommodate the wee folk, and those of larger proportions. At these tables the youngsters look at brightly-colored story-books, or play games of checkers, fish-pond, dominos, etc. To the left of the large room are two pool tables for the bigger boys. The larger girls have a nice room all to themselves, with shelves upon shelves of good, wholesome reading matter, and a nice round table about which they may congregate. Although the Community Center is still very young, various classes are already being organized. There are sewing and cooking classes for the larger girls, manual training classes for the larger boys, and handwork classes for the smaller boys and girls. Father Lara conducts an English class for the older boys and girls.

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At the Community Center, Indiana Harbor, Indiana

LENT IS THE SEASON OF PRAYER, PENANCE AND ALMSGIVING

Who Were The Aztecs?

Mary Stephen

The Men from Aztlan

One can not tarry long in the American Southwest without hearing the terms "Aztec" and "Toltec." But when he asks about them he is likely to get no more than a vague reply, "some ancient tribe or other." Now and then he might hear an uncertain distinction made: "The Aztecs made human sacrifices; the Toltecs sacrificed only fruits and flowers."

Where they came from, where they lived, what their ideals may have been, or what became of them, nobody seems to know. Yet no people, civilized or not, can live for some hundreds of years in any section of country without leaving their imprint. It is inevitable that, whoever the Aztecs were, some traces of their culture, their practices, and their religion—whatever it was—have remained in the part of our own country which they inhabited.

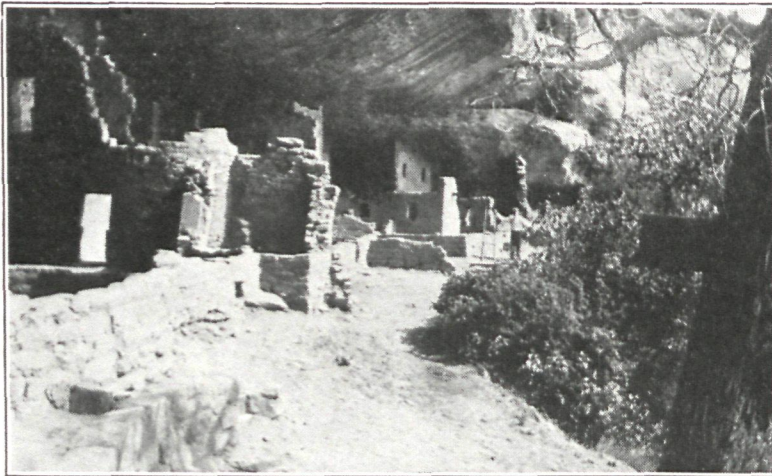
When the Spaniards came to Mexico more than four hundred years ago they found a wide-flung nation with a definite system of organization. This people had come from some place "far northward," centuries before that, so they informed their captors. That place was "Aztlan," which they interpreted to mean "heron-clan place," "white place," or "coast of the sea," all words having a hint of the ocean in them. As nearly as the Spanish chroniclers could find out, they had come down the Pacific coast in about the eleventh century, and invaded the land of Anhuac; which lay along the western edge of what is now Mexico, and perhaps extended into California.

The native tribes, however, made persistent war upon the newcomers, and it became evident that another location must be found. They finally established themselves in the salt marshes where the

outlet of Lake Chalco and Xochimilico flows into Lake Tezcuco; and there, in 1325—the first well-established date in their history—they founded Tenochtitlan, now Mexico City.

For greater security in their new home, they made dikes and causeways about it until Tenochtitlan became an island. They built their houses only of stone, carefully laid and beautifully decorated. Instead of making streets they dug canals. Gradually the new city became another Venice. It was the strongest position in Mexico, from the standpoint of defense, when they got through with it.

At last, feeling themselves safe, and able to defend their title to their new territory, they cast off the adherence which they had maintained to the stronger tribe, Azcaputzalco, and boldly formed a government for themselves. In 1376—more than a hundred years before the Spaniards came—they elected their own "Chief Man," who was war-chief and priest in one, the famous Acamapichtli, often called the founder of the Mexican Empire. Then they started out on a program of conquest which should make all surrounding tribes tributary to the pow-



Ancient Ruins

erful and growing government at Tenochtitlan.

There ensued a hundred years of predatory warfare. At its close, the Aztecs numbered seven strong and closely-allied tribes, some of them formed from within their own clans, some composed of conquered peoples. The tribute from these poured in to the central government, which grew more and more aggressive in its demands, until rebellion again broke out. Montezuma, the last of the great Aztec rulers, in 1502 began active warfare again. He was defeated by the strong pueblos of Cholula and Alasca, both of native stock; but triumphed over the coast-clans to the eastward, thus extending his empire in a direction away from the old tribal enemies which had made so much trouble for the Aztec rulers in the past. It was into this turmoil that the Spaniards came, and this was the reason Cortez did not find it so difficult to bring the "Spanish Conquest" to a brilliant and successful termination. The warring tribes had no common interest to hold them together. The Aztecs, though stronger in every way than the native tribes, had enough on their hands without fighting Spain; and it is quite likely the triumph of Cortez was one of morale rather than of force of arms.

However, this keen-minded, progressive nation could not be totally blotted out by any army. Their government might be destroyed—and was destroyed—but for centuries their culture must remain. The only way to obliterate that was to absorb it into the cultural system of the conquering nation; and that is exactly what happened in Mexico, and

(Continued on page 10)



An Indian Pueblo

CONTRIBUTE TOWARD THE HOLY CROSS BURSE

Read Something Worthwhile

By Rev. A. J. Blaufuss

HISTORY OF THE PASSION by Rev. J. E. Belser, D. D. Trans. by Rev. F. A. Marks. B. Herder Book Co., St. Louis, Mo. \$4.75.

A scholarly treatise,—a book for the theologian and Bible-student and for the preacher who seeks precise data for his Lenten sermons and instructions.

RAGAMUFFIN by Ruth Irma Law, Benziger Bros. \$1.00.

A delightful children's story. By reading RAGAMUFFIN every child will be encouraged to nobler living.

DEAR SAINT JOSEPH, PRAY FOR US

The great St. Theresa of Spain had the strongest devotion to St. Joseph. In the history of her life, written by herself, she says: "I never asked this dear Saint for anything and was refused."

During the past year we have received many petitions from devout clients of St. Joseph, the devoted foster father of Our Lord and chaste spouse of Our Blessed Mother. This year we shall be pleased to include their petitions in the solemn novena to this humble, yet powerful, Saint. This novena begins March 10th. Send in your petitions early.

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

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Huntington, Indiana



"Blessed is He Who cometh in the name of the Lord!"

At Victory-Noll

Friday morning, January 9th, Mrs. Mary Sigstein, mother of Rev. John J. Sigstein, founder and spiritual director of the Society of Missionary Catechists, died at the age of eighty-five years. Her quiet and beautiful death was a fitting close to a life of prayer, self-sacrifice and labor.

"Mother Sigstein, as she was lovingly termed by the Catechists at Victory-Noll, was a woman remarkable for her strength and determination of character. Throughout her entire life, no obstacle was formidable enough to prevent her accomplishing the will of God. Much could be said in extolling her virtues and outstanding characteristics, but perhaps a more appropriate tribute could not be justly paid her than that so beautifully expressed by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Biegel, Elwood, Ind., when he described her as "a praying mother."

A praying mother! Yes, that will be our lasting memory of her. Her continual prayers have undoubtedly obtained many graces from Our Lord, not only for Father Sigstein and The Society of Missionary Catechists, but for the individual Catechists. It is no small consolation to know that throughout all eternity she will pour forth at the Throne of Mercy fervent prayers for all of us to whom she had been "mother."

Mother Sigstein lay in state at Victory-Noll until one o'clock Saturday afternoon. Saturday morning at 9:30, a solemn Requiem High Mass was sung by Father Sigstein. The Rev. R. E. Kelley acted as deacon; the Rev. Father Clements, O. M. Cap., as sub-deacon, and the Rev. E. T. Dillon as Master of Ceremonies.

The Rt. Rev. John Francis Noll, Bishop of Fort Wayne, delivered the sermon and gave the final blessing.

At one o'clock Saturday afternoon, the body was taken to Chicago where it lay in state until Monday morning. The funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Vincent's Church. Interment followed at St. Boniface Cemetery.

Besides many dear friends, those attending the Mass at Victory-Noll were: The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Kroll, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Thiele, the Rev. Conroy, the Rev. Reinig, and the Rev. Wibbert, all of Fort Wayne, Ind.; the Rev. Father Bernard, Father Ivo, Father Francis Xavier and Father Otto of St. Felix Monastery, Huntington, Ind.; the Rev. Halpin and the Rev. Much, of Kokomo, Ind.; and the Rev. Ley, of Wabash.

The Sisters of St. Francis, of St. Mary's church and the Sisters of Notre Dame of SS. Peter and Paul's Church, Huntington Ind., attended in a body. The Christian Mother's Society of SS. Peter and Paul's Church, the Rosary Society of St. Mary's Church and the Victory Mission Circle were also well represented.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Thanks to thee, Oh, Dearest Mother,
For the many gifts received,
Gratefully our hearts are beating,
For thou hast our hearts relieved.
As thy gifts of tender mercy
Brought us solace, rest, and peace,
Rose our heartfelt, thankful feelings
To thee, Star of the Seas!

A BEAUTIFUL NOVENA

To promote devotion to the Sacred Incarnate of Our Lord.

The Son of God, the Infinite Majesty, the Creator of Heaven and earth and all things—Who had need of no one,—took a human body to save lost man by His sufferings and death.

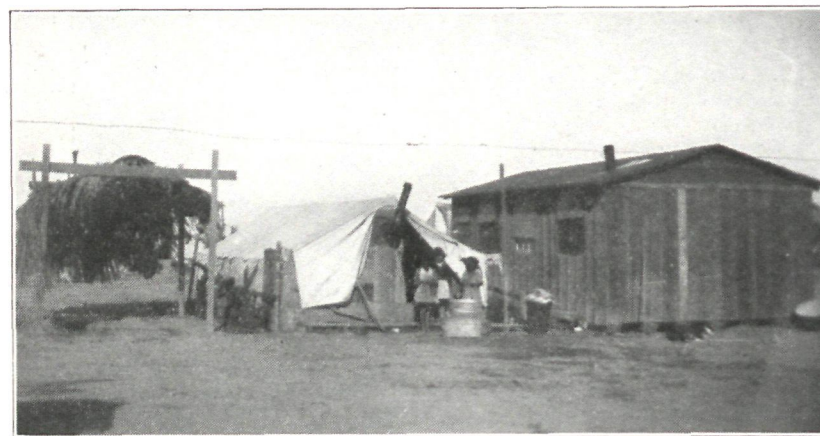
"O Lord, Who, by the message of an angel, didst will that Thy Divine Word should take flesh in the womb of the Most Blessed Virgin, grant that we, Thy suppliants, who believe Her to be truly the Mother of God may be helped by Her intercession with Thee, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

"O Holiest Virgin Mother, Who, on the day of Thy Annunciation, wast found by the Archangel Gabriel so prompt and ready to do God's Holy Will, obtain for us the grace to be conformed always in all things to God's Holy Will. In memory of Your Annunciation may we obtain through Your powerful help, dear Mother, the graces we petition for in our novena. Amen."

Our Novena in honor of the Incarnation of Our Lord begins March 16th. Kindly send us your petitions early.

There is no doubt that thousands of our good people are today suffering severe hardships on account of economic conditions. We continually receive letters asking our prayers and the prayers of the little ones under our care for employment for the fathers of large families. Besides offering the intentions in behalf of our friends in our perpetual novena to Our Blessed Lady of Victory, we also send these petitions to be included in the novenas at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Lourdes, France; the Shrines of the Sacred Heart and of Our Blessed Lady of Victory, Paris, France.

DURING LENT, COMBINE YOUR PENANCE WITH ALMS TO GOD'S POOR.



MISSIONARY ZEAL

A trim little lady in black sat on the seat ahead of us. We were bound for Las Vegas. But we mortals are so constituted that we cannot for long bear pain without seeking human aid or sympathy. Our sedate friend, of the snowy hair and long, thin, nervous hands, startled us by timidly asking if we might not have some adhesive tape with us. She had covertly observed our nurse-like uniforms, and, of course, guessed that we could render first-aid.

She explained her predicament: The auto in which she was riding to catch the train had turned over on a sharp curve a few blocks from the station. She had received a scalp wound, which was hurting very much. For the first time, we observed that her neat black broadcloth coat was soiled with bloodstains, and that she had tied a silk scarf over the top of her head to staunch the flow of blood. Happily, my Sister-Catechist had some gauze and an antiseptic with which she dressed the wound. Little by little the rest of the story came out. She was a Lutheran, and was on her way to a Missionary meeting, when the accident occurred. But would she allow it to prevent her attendance at the meeting? Not at all! She hastily glanced at the other two occupants of the car, and finding herself to be the one most injured,—the others had received only a scratch or two—she scrambled out of the auto and ran the rest of the way to the station, succeeding, in spite of the accident, in catching the train. How many of us would have had the courage and zeal to continue? Again, the Zeal of the Protestants puts us to shame.

Catechist Blanche Richardson.

If there is any place on earth where the Catholic Church is poor and needy, it is in the native Spanish parishes in the Southwest; poor in the things of the world, but rich, abundantly rich, in immortal souls.—Rev. C. M. Klein, O. M. C.

AN ENJOYABLE PARTY

The Children of Mary of Holman, N. M., enjoyed a Valentine party at our Mission Center. The party was planned and conducted by the girls themselves under the supervision of a Catechist. The day before several of the older girls came to the Center to bake bread and cookies and prepare the lunch; also to decorate. Although everyone enjoyed the party, it was a very special treat for our two invalids whom we managed to have brought in their chairs. "It was such a pretty party," was their way of telling us they liked the celebration.

CATECHIST KUNTZ.

NO TRIMMINGS

Mission life is filled with those bits of comedy that provoke a laugh or at least a smile at "every turn" and keep us cheerful under all circumstances. You would have enjoyed being with us the first time we spent the week end at one of our out-missions, twenty-two miles from our center at Holman. Upon entering the room which had served as Catechists' quarters the previous year, we discovered that our stove was gone. This didn't bother us much for the weather was warm. Searching our improvised cupboard, we found the knives and forks also missing,—all except one knife and one tablespoon. Later we found a two-foot, sword-like knife which served as an excellent can opener.

My Sister-Catechist took the big spoon and I gladly accepted the knife and, thus armed, we proceeded to attack our supper. We had a gay time and during the course of the meal we decided that a healthy appetite and enough wholesome food to satisfy it are the essentials of a good meal; silverware is only an "extra" in Mission life.

Catechist Anna Gutierrez.

IN THE HOME FIELD

SOMEBODY'S MOTHER

She was a little shriveled-up old lady and she rubbed her knotted hands together nervously as she told us her troubles. She lived in a tiny windowless, one room attic. It was unfurnished to the extent that it lacked even a semblance of a heating apparatus. It wasn't so bad in the summer, she ex-

MAKING SHORT-CUTS

While at one of our Out-Missions the teacher told us of a shorter road we might take back to Anton Chico. Since variety is the spice of life we decided to try the prairie road. Relying on Our Blessed Mother to direct us to the proper turn-off road, we arrived home without mishap. We were delighted with this new road, as it was twelve miles shorter, and decided to take it in the future. The next time we went to this same Out-Mission we took our new route, but being unfamiliar with all the turn-offs, we took the wrong one. After driving about for what seemed hours, we finally reached the school. Undaunted, we returned by our new road with the intention of drawing a road map. About half way home the road led between two large pools of water; the road was dry enough but we accidentally slipped into a wet rut and



They Enjoyed the "Pretty Party."—Holman, N. M.

plained, except when it rained and the floor on which she slept was covered with water. One can't sleep on damp boards with any degree of comfort, you know.

Where were her people? Two sons she had, but they were dead. One was killed while working in a mine; the other died of T. B. two years ago. Since then she has made her way as best she could, working a little here and there, but now she barely makes enough for the rent of her attic room. We helped her as much as we could and gave her a grocery order, enough to last for a few days. Poor, lonely soul! I can't get the picture of her out of my mind. She reminds me of that poem which ends:

"She's somebody's mother, boys, you know,
For all she is poor and old and slow,
And I hope some fellow will lend a hand
To help my mother, you understand,
If e'er she is old and poor and grey
And her own dear boy is far away."
Catechist B. Lawler.

Our ANNUITY PLAN appeals to good practical Catholics because it not only insures them of a regular income during their lifetime and the charitable use of their money after death, but also of a continual remembrance in the prayers and good works of the Missionary Catechists laboring among the neglected poor in the mission districts.

Write today for particulars.

The interest of our Catechists in the Missions is again being centered upon First Communion classes. The Catechists endeavor to have the little ones who receive Our Dear Lord for the first time, dressed like our American children are dressed on that memorable day. They depend upon you, kind friends, to make this possible. We know you will not disappoint them but we suggest that you make your donations or send articles of clothing as early as possible so that our Catechists can better make arrangements for the occasion.

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 Brawley, California.
- 14 Santa Paula, California.

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

HARBOR'S COMMUNITY CENTER

(Continued from page 3)

The children seem to understand that this Center is their very own. Most of them, with few exceptions, realize that they must take care of the toys, games and books provided for their amusement and entertainment. As in a well-regulated home, the children watch each other in this regard and admonish or report a careless offender. The Catechists must penalize the guilty ones occasionally. If a boy forgets himself and uses bad words, he must pay the penalty. It is not uncommon to see a boy slap himself on the mouth, and exclaim, "I almost forgot."

Perhaps the pool tables are the greatest attraction for the larger boys. Some may object to their playing pool, but since this game has a peculiar attraction for growing boys, it is better for them to play it in wholesome environments than in those forbidding-looking places where contact with a degraded element is easily furnished.

Some amusing incidents are quoted by the Catechists in charge of the Center. "Catechist," shouted Felipe one evening, "Encarnacion was over at the Katharine House last week." Of course, he wanted to gloat over his companion's discomfiture. "Oh, I don't believe that Encarnacion would go there," defended Catechist. "Yes, he did, Catechist," pursued Felipe relentlessly. "How do you know?" queried Catechist. "Because I saw him." "Oho! Then that means you were there, too." "I know it, Catechist," he admitted shamefacedly, "but I swore off that place forever last Sunday."

Domingo has a fondness it seems for collecting old baby carriages from the dumps. Last week he obstructed every one's passage to the Community Center by pushing his latest acquisition up and down the walk, and even in the club-rooms itself. The upper part of the carriage had been replaced by a wooden box which still bore a label of the former contents. Domingo almost got himself in a trouble because of his hobby of pushing his go-cart around. The week before he was pushing it in the vicinity of the railroad tracks, and a big policeman thought he was out to steal coal. Consequently, he trailed him, but discovered there was nothing in his striking conveyance.

The Center provides bright moments amid the many dark ones which crowd the lives of our Mexican youth. May God bless it and prosper it.



The Mission Chapel at Hot Springs, N. M.

the car refused to move. We were stuck! As usual no one was in sight. After calling on all the Saints and working about an hour we got out and were able to continue our journey. Although we reached home very late and were all covered with mud, we were happy in the possession of a rather crazy-looking map by which we feel confident we can safely take short cuts to our Out-Missions.

Catechist Meyer.

DO IT NOW!

Don't keep putting it off. You intend to do it sometime, you say;—let that "sometime" be TODAY. JOIN THE 2500 CLUB. Its aim: 2,500 persons contributing \$1.00 a month for a year. This will provide for the support of 100 Catechists for one year.

Classes in Home Hygiene, Feeding and Care of Infants, and Child Welfare are conducted for the mothers by the Catechists at Lubbock, Texas



Catechists with a group of Mothers who attend classes regularly.

FOR OUR SUFFERING POOR

SAY AN EXTRA HAIL MARY EVERY DAY DURING LENT —

Mary's Little Helpers

Dear Little Helpers:

Lent is the time when you should do a whole lot for the Missions. It is the time for penance so just think of all the pennies you can save for Wee Willie Winkles, and for the new Burse. Instead of going to the movies, instead of spending your pennies for candy and ice cream and chewing gum, I know you will put every penny in your mite box for the poor little Mission children. Wouldn't it be fine if you could say on Easter Sunday, "I didn't spend a penny during Lent, but I put every one that I got in my mite box"?

The Catechist Supervisor.

Dear Catechist:

I was saving my pennies with my mother for this little package. I am sending you myself four dresses, and one pair of stockings and my sister Margaret is sending her First Communion veil and a pair of stockings. My baby sister Virginia is sending some of her little kimonas and Victor sends his pair of pants and a shirt for Pablo. We received the Missionary Catechist since it was advertised in Our Sunday Visitor. My name is Sidonia Mae Faith and my confirmation name is Perpetua. I am twelve years old.

—Sidonia Mae Faith.

One Little Helper has sold thirty magazines already and has sent in for twenty-five more. Who would like to run a race with this Little Helper and beat her? You will have to work hard, but I think many of you could do it, if you tried.

For a long time I thought the boys were going to be better Little Helpers than the girls, but now the girls are working pretty hard and the boys are slacking up. Hurry up, boys! Lent is the time to make up for lost time.

Edward Gosselin is one Little Helper who doesn't forget Wee Willie Winkles. He knows that Communion time is getting close, so he sent us \$5.00 for the Wee Willie Winkles Fund. That is a good example to follow.

Little Helen Bauman is still working hard for the new Burse and sent us \$1.50.



"I'll help you, Blessed Mother," said Bobby one day,

"I'll help your poor little girls and boys. I'll work real hard and every day I will pray

For your poor little girls and boys.

I'll save all my clothes, and the pennies I make,

I'll save all my books and my toys Instead of eating ice cream and candy and cake

I'll work for your poor girls and boys."

Our new Burse amounts to \$184.90, but still we have no name for it. We do not want to vote on a name until we hear from more Little Helpers. Here are some of the names suggested so far:

Holy Guardian Angel
Our Blessed Lady of Victory
Jesus and Mary
The Holy Child Jesus
St. Bernard
St. Agnes
St. Rita.

Which name would YOU like?

A Little Helper way out in North Dakota took her mite bok to school and



asked all the girls and boys in her room to save their pennies for the Mission children. In a very short time the mite box was filled and they sent us \$5.00. That is what many other Little Helpers could do and I am sure the girls and boys would be glad to help fill the mite box.

Dear Little Helpers:

It always seems to be a "hobby" for boys to carve their names and initials on trees, rocks, benches and fences. Way back, hundreds of years ago, I think the Spaniards must have liked to do it too. Out in New Mexico about fifty miles from the Catechists' Mission at Grants, there is a great big rock called "Inscription Rock." When you get up close to the rock and see all the strange writing and the long names in Spanish it doesn't take long to figure out why it is called Inscription Rock. When some of the first great explorers of the Southwest passed this rock they probably thought they would never come back, and maybe would never be found, so they wrote their names and the date they passed this place right on the rock. One of the inscriptions was written by one of New Mexico's earliest governors and besides his name and the date he wrote, in Spanish: "To Zuni I passed and the Faith carried," which means that he took some priests with him and founded a Mission for the Indians at Zuni. It surely is interesting to see these old autographs and to find out what they mean. It is much more interesting to learn history this way than to study it in school. You will probably wonder how they could write on stone. Well, you see, the rock is smooth sandstone and these brave old Spaniards used the tips of their daggers to write. At the end of this great big rock there is a little cave, or I suppose you would call it a cove. This is filled with beautiful clear sparkling water and there are little fish swimming around in it. They are the funnies looking fish that I ever saw. They look as though they have tiny arms and legs and it appeared as though there were five fingers on the things that looked like arms. When they swim they use these arms and legs, or whatever you call them, just like you do when you swim.

Adios,

WEE WILLIE WINKLES.

SAVE A PENNY A DAY DURING LENT

The Associate Catechists of Mary

EVERY PENNY FOR THE MISSIONS DURING LENT

If our A. C. M. members would but drop into a mite box every penny they receive in change during Lent, what a beautiful Easter offering this would make for our Risen Savior! A penny is only a penny, you say. But supposing, we ride to work on the street car. We get two cents back in change from the dime we give the conductor. Then we give the newsboy a nickel for a morning paper to read on the car. The paper costs us three cents and we get two cents back. Only two pennies, but with the other two, we now have four pennies for our mite box. Then at lunch we receive two cents in change. That makes a total of six pennies. Only six pennies! But there are sixteen hundred A. C. M. members, and if each one save six pennies a day, by Easter, we would have \$3,840.00, almost enough to support a Catechist for life. Just think what your little bit can do, and is this not a small return for all the benefits your Loving Savior has heaped upon you?

First Communion time will soon be here. Our Catechists are already preparing the little ones in the Missions for this great day, and that, of course, means that we need First Communion Outfits for Our Dear Little Ones. Wouldn't you like to furnish at least one outfit for some poor girl or boy, who perhaps otherwise will wear just a faded old calico dress, or a pair of overalls? It doesn't take much to provide an outfit for either a girl or boy. An outfit for a girl consists of a plain, inexpensive white dress, a veil, a slip, underclothing, slippers, stockings, prayer-book and rosary. Our little boys are nearly always forgotten and nothing more is required for their outfit than a pair of trousers, a waist, underclothing, shoes, stockings, prayer-book and rosary. The ages of our First Communion



icants in the Missions range from six to sixteen year of age.

Boost the ASSOCIATE CATECHISTS OF MARY. Beginning with the New Year we had sixteen hundred members. If every member will get just ONE NEW MEMBER during the year, by the end of 1931 we will have thirty-two hundred members. Do your bit. Talk A. C. M. Tell your friends of the great benefits connected with it. If your friends cannot form a band, tell them they can join the Victory-Noll Home Band for 50c. And do not forget to enroll your dear departed ones as members, thereby enabling them to share in all the good works of the Catechists and in the Masses that are offered throughout the year for the A. C. M. members.

As everyone knows alms are necessary to maintain our Missions and to keep our Catechists in the field. If our Dear Lord has blessed us with much, we should give much. If we have only a little, we must give at least a little. The greatest blessing

of Charity is that we give in the Name of Our Lord and for Love of Him, and all that we give is always repaid by Him. If you do not believe this, try it and see.

BAND ACTIVITIES

Our Lady of Perpetual Help—	
Mrs. Wainwright, promoter	\$109 00
St. Mary's Band—Mrs. Hansen,	
promoter	90 00
Sacred Heart Band, No. 1—Mrs.	
Scheuer, promoter	65 00
Marysville, Kansas, Band—Mrs.	
James Cooper, promoter	15 00
San Francisco Band—Miss Mary	
Sarsfield, promoter	15 00
Charitina Club—Miss K. Hennigan,	
promoter	11 00

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

How little it takes to make some people happy! A poor mother and her six children had to be taken to a sanatorium for tubercular examination. When the Catechists called for them, although the weather was bitterly cold, the mother and two of the children had no coats. Thanks to our generous benefactors, coats were found to fit these poor people. When they returned from the sanatorium the mother took the coats and handed them to Catechist; she thought they were loaned to her for the trip. When Catechist told her she could keep the coats, the smile which lit up her face showed her happiness. Just three old coats, discarded by someone, were enough to make a heart glad.



The Juanita Club, Chicago, Ill., started their mission activities just one year ago. We congratulate this zealous club and hope that the coming year will prove as successful as the first year.

With the approval and encouragement of the Rev. Peter Biegel, a new band has been organized in Schererville, Ind. It is called St. Michael's Mission Band. This club boasts 25 members and they have started the new year right with two very successful showers—a tow shower and a stocking shower for our poor Mission children.

LENT IS THE OPPORTUNE TIME TO FORM THE MISSION HABIT

Our devoted Catechists in the Missions are very happy to see so many of their children attending Mass and receiving Holy Communion. Knowing the prayers of these poor children are all-powerful with the Sacred Heart, the Catechists never fail in asking them to pray for all the friends and benefactors of our Missions.

WHO WERE THE AZTECS?

(Continued from Page 4)

why the Aztec-Spanish amalgamation has given us the strange and inconsistent psychology of the twentieth-century Mexican.

The Spaniards brought their "fiery faith" with them. They were Catholic to the core, even through all the swagger and bluster of their brilliant conquering. The Friars came with them, originally to protect these somewhat rough and brawling warriors against the complete triumph of the flesh in an unknown and dangerous land. But they found here a field that nobody had dreamed of. Here were "savages"—a somewhat misleading term when applied to residents of haughty and beautiful Tenochtitlan—that needed to be won away from paganism and into the fold of Christ. The missionaries went to their new task with their accustomed energy, and converts began to flock to the Standard of the Cross. Many embraced this new faith eagerly; others with a wary eye to the consequences of resistance. The chiefs of the Aztec clans knew that their day of doom had come, and sought to make as good a bargain as they might with these "riders of strange beasts" who had come up from their own seacoast against them. If that meant the adoption of a "foreign" religion—well, that, too, might be accomplished.

What were the customs, the religious beliefs and practices, and the peculiar social mixtures, upon which the Christian Faith must be grafted? And what did this fusion of pagan and Christian ideals result in? That is the real story of the Spanish Conquest, after all.

READ THIS!

Dear Missionary Catechists:

Your delightful letter came this morning; I was glad to hear from you. I know the times are hard but this gives us a better chance to win the smile of God eternally by nobler efforts in His behalf. We can never do as much for God as He has done for us and is doing for us every day of our lives; and He never says a word about it!

When we go into eternity and fully realize what God has done for us, if there is a spark of honor left we will feel a sense of shame and sorrow that we did not do more for Him while we were here. I thank you sincerely for your prayers. I know they are heard in Heaven.

I enclose \$20.00 to help you in your glorious efforts of comforting God's suffering poor.

Very truly yours,
J. O. H.



THE ACCEPTABLE TIME

By a Capuchin Father

Lent, the season of fasting, the time of special penance, has come again. The Church applies to this time the word of the Apostle (II Cor. 6, 2), "Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

We read in the Gospels how one day a boy was brought to the Apostles. The boy was possessed by an evil spirit. Our Lord was not with the Apostles on that occasion. The latter tried to cast out the devil. But no matter how often they conjured him in the name of their Divine Master, the evil spirit would not budge. Finally Our Lord appeared on the scene and His mighty word forced the evil one to depart. When the Apostles were alone with their Master they asked Him, "Why could not we cast him out?" The Master told them they lacked confidence. But that was not all; He added, "This kind can go out by nothing, but by prayer and fasting."

Thanks to God's protecting mercy, we have been shielded against the calamity of demoniac possession. But it is well to know that this terrible evil is generally only the last link of a long chain of gradual succumbing to the power of the devil.

Often the devil tries to seduce us by holding out the bait of pleasure, or some enjoyment of sense. He does not always go about as a roaring lion. He knows well enough and acts on the principle that one will easily catch more flies with a few drops of honey than with an entire hoghead of vinegar. Joy, pleasure, the things of sense that appeal to our eye and ear, that delight our sense of taste or touch, these are his means of approach: these his silken cords that would bind our will.

Great is the variety of pleasure, great is also the variety of degrees in which we may have succumbed to it. The more we surrender ourselves to this love of pleasure, the more abject will our slavery become. It is the old story of cause and effect.

How can we break these fetters of the evil one? "This kind can go out by nothing but by prayer and fasting."

The Church indeed obliges us only to one form of penance, i. e., fasting. She acts thus because she hopes to cover a greater number of practical cases thereby, than if she would oblige us to some other form of penance. We know, moreover, that there is an intimate and manifold connection between the various forms of pleasure or of self-indulgence. Retrench-

Buffalo, N. Y.

Dear Rev. Father:

Enclosed find the proceeds of the picture, "In the Service of the Queen," shown yesterday at our Academy.

That the students thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the picture was evident by their reverent attention throughout and their hearty applause at the end. We feel sure it was a real treat to them to see such a thoroughly Catholic picture.

May God bless you and your splendid work!

Respectfully yours, SR. M. P.

ing on one form will, therefore, also strengthen us against other forms. But it must also be self-evident to every one that we shall serve our spiritual interests best by counteracting that form of pleasure during the holy season of Lent, which has caused us the most battling, and the most serious falls during the past year.

With fasting there ever went hand in hand—even in the Old Testament—the practice of giving alms, because we should not cut down on one vice to the increase of another. The miser also fasts and starves, but his avarice feeds on his fasting. It should not be so with the fasting of the Christian. Whatever he has saved by fasting, by penance, is a sacred thing in the eyes of God. It was saved for the sake of God; let it therefore belong to God. Let it be used to extend His kingdom upon earth.

Send your intentions to Victory-Noll to be included in the perpetual Novena in honor of Our Blessed Lady of Victory.

Support a Catechist during Lent. \$25.00 will support a Catechist and keep her at work in the field for one month.

Contribute toward the Holy Cross Burse \$240.25

Only \$10.00 will make you a life subscriber to THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST. This amount may be sent in monthly installments of \$1.00.

A life Subscription would make a splendid Lenten offering. Make the sacrifice and send us YOURS.

PRAY FOR OUR DEPARTED FRIENDS

Miss Mary McCabe, A. C. M.; Mr. H. Klaran, California; Mrs. Ruff, Mrs. Catherine Nurre, St. Bernard, O.; Mr. A. Daly.

HOW TO SPEND LENT PROFITABLY

I
Get up a half-hour earlier each morning during Lent and walk to work instead of taking the street car or bus. Offer the sacrifice as penance and send the dimes thus saved to our destitute Missions.

II
Resolve not to eat candy during Lent as an act of penance. Do still more. Take the money you would otherwise have spent on candy and send it to the missions as your Lenten offering. It will be a far sweeter thought for you to know that your self-denial offering has been used to buy food and medicine for GOD'S poor little ones than if you had spent it on "sweets."

A ONE-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION TO T. M. C.—ONLY \$0.50

What Really Counts on Judgment Day

“AND when the Son of man shall come in His majesty, and all the angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the seat of His majesty:

THEN shall the King say to them that shall be on His right hand: Come ye blessed of My Father, possess you the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

FOR I was hungry and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger and you took me in:

NAKED, and you covered Me; sick and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.

THEN shall the just answer Him, saying: Lord, when did we see Thee hungry and fed Thee? Thirsty, and gave Thee drink?

AND when did we see Thee a stranger, and took Thee in? or naked, and covered Thee?

OR when did we see Thee sick, or in prison, and came to Thee?

AND the King, answering, shall say to them: *Amen I say to you, as long as you did it to one*

of these my least brethren, you did it to Me. — Gospel of St. Matthew, XXV. 31-40.

ONE of the first lessons taught the Missionary Catechists during the period of their spiritual training is to

see, love and serve Jesus Christ in the person of the poorest of His poor. She spends her life in performing the Seven Corporal and Spiritual Works of Charity.

LIKE her Divine Master she “goes about everywhere doing good.” Her life is devoted to the practice of the Seven Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

SHE “feeds the hungry” little ones in the missions; whose parents are unable, through sickness, or unemployment, to provide the necessities of life.

SHE “clothes the naked,” giving clothes, shoes and stockings to destitute and needy children, who often cross the snow-covered mountain passes in their bare feet and without underclothes, to receive religious instruction;

SHE “visits the sick” in their homes, nursing them with the tenderness of a mother.

SHE visits, instructs and prays with and for prisoners confined to jails.

SHE “instructs the ignorant,” teaching Catechism to young and old.

SHE “converts sinners,” bringing back the negligent and erring ones of the flock to God, the Church and the Sacraments.



My Dollar

WHAT WILL IT DO FOR THE MISSIONS?

It will support a Catechist in the Mission field for one day.

WHY SHOULD I BE CONCERNED ABOUT SUPPORTING a Catechist and keeping her at work in the Mission fields?

The Catechist represents ME as a member of the church under whose authority she is working.

JUST WHAT DOES A CATECHIST DO IN ONE DAY?

This is what one Catechist did in a day:

1. Arose at 5:00 a. m.; attended the regular community prayers and exercises during the day.
2. Gave Religious Instruction to 160 children.
3. Brought food and clothing to a destitute family.
4. Baptized a dying infant.
5. Visited and nursed three patients in their homes.
6. Prepared a poor man for a happy death; praying with him and for him and closing his eyes in death.
7. Conducted a short meeting of the older girls' club.
8. Said an extra rosary for all our dear friends and benefactors.

CAN I DOUBT

that in supporting a Catechist MY DOLLAR is earning for me priceless graces for eternity?

CAN I DOUBT

that for every dollar I give towards the support of a Catechist DURING LENT, I am meriting that eternity of happiness and glory promised by Jesus Christ when He said what you have done to the poor little ones, you have done unto Me?

Victory-Noll,
Huntington, Indiana,
Box 109.

Dear Father:

In honor of Our Dear Lord's bitter Passion and Death and as my Lenten self-denial offering, I am sending you \$_____ toward the support of a Catechist and to help carry on your good work. This offering entailed many sacrifices, but I was happy to make them for the honor and glory of God and for the salvation of souls.

Name_____

Address_____ City_____