

The Missionary Catechist



Easter in our Missions finds many a poor family living in one dingy room, suffering for want of the barest necessities of life, yet, in humility and patience, tasting the sweetness of true Easter Joy.



"Rabboni" : "Master"

"Rejoice and be glad, for
He is risen as He said,
Alleluia!"

That Our Dear Risen Lord, the Good Master
of us all, may bless you and yours, and fill all
your hearts with an abundance of Easter
peace and joy, is our sincere wish and fervent
prayer.

Father Sigstein and the Catechists.

The Missionary Catechist

Volume VII

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Number 4

"God Is Not Mocked"

(Rt. Rev. John F. Noll, D. D., Bishop of Fort Wayne)

THE present economic depression is not confined to one or other locality, nor to our country at large. It exists throughout the world, has lasted longer and has affected a proportionately greater number, in every European country than among us.

If people wonder how a kind Heavenly Father can look down upon such worldwide misery and not exercise His Omnipotence to remove it, their sense of relative values should furnish the explanation. In nearly every land people have sought better days by turning away from God and by hearkening to those who have been out of all sympathy with His interests. Their guides and counsellors have been the skeptic, the scoffer, the communist, the socialist, the immoralist. Of course the better days have not been realized, and will not be realized until man abandons his folly. We have the Holy Ghost's warning in the words, "be not deceived, God is not mocked."

The Sure Cure.

Throughout the Old Testament when God dealt more directly and immediately with the people He prescribed the sure cure for all economic misery and poverty, for national troubles and international wars, in **prayer, fasting and almsgiving**. Evidently the unchangeable God must demand that nations and individuals take the same medicine today if they would have a cure for their temporal ills. In generations past most of the great evils of this day did not exist. There were no daily newspapers nor weekly and monthly magazines read by everybody—the purveyors of crime, of filth, of sewage, of attacks on God Almighty Himself, His Church, His Commandments, on the very moral code on which alone a spiritual life can be built.

If ever there were grounds to oppose the concupiscences noted by the sacred writer through the practice of prayer for a blind world, and of penance for a wicked world, we certainly have such grounds today. Catholics, especially, who recognize the rights of God, who have experienced the goodness of God, who are expected to be "the light of the world," "the salt of the earth," followers of Christ rather than of false prophets, should, in parish groups, and individually, observe the penitential seasons of the Church. for

the increase of good will towards God, on which His peace to the world is conditioned.

A Protestant's Observation

Recently an American Protestant business man of national prominence said:

"Sabbath schools and churches have been neglected, family prayers have been given up, and Sunday has been made a common holiday. Hence, unlike previous generations, a large percentage of the people now unemployed, or losing money in business, have no faith upon which to fall back. When employed or making money, they did nothing to store up spiritual reserves, and hence have none to draw upon. As a result, great masses of people are discouraged and know not where to turn. The material

for observation, and all had some claim to speak with authority on the subject. Some of them held that Britain could still be called a Christian nation; some, that we should be wise to recognize that Britain was now pagan. But all agreed that the masses of the people now made no place for organized religion in their lives, and had no real religious faith. Many personal experiences were offered to illustrate the view generally accepted.

"The churches still throw their doors wide open, but the people pass them by as they rush to their pleasures. Golf and other games, fill up the day of rest and meditation, and millions live through Sunday as they do through the rest of the week, and never think of God at all. Truly, we live in an age destitute of Faith!

"Everywhere the same story is told, as every pastor could witness countless times over. One day it is a girl at college, who tells you that she is the only girl in her "set" who ever thinks of going to church. The next it is a youth, who believes that prayer is but the projection of one's own desires, and that life is controlled by instincts. The next, two young married people who ordered their married life without the slightest reference to considerations other than the physical and the material.

"Twenty years ago Sunday schools were filled with children, whose parents, while perhaps making no religious profession themselves, yet believed it was well that their children should be taught the elements of the Christian faith. Now, in British cities, at any rate, we are surrounded by children and by young people in their 'teens who have never been near either church or Sunday school.'"

Our Obligation.

Catholics have not ceased going to church; their children are not deprived of religious instruction. Our people alone have definite religious convictions, drink regularly at the fountain of spiritual strength, and have the old gospel preached to them. They must save themselves and the world by the practice of prayer and by loyalty to Jesus Christ, especially through the observance of the moral law. They should frequently renew their consecration to Christ the King, and by their example, strive to win recruits for His cause.



RT. REV. J. F. NOLL, D. D.,
Bishop of Fort Wayne.

wealth on which they solely depended has gone; they have no spiritual wealth upon which to draw, and they are tired out physically."

"An Age Destitute of Faith"

An Englishman, Albert Peel, writes in a similar strain in an article entitled "An Age Destitute of Faith":

"The other day I listened to a group of public men discussing the religious outlook in Great Britain. They were all of them men with peculiar opportunities

"Mayordomos"

Catechist Blanche Richardson

It was a bright, crispy morning in March,—the day before the feast of St. Joseph. Senor Gallegos and his wife, who had been appointed "mayordomos" for the year, had come to inspect the church. As "mayordomos" it devolved upon them to prepare the church for the "funcion". (This is the term applied to the annual patronal feast of the Mission village.)

But what is a "mayordomo"? If you consult a Spanish-English dictionary, you will find that "mayordomo" means "steward". One may hear the foreman of a group of workmen referred to as the mayordomo. However, to the average Spanish-American living in New Mexico, it has the general meaning of caretaker of the village church. It would hardly be just to call the mayordomo a "sexton". It is true he performs many of the duties of a sexton. The latter, however, is an employee, and the former is not. On the contrary, the "mayordomo" is usually one of the most prominent citizens, if not the most prosperous person, in his community. According to an ancient church custom in New Mexico, the parish priest announces from the sanctuary (there are no pulpits in the small mission chapels) the gentleman who is to serve as "mayordomo" for the current year. It has always been regarded as an honor and a mark of distinction to receive such an appointment from the parish priest. There is no salary paid to the "mayordomo", and the office demands of him quite a few expenditures and not a little work. These are, however, accepted cheerfully. It is evident that in recent years the New Mexicans have become considerably impoverished. Consequently, some of the former customs, proper to the days when New Mexicans were sheep kings, are gradually disappearing. Among these is the old custom of serving a banquet, in courses, to all the people of the village, at the close of the morning's religious celebration of the "funcion". Recently, the writer observed with surprise that in one little Mission village two families were appointed to serve as mayordomos for the ensuing year. This meant that the burden of expenses, although in no wise comparable to that of former days, were to be divided between two families.

But let us turn again to the Gallegos, and to their errand on that bright, cold morning. The Senora smiled with satisfaction at the manner in which her husband, aided by their stalwart son of seventeen summers, had arranged the



PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin, my sweet protector St. Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to thy protection or implored thy aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in thy goodness, I come before thee, and humbly supplicate thee. Oh, despise not my petitions, foster father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them.

Amen.

little pine trees about the churchdoor, and along the line of march which, on the morrow, the procession was to take. These little trees were in reality but the limbs of tall pine trees, gathered from a wooded mountain slope, and planted firmly in the earth, at regular intervals, to resemble small trees. There were at least twenty-five of them and the planting must have entailed considerable work.

The lock and key to the churchdoor were a remnant of former days. Both were of preponderous dimensions. The key was nearly a foot long. The pine boards which formed the flooring of the small mission chapel had been scrubbed until they glistened brightly in the warm sunshine which sifted through the small window panes. The windows had been washed, and a pair of freshly laundered lace curtains hung at each of the four windows. Dorotea opened a box which

revealed a mass of bright red, blue and yellow crepe paper flowers. Both daughter and mother had spent many hours of devotion on these flowers. They were to replace the ones which had been removed from the altar shelves. A tiny side altar, bearing an image of St. Anthony, abounded with red and green Christmas decorations that bespoke the love and devotion of these simple people. As for the many different hues grouped together on the high altar, it would ill-become any of us to criticise the arrangement. Our dear Lord must have loved a variety of color or He would not have put the rainbow in the sky.

The walls of the little chapel were a delicate pink. They had been freshly calcimined. This, too, was the work of the mayordomos. More than a week ago the family had come, armed with buckets and cloths, to renovate the interior of the small church. Each succeeding day found one or more members of the family busily engaged in the task. It was not to be wondered at, therefore, that Senora Gallegos should heave a deep, audible sigh of satisfaction. There was not a single detail overlooked. That very afternoon the Padre would come for Vespers. Tomorrow, in his own name, and in the name of the churchgoers, he would render them public thanks for the care they had given to the church. This, and above all else the thought that it was done for the love of God, and in the attempt to beautify one of His humble earthly dwellings, would be ample reward for their many and tiring labors.

Senora Gallegos dropped a bit of paper. It was the list of the churchgoers who had contributed their mite toward the Mass stipend. Senor Gallegos had collected the amounts, and had listed them opposite the names of the givers. The list is long for the amounts given are small. A dime means as much to these poor people as a ten dollar bill to the fairly prosperous. The padre will read the names with the amounts given at the Mass tomorrow. This is also a long established custom.

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).

I wish to thank the Sacred Heart of Jesus, God the Father, the Holy Ghost, the Blessed Virgin, and Good St. Anne de Beaupre, for favors that they granted and obtained for me after a promise to give offerings in their honor to the Catechists. MISS R. M. C., Batesville, Ind.

IN THE SCHOOL OF CHRIST

The kind of life which the Missionary Catechists are trained to lead in order to insure success in their arduous apostolate, very closely resembles that which the Apostles were taught to lead while they were in the company of their Divine Master. It is patterned according to the rules which He Himself laid down for their guidance, and according to which He formed and fashioned them into perfectly responsive and effective instruments for the salvation of souls.

REV. C. M. REMLER, C. M.

Dear Catechists:

We have been trying to economize in order to send something,—in fact, whatever we can,—to you for your praiseworthy work. Our hearts go out to the poor children under your care who certainly are suffering from lack of the barest necessities of life.

May God bless your work and send you many friends who will assist you financially as well as with their prayers.

Mrs. S. R.

He that hath mercy on the poor, lendeth to the Lord; and He will repay him.—Prov. 19, 17.

Rev. Dear Father:

I would like for you to send me a few sample copies of THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST for our young ladies of the Sodality. I am trying to interest them in the laudable work of your Catechists. I am very happy that the Catechists have made a foundation in our diocese at Santa Paula. If I could succeed to find some vocations for you here in Orange County, possibly we might hope to have the Catechists with us some future day.

With best wishes to you and all your associates, I am

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

Rev. F. A. W.

He that despiseth his neighbor, sinneth; but he that sheweth mercy to the poor, shall be blessed.—Prov. 14, 21.

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 _____

VICTORY-NOLL NOTES.

On the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11, eight young ladies were received into our dear Society as Candidates. Rev. Raymond Walsh, S. J., of Cincinnati, Ohio, preached the two day retreat preceding their reception.

The new Candidates are: The Misses Marcellina Montoya of San Antonio, New Mexico; Margaret Harrison of Chicago, Ill.; Leonida Borchelt of Oldenburg, Indiana; Bernadette Doiron of Port Chester, New York; Bridie Sullivan of Chicago, Ill.; Mary Kelly of Chicago, Ill.; Genevieve Grotty of Santa Paula, California and Frances Frohnhofer of Dayton, Ohio.

To Jesus Thru Mary

The surest and safest way to Jesus is through Mary. We therefore beg our dear members of the Confraternity of Mary, Queen of Our Hearts, to never fail in their loving duty of offering themselves daily, without reserve, to Our Immaculate Mother.

Act of Consecration

My Queen, My Mother, I give myself entirely to Jesus, by delivering and consecrating to Thee my body, my soul, my possessions, both exterior and interior, and even the value of all my good actions; leaving to Thee the entire and full right of disposing of me without exception, according to Thy good pleasure, to the greatest glory of God, in time and eternity. Amen.

Prayer to Jesus Living In Mary

Most Sweet Jesus! to commemorate Thy Holy Incarnation and the joyful annunciation of Thy Most Holy Mother, we offer, through the Immaculate Heart of Our Blessed Mother, our heartfelt tribute of love, praise, and devotion in honor of this most sacred Mystery of our Redemption.

In order to save the souls of even the least of Thy little ones, Thou didst leave Thy Heavenly Home, assume our poor, weak human nature, suffer and die upon the Cross.

We love Thee, O Incarnate Word of God, and we would wish to see Thee loved and served by all.



Read Something Worthwhile

By Rev. A. J. Blaufuss

JESUS AND MARY by Rev. A. M. Skelly, O. P. Published by B. Herder Book Co. \$2.00.

This book contains some forty sermons on the greater events of the lives of Jesus and Mary, sixteen of which treat of the Passion. Father Skelly's solidity and trenchant manner, so evident in his spiritual conferences, appear again in these sermons. There is little display of eloquence, florid figures and swinging periods, but a simple, forceful, yet pleasing, presentation of the Divine message.

ACUTE CASES IN MORAL MEDICINE by Rev. E. F. Burke, M. A., Ph. D. MacMillan Book Co., Chicago; \$1.25.

A plain statement of moral principles underlying modern medical practice and operations,—a little handbook for the priest, doctor, and nurse, in fact, for all who attend the sick and dying; splendid suggestions how to assist the soul in absence of the priest. This little volume comes with the generous recommendation of the Ordinary of the diocese of Cleveland.

LIVING WITH THE CHURCH, a handbook of instruction in the Liturgy of the Church, by Dom Otto Haering, O. S. B. Translated by Dom Rembert Bularik, O.S.B. Benziger Bros. \$1.36.

This book, explanatory of the Church's cycle of feasts and fasts is one of the first fruits of the Liturgical Movement. To pray with the Church in her seasons of joy, sorrow and triumph, to understand the why, the when, the how and the what of the solemnities of the Church-year will produce a profound reaction upon the faith, devotion and spiritual life of the faithful.

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

The Missionary Catechist

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

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A Memorable Day

The long-hoped-for day finally arrived;—the day of the blessing of the new church at Anton Chico.

Watching, from day to day, the construction of this church built upon the ruins of the former one which was destroyed by fire almost two years ago, I was reminded of a chapter in the life of St. Hugh. When rebuilding a Cathedral in France, he not only accepted the offerings of his people, but desired that they should do more:—that they offer the work of their hands. He himself became their example and encouragement by working as a laborer among them. This touching incident was repeated at Anton Chico. Father Charrie invited the people to rebuild the church with the labor of their hands. He, too, set the example by working with them, directing and assisting them. Our Lord blessed the sacrifices of these good people and now a beautiful church is again the center of Anton Chico.

On December 15th, at the appointed time, His Grace, Archbishop Daeger, in Pontifical robes, made his way through the great crowd of people to the entrance of the new church. As he walked, his Grace gave his blessing to all there assembled. The exterior of the church was blessed and then His Grace, with the attendants, entered to bless the interior. They were followed by a great number of people carrying lighted candles and acting as Padrinos. The Litany of the Saints was chanted during this ceremony. His Grace then sang a Solemn Pontifical High Mass. Father Roque preached a touching sermon, after which His Grace congratulated the people on the splendid work they had done in rebuilding the church.

After Mass, the blessing of the windows took place. A number of Padrinos with lighted candles stood near each window as it was blessed. The celebration closed with Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament given by His Grace. After the many beautiful ceremonies, His Grace, the Padres and our Sister Catechists from Las Vegas, Santa Rosa and Chaperito enjoyed a dinner at our home.

CATECHIST FRANCES MEYER.

OFF TO THE SHEEP CAMPS

We are very busy with our First Communion classes. There is much to be done and little time in which to do it for soon most of our children will be leaving for the sheep camps. When the "lambing season" arrives, the boys, even those as young as seven years of age, go to take care of the lambs. The splendid co-operation we receive from the parents is making it possible for us to have First Communion day here at Anton Chico, N. M., very early in the season so that few, if any, of our children will be denied the privilege of receiving our dear Lord before they go off to the camps.

CATECHIST M. BODIN.



OVER THE HILLS TO MASS

It is not uncommon for our poor people in New Mexico to walk many miles over rough mountain roads or barren plains at the break of day in order to attend Mass at the nearest Mission church.

SHOW YOUR GRATITUDE TO OUR RISEN SAVIOUR IN A PRACTICAL WAY.

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 Calipatria, California, Box 533.
- 14 Santa Paula, California, 222 8th St.

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

The life of a Missionary Catechist is not a romance, however much it may appear so from a distance. It is a holocaust, a complete sacrifice of all one is or has, a renunciation as complete as that of a martyr. And even more, for the martyr makes a great renunciation once and for all, and the pain and sacrifice are over. But the Missionary Catechist makes her sacrifice from dawn to dark, day after day, year after year, until the sun sets on the far horizon. She sees her duty, accepts it bravely and accomplishes it courageously. She is loyal to herself.



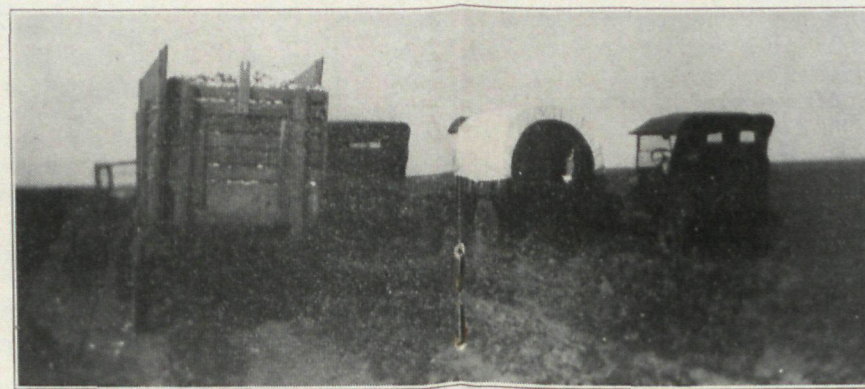
Procession on the Day of the Blessing of the New Church at Anton Chico, N. M.

IN THE HOME FIELD

AGED BUT FERVENT

My news is somewhat belated and out of season, but the incident I am about to relate touched me so deeply that I would like to tell our friends about it.

We spent the two days before Christmas distributing a hundred dollars worth of groceries which were donated by a wholesale grocer. In one of the thirty poor houses where we left an order, we found a poor old lady who was suffering much from the cold and consequently



In the Cotton Fields at Lubbock, Texas

begged for a little oil for her oil-stove. We brought the oil—just enough for the day. We visited her again Christmas day to attend to her needs and while discussing the question of fuel she very simply told us that instead of using the oil we had given her during the day she had burned it to dispel the more penetrating cold of the night while she kept the watch from eleven to twelve Christmas eve in honor of the birth of our Infant Savior.

Catechist S. Renier, Las Vegas, N. M.

AT GARY, INDIANA

During the past week we succeeded in placing two of our Mexican patients in the T. B. Sanatorium;—the one a man of 45, and the other a mother of seven children. The children are young and unable to care for themselves. All our attempts at entering them at the various orphanages have been in vain because of the crowded conditions in these institutions. We are praying to Our Blessed Mother to send some kind-hearted woman to us

"In a tin can over a bonfire in the alley."

She feared we would not help her because she is not Catholic. After verifying the truth of her statements, we gave her a small grocery order. Even though she is not Catholic, for the love of Jesus and Mary, we could not let her little children starve.

Catechist M. Schneider.

THE LAY CATECHIST

In Las Colonias, one of our many out-missions from Holman, N. M., I have a little lay-Catechist. On our first visit there this year, I discovered that none of the children knew any prayers, not even how to make the sign of the Cross—except Juan. We visit this mission only twice a month and I was worried over how these poor children would learn their prayers and a lot of other things so that they might be included in the First Communion class this year. Bright-eyed little Juan came to the rescue. He offered to teach the others their prayers during our absence. On our second visit, imagine my surprise to find that every child could make the sign of the cross and say the Our Father, Hail Mary and Gloria without being prompted. But that wasn't all! They could hardly wait to tell me that they had been saying these prayers every morning and night!

Nor did Juan stop there. He is still helping the children with their Catechism and, what is more important, he is keeping alive an active interest in religion and our classes.

Catechist C. Brohman.

St. Anthony's Boys

After the eight o'clock Mass, the Sunday morning quietude of Cerrillos was disturbed by an unusual amount of excitement in and about the Catechists' home. Would you like to know the cause and perhaps join in the merrymaking? Judging from the sounds, you would surmise that every boy in Cerrillos was on the scene; indeed very few were missing. Of course, everyone, except the boys, had forgotten that this was the monthly Communion Sunday for the St. Anthony's Boys Club and that there was to be a hike to a nearby mountain Mass. There was much discussion over the important matter of deciding who should carry the wieners and a solemn request that Catechist would not permit Jose and Howard to carry the apples as they could scarcely be expected to prove trustworthy with such a charge. Catechist was not a little disturbed when she overheard Alex ask, as he pointed to a huge sack which Lupe carried: "Is dem all the buns we got?"

Finally every one was ready and at the signal a large group of happy lads set out on an excursion to the mountains. Their first halt was at the church where they made a brief visit to the Blessed Sacrament, Our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. St. Anthony's Boys are being trained to make these little visits each time they pass the church, and though they sometimes forget, Our Lord is greeted many times during the day. We hope that they will continue this practice after they grow up, remaining true children of St. Anthony and a pride and joy to this other son of St. Francis, a zealous Franciscan missionary, who labors in their midst for the love of Christ Crucified, minding not the blinding sand storm, the steepness of the mountain road nor the poverty of his flock.

The boys crossed the arroyo and were soon on the road leading to "Rainbow Pork," a natural assemblage of high, majestic rocks, tinted with rainbow hues and overlooking a pleasant, pine-dotted valley. Ere we arrived, the boys were seated in groups on the highest rocks accessible, casting longing looks toward the sack of buns which began to look very, very small! A large, juicy wiener on the end of a stick is a most tantalizing distraction to any boy who is trying to say grace; but much more so to some of our lads whose fare at home seldom includes more than frijolas and tortillas. After a while we ceased to worry about the buns, because they had all disappeared, and enjoyed an exciting baseball game. Long live the St. Anthony's Boys Club. CATECHIST J. MURPHY.

HELPING THE SICK

Some time ago we found a sixty year old lady out on a very poor ranch near Slaton, Texas, who was in need of our aid. She was suffering tortures for she could not eat, sleep or lie down. We suspected that she had a tumor and made arrangements to have her taken to Slaton. There the good Sisters of Mercy took her into their hospital. Our kind friend, Doctor Cross, went to Slaton to perform the operation. He removed a thirty-three pound tumor, the largest, he said, that he ever saw. Thanks to Jesus and Mary, the poor woman is getting along very well.

Catechist Campbell, Lubbock, Texas.



"WE WAN'NA MEET THE CATECHISTS, TOO!"

These little fellows walked until they found themselves lost, seeking the Catechists, "who," they heard tell, "loved all children very, very much."

SEND AN OFFERING TO THE CATECHISTS TO HELP THEM CARE FOR GOD'S POOR CHILDREN.

Mary's Little Helpers



Dear Little Helpers:

First Communion time is getting closer and closer—have you been saving your pennies during Lent to buy First Communion outfits? If you haven't, you better hurry!

Did you ever see an ice cave? If you didn't I think you would like to hear about the one I saw out near Grants, New Mexico. There is a place about twenty-five miles from Grants where the ground looks as black as coal. It really isn't ground, but more like cinders or clinkers. You know what the clinkers look like that you get out of the furnace, don't you? Well, that is just what the ground looks like there. It has a good name in Spanish—it is called Mal Pais—which means Bad Land, because, you see, nothing will grow there. We walked, or rather crawled over these clinkers, and we had to be mighty careful too. Just one fall would give you a skinned knee or a skinned face, because the edges are very sharp. We finally reached a place up in the mountains that looked just like the rest of the black cinders, but here and there we spied a clump of pine trees. It seemed remarkable to find trees in such ground. All of a sudden we came to an immense hole right in the clinkers. When you look down into this hole it looks as deep as a big room. There is a ladder leading down into the hole, so we crawled down. When we got to the bottom we found solid ice, so thick that you could never dig through it, and o-oh, it was cold! It was last summer, too, when I was there, and not in the wintertime. The inside walls of the cave are black as coal, just like the clinkers on the outside. When you look upwards some of the clinkers shine like black diamonds. The floor of the cave would make a fine skating rink. Then if a person wants a little more excitement he can cross the ice and there is another hole which leads to an underground passageway. This passageway is

supposed to lead down to the outside of the ground, and the whole passageway is all ice, too. We didn't go through this because we didn't know what we might find there. One little boy tried it once, they told us, and he got stuck some place on the ice and the people had an awful time trying to get him out. We did cross over to look into the passageway and all we could see was ice. The opening looked as though it led straight down into the ground. It was so beautiful there that I didn't want to leave. But then, that is just one of the many beautiful things to be found in New Mexico.

Adios, WEE WILLIE WINKLES.

We have two new names for our new Burse:—The Holy Childhood and The Little Angels. If any more of our Little Helpers want to suggest a name for their Burse, they must send them in before next month. We are going to put all the names in the magazine next month, and let you vote on the name. So get busy and tell us what name you would like!

We enrolled one hundred and seventy-six new Little Helpers last month. Isn't that fine, Little Helpers? But we want many, many more. I am sure if you tell the little girls and boys in school about Mary's Little Helpers, they will want to be Little Helpers, too.

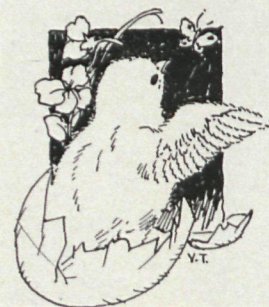
I know a happy little boy
Who sings the whole day long;
Listen while I tell you
The nature of his song.

"I'm saving all my pennies,"
He sings and shouts with glee,
"So I can send a dollar
And name our Burse, you see."

Some of the things a Little Helper should not forget:

Wee Willie Winkles First Communion Outfit Fund.

Pennies for the New Burse.



Subscriptions to The Missionary Catechist.

New Little Helpers.

To pray for the Mission children.

MISSIONARY PATSY

Once upon a time there was a little girl and her name was Patsy. Patsy lived out in the country and she had seven little brothers and sisters. Patsy's family was very poor, because, you see, Patsy's father had been sick for a long, long time, and he could not work. But one day Patsy heard that there were little boys and girls in the Missions, who were also very poor. But Patsy decided that they were lots poorer than she was, because even if she did have to wear a ragged dress, and sometimes she did not have anything to eat for a whole day, she was rich. Do you know why Patsy felt this way? Because Patsy knew all about Our Dear Lord and His Blessed Mother. And not only that, but Patsy received Our Dear Lord into her heart in Holy Communion very often and she felt sorry for these little children who did not know about God. So Patsy made up her mind to be a little missionary. She couldn't send clothes or money to the Missions, but she could pray and ask other people to help. She offered up her Masses and Holy Communion for the Missions. And everybody that Patsy met, she told about the poor boys and girls in the Missions who didn't know about God. Soon many people heard Patsy's story and sent food and clothes to the Missions.

Do you know why I am telling you this little story? To show you that even if you cannot send clothes or food to the Missions, or if you do not have any pennies to save, you can be a Little Helper by telling your friends about the girls and boys out in New Mexico who are poorer than you are; and also by praying for them.

Are you ready for a new mite box, Little Helpers?

BOOST MARY'S LITTLE HELPERS!

The Associate Catechists of Mary

THANK YOU!

Gary, Indiana.

Dear Catechist Supervisor:

I am writing a letter for all the girls in our sewing class to thank all the ladies that sent this pretty cloth for us to sew. There are about eighteen girls in our class and each one is making a pretty dress. The girls are from ten to twelve years of age. Three of the girls have finished their dresses; now we are going to learn to cut our own dresses. All of us are making a patch quilt out of the scraps of our dresses and other pieces we have. Catechist is giving a prize for the best one. We don't have enough cloth for all the quilts, but we hope we will find enough scraps.

From one of the girls who likes to sew.

JENNIE HUERTA.

Rev. and dear Father:

Enclosed please find check for the Catechist Supervisor to be used to help poor sick children in the Missions.

Very truly yours, MRS. H. J. M.

Are you wearing an A. C. M. pin? If you aren't, send for one because you will like it. It costs only fifty cents.

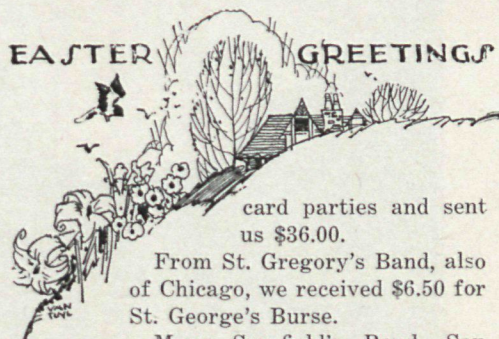
Through the kind co-operation and encouragement of Father Schoeper and Father Raycroft of St. Anthony's Parish, Detroit, Mich., we have succeeded in organizing our first A. C. M. Band in Detroit. Two of our Catechists were invited to be present at the Young Ladies' Sodality meeting to tell the girls about our work and the needs of our Missions, and to explain The Associate Catechists of Mary. As a result, St. Anthony's Mission Band was organized with approximately seventy-five charter members. Although this Band has been organized less than a month, the members have already started their Mission work in earnest by purchasing a sewing machine, equipping a sewing room, and are now working on First Communion outfits. In addition to this, those who prefer to play cards have organized card clubs to support a St. Anthony Burse. The members also voted to pay dues of ten cents a month, which is also to be applied to their Burse.

BAND ACTIVITIES

St. Luke's Band of Chicago has added \$50.00 to St. Paschal's Burse.

The Ave Maria Club, Chicago, had several successful

EASTER GREETINGS



card parties and sent us \$36.00.

From St. Gregory's Band, also of Chicago, we received \$6.50 for St. George's Burse.

Mary Sarsfield's Band, San Francisco, continues to send \$15.00 a month to support a Catechist.

Mrs. M. F. O'Connor has organized a Band in Parsons, Kan., to provide infants' clothing. This new Band has been named after St. Agnes and we feel sure that under this dear little Saint's patronage the Band will continue to grow.

Little Jose was attending his first Valentine party. After playing games with the other children and apparently having a good time, he crept up to Catechist and whispered in a shy little voice, "Catechist, please may I have this to keep always?" Catechist looked into his little band and saw a tiny, red, candy heart. "Surely," replied Catechist, "do you want to keep it as a remembrance of the party?" "No," replied Jose, "but you see it looks like the heart of God."



March, 1931, marks the seventh anniversary of the St. Mary's Mission Society of Fort Wayne, Ind. This Mission Band was organized by Rt. Rev. Msgr. John H. Oechtering, and is now under the able supervision of the Rev. George Hasser. At the present time there are 252 members. During the past year besides sending \$300.00 to support a Catechist, this zealous mission band sent fourteen large boxes of clothing to our different Missions; donated \$37.65 for medicines; supplied First Communion outfits for one Mission and donated 380 pairs of stockings. The above picture shows a group of the most active members of St. Mary's Band and the Rev. Hasser. Mrs. T. Ankenbruch, who is the promoter of this faithful band, deserves much credit for her good work.

ANY POTS OR PANS?

Have you too many pots or pans in your kitchen—any that might happen to be in the way? If you have, our Clinic at Las Vegas, New Mexico, would be only too glad to have them. We are going to start a cooking class at the clinic to teach mothers how to prepare food for their sick children and we need kitchen utensils before we can start.

The clinic also needs white outing flannel for babies. Many times when the poor mothers bring their sick babies for treatment, the babies are not sufficiently clothed and the Catechists are trying to provide at least little outing flannel gowns for these poor babies.

A few days before Christmas a little boy four years old happened to be at one of our Missions while some of our friends brought some toys. He discovered a little old wagon that looked as if it had been used many years. He asked Catechist if he might play with it for just a little while; he pulled the wagon back and forth, up and down without ever stopping. Finally when it grew dark his mother came after him. Still he could not give up the wagon and only after Catechist promised that he would get the wagon for Christmas could he be induced to part with his cherished treasure and go home.

Are your sodality meetings as interesting as you should like them? Wouldn't you like to bring more life into these meetings? You can do so. Get your sodality interested in helping the Missions. Adopt one of our Missions. That does not mean that you have to support the entire Mission-Center. It merely means that you will have your own Mission to work for. If you cannot have card parties, sew for the poor little children. Or have stocking showers, or first aid showers. There are many ways in which you can help with very little work or cost. If you are interested, write to me and I shall be glad to give you suggestions.

ANOTHER GOOD SUGGESTION!

Keep a mite box handy, and when your friends call, ask them to drop a penny or two in. One of our good friends who is a doctor in Chicago, keeps a mite box on his desk for the convenience of his patients. In a short time \$7.00 was collected in his mite box.



SPANISH FOLK-POETRY IN THE SOUTHWEST

By F. S. Curtis, Jr.

The Spanish conquest of the Southwestern part of what is now the United States occurred at a time when literature in Spain was at the height of its most glorious period; the conquerors were to an amazing degree men of education, of learning, and of literary appreciation. The whole period of the Spanish conquest in America was productive of a literature of its own, both north and south of the Isthmus; and throughout the whole of it we find a vivid, fiery life, an exaltation of spirit, a wealth of applied living philosophy, a humor—now grim, now delicate, now sprightly—and a spirit of iron determination, all of which blended to form a unique literary atmosphere. Steeped in the great tradition of Spanish literature—then a living force—acquainted with the best that the world could offer, these conquerors lived in an atmosphere of talk and thought fully worthy of the great days of Elizabeth in England. These men made the Southwest; here they died, and here their descendants, shut off by hostile Indians from the rest of the world, and even from one another for more than two hundred years, not only speak approximately the language of Spain in the Sixteenth and seventeenth centuries but also think the same thoughts and use the same literary forms as Spaniards of the great period.

"He that despiseth the poor, reproacheth his Maker."—Prov. 17, 5.

Your LIFE SUBSCRIPTION—\$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.

Let us include your intentions in our perpetual Novena in honor of Our Blessed Lady of Victory.

Society of Missionary Catechists,

Huntington, Indiana, Box 109

Dear Catechists:

I enjoy THE MISSIONARY CATECHIST very much and desire to renew my own subscription and subscribe for a friend whose name and address are:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Enclosed please find \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____



NOVENA

Do you wish to join in the perpetual novena our Catechists are making at Victory-Noll in honor of Our Blessed Lady of Victory? Then send in your name as soon as possible. The spiritual and temporal blessings which you beg of our Blessed Mother, will be included in the intentions offered to Our Blessed Lady of Victory.

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

Name _____

Address _____

Youngstown, Ohio.

Dear Rev. J. J. Sigstein:

I am enclosing herewith my dollar for the month's contribution to the 2500 CLUB. One place that I love to give my money is to the Missionary Catechists because they are so grateful for even small amounts, and I always know that my dollar will do a dollar's worth of good.

With best wishes for an increase in your noble work, I remain,

Faithfully yours, H. M. S.

"We brought nothing into this world; certainly we can carry nothing out."—1 Tim. 6, 7.

Cicero, Ill.

Dear Father:

Enclosed find a money order for \$3.00 to pay up my dues for the 2500 Club. I feared I could not continue sending a dollar each month as I have done in the past, but God has been very good to us so. Please pray for me and my children, and with His help I shall be able to do Sincerely, A. M.

"Be ye kind to one another; merciful, forgiving one another, even as God hath forgiven you in Christ."—Eph. 4, 2.

Our ANNUITY PLAN is safe and sound. You will never regret investing in it. Start your investment today. Amounts as low as \$50.00 are accepted. Interest: 6% payable semi-annually. We send full particulars free upon request.

"Give to the Most High according to what He hath given to thee."—Eccl. 35, 12.

"He that stoppeth his ear against the cry of the poor, shall also cry himself and shall not be heard."—Prov. 21, 13.

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

The Pioneer Missionaries

Charles F. Lummis



To pretend to tell the story of the Spanish pioneering of the Americas without special attention to the missionary pioneers, would be very poor justice and very poor history. In this, even more than in other qualities, the conquest was unique. The Spaniard not only found and conquered, but converted. His religious earnestness was not a whit behind his bravery. As has been true of all nations that have entered new lands,—and as we ourselves later entered this,—his first step had to be to subdue the savages who opposed him. But as soon as he had whipped these fierce

grown-children he began to treat them with a great and noble mercy,—a mercy none too common even now, and in that cruel time of the whole world almost unheard of. He never robbed the brown first Americans of their homes, nor drove them on and on before him; on the contrary, he protected and secured to them by special laws the undisturbed possession of their lands for all time. It is due to the generous and manly laws made by Spain three hundred years ago, that our most interesting and advanced Indians, the Pueblos, enjoy today full security in their lands;

while nearly all others (who never came fully under Spanish dominion) have been time after time ousted from lands our government had solemnly given to them.

That was the beauty of an Indian policy which was ruled, not by politics, but by the unvarying principle of humanity. The Indian was first required to be obedient to his new government. He could not learn obedience in everything all at once; but he must at least refrain from butchering his new neighbors. As soon as he learned that lesson,

he was insured protection in his rights of home and family and property. Then, as rapidly as such a vast work could be done by an army of missionaries who devoted their lives to the dangerous task, he was educated to citizenship and Christianity. It is almost impossible for us, in these quiet days, to comprehend what it was to convert a savage half-world. In our part of North America there have never been such hopeless tribes as the Spaniards met in Mexico and other southern lands. Never did any other people anywhere complete such a stupendous missionary work.

When the Rains Come

Dos Palos, California.

The early spring rainy season is now here again and it is a time of suffering for our poor people in the cotton camps. Many of the huts are surrounded with mud and water. The streets of the camps, which are not streets at all but only dirt roads, are flooded. Unless you are properly clad, it is almost impossible to walk any distance without getting your feet wet. Consequently, many of our people are sick with colds and fever. The men have not worked for several weeks and there is no place of recreation where they can idle away the hours. The homes in which they live are comfortless shacks.

In some camps, the wood and water must be hauled from the nearest city and often many families are obliged to do without these barest of necessities, for a considerable time. The other day we visited a small camp and found families suffering from the cold and dampness because they had not a piece of wood with which to build a fire. I was especially touched at sight of one poor old mother who might easily have passed for the personification of "Want" as she sat shivering in a corner with a thin shawl drawn around her bony shoulders.

In one of the camps I noticed that out of my entire class only three children wore shoes. The rest had waded through the mud with bare feet. And it was a chilly day. I had on my sweater, cape and goloshes. All the while I taught, I prayed, that upon our return to the Mission Center, I might be able to secure a pair of shoes for each member of my class.

The road to another camp was impassible except on foot, so we left our car parked at least a half-mile from our destination and waded through the deep mud. We found the camp surrounded with mud and water. We conducted Catechism class on the top of a wood pile because that was the only dry place available.

At Stevenson Camp we gathered together a group of young men who have never approached the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion. These boys, on the threshold of manhood, were neglected in their childhood and later, wandered from city to city seeking employment with no opportunity of being instructed in the truths of our Holy Faith. Unless we are able, with the help of Our Blessed Mother, to interest and instruct them, who will have pity on their spiritual poverty?

Pray for our poor at Dos Palos!

CATECHIST KOZLA.

Most Indians and savage peoples have religions as unlike ours as are their social organizations. There are few tribes that dream of one Supreme Being. Most of them worship many gods,—“gods” whose attributes are very like those of the worshipper; “gods” as ignorant and cruel and treacherous as he. It is a ghastly thing to study these religions and to see what dark and revolting qualities ignorance can deify. Before the missionaries could make these savages listen to—much less understand—Christianity, they had the dangerous task of proving this paganism worthless.

A CONTRIBUTION TO OUR WORK

WILL IT PAY?

The immediate response of the modern investor is:

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

AND WILL IT PAY?

These are questions WE delight to answer:—

It costs whatever you want to put into
Missionary Work:—\$1.00 or \$5.00 or \$500.00!

{ { All amounts received are applied directly } }
{ { to our labors among the poor and neglected } }

IT WILL PAY -----

not only in the personal satisfaction and peace that comes from promoting the welfare of humanity, spiritually and corporally, but in the blessings that proceed from HIM who instituted the LAW of LOVE AND CHARITY!

Is it worth considering?

SOCIETY OF MISSIONARY CATECHISTS

Huntington, Indiana