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**The Society for the Propagation of the Faith**  
 The REV. JOHN S. RANDALL  
 DIRECTOR

**Iceland and the Faith**  
 With American troops stationed in Iceland the interest of our people is turned toward this sovereign state formerly united to Denmark. For their information it may be stated that this treeless island, which is approximately the same size as Kentucky, has neither fortifications nor armed forces of its own. Up to the present time a national deficit was unknown, and because of its volcanic origin the whole island is underlain with boiling geysers and springs. These supply heat and hot water throughout the country, being piped into the capital city Reykjavik.

So much for the natural history of the island. However, there is a Catholic history of Iceland very little known to Americans. The country may be said to owe its colonization its adoption of Christianity and its renunciation of Catholicity to the Norwegians. The hardy Norse navigators discovered the island in the 10th century at which time Christianity was introduced. By the year 1000 Catholicism had become the state religion.

The advent of Lutheranism occurred in the 16th century under Christian III, king of Norway and Denmark and by the same persecutions as elsewhere succeeded in killing the spark of faith for three centuries. As a matter of fact in 1855 there was not a single Catholic on the island. Today however there has been a change.

When His Excellency the Most Rev. Martin Moutenberg, S.M.M. was appointed Vicar Apostolic in 1929 there was a handful of Catholics; this year when the beloved Bishop was called to his reward he was mourned not only by his Catholic flock but by every Lutheran. Now the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary are in charge of the hospital at Stykkesholmur and the hardy folk of the island are receiving a new concept of charity and service.

**Our Lady of the Snows**  
 Our Lady like her Son, reigns in every corner of the world. It is one of her greatest tributes that men everywhere call upon her to protect them and to be their advocate in Heaven. For just such reasons the feast of "Our Lady of the Snows" is celebrated each year in a village known as Schwarzsee one of a cluster of valley villages situated at the foot of the proud Matterhorn in the Swiss Alps. The Alpine roses and other typical blossoms of the mountains adorn the chapel where Mass is celebrated seven times on this feast day, and the familiar legend, ever appealing is retold year after year.

It seems that around the year 1500, A.D. two shepherds having become lost in a storm, found themselves in great danger on their way across the Theodule Pass. The two men were miraculously saved by the Holy Virgin who guided them to safety. As an offering of thanks they erected the chapel to her. It is said that many a young girl has come to Schwarzsee to pray for her loved one and legend has it that the Holy Virgin has always listened to supplications offered with fervor and sincerity.

**Seeing the World Go By**  
 If one really wishes to see the world go by he would do well to pay a visit to the National Office of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Just to quote one day's list of visitors a young Korean priest, Rev. Father Youn, graduate of the Sorbonne of Paris, arrived first. He was followed by the Salesian Rev. Humbert Delmaso, veteran of 31 years of missionary service in China. Before he left His Excellency, Most Rev. John Bernard Kevenhoester, Vicar Apostolic of the Bahama Islands, arrived. To complete the party, the Glacier Priest, the renowned Father Hubbard was announced. From East and West, North and South, they come knowing always that the Society for the Propagation of the Faith is the missions' sole hope at the present time.

Penitential tears are a kind of Baptism, with this difference, that in Baptism the water comes from without and in penance from within.—Saint Bernard.

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**Catholic Near East Welfare Association**  
 Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, D. D., President  
 Rev. Bryan J. McEntegart, L.L.D., National Secretary  
 Rev. John J. Corrigan, Assistant Secretary

**WHY WE ASK**

A Chapel means that the poor people in the mission lands can visit Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament; have a place to go to hear Holy Mass and receive the Sacraments. Prospective converts can come to hear of Christ and His death upon the cross to redeem all men.

You can build a mission chapel in the Near East for as little as Five Hundred Dollars. The Holy Father will have it built where most needed and greatest good can be accomplished. The donor may name the chapel.

**THE PRIEST AND THE DYING**  
 The month of All Souls should remind us of our dead. And as we recall them, we naturally reflect upon the circumstances of their death. We recall the last illness, the efforts made to give every possible comfort during the gradual but certain approach of death.

The great consolation we have in the vocation of the Priest. His daily conversation has encouraged the very patient way he gathered our loved ones to meet death with hope and confidence in God's merciful judgment.

In memory we recall the priest administering the last rites. He heard the confession of the one dying and gave absolution. He brought Holy Communion and then anointed the weakening body by administering the Sacrament of Extreme Unction. Finally he gave the Last Blessing.

As we recall all this, we can appreciate how God in His Church provides for his children who are about to stand in judgment. Indeed we should be grateful to God for His Priesthood.

This Association is training young men to become priests. To give these aids, comforts and Sacraments to the poor peoples in the missionary lands of the Near East. Each young aspirant spends six years in the major seminary in preparation for ordination. It costs One Hundred Dollars a year for each student Six Hundred Dollars for the entire course.

We ask you to help us to support these young men who will one day be Priests and spend their lives doing good for souls who will prepare people for God's judgment. You can support one of these students for a year, or sponsor one for the entire course. Do so in thanksgiving for God's gift of His Priesthood. Do so in petition that you shall have the ministrations of a priest when you are called to judgment.

**DID YOU?**  
 Some people during the month of All Souls have a habit of having the Gregorian Masses offered for a deceased relative or friend. But you? The custom of having Mass offered every day for three days for a departed soul is the common practice of religious orders. Write for our booklet explaining the custom free.

**LONELY MISSIONARY**  
 The priest who goes to the missions to work for God and souls must leave home, parents and friends. He naturally suffers the pangs of loneliness being so far away from home. He is very much helped and encouraged when someone thinks of him. Ask one of our mission priests to offer Mass for your intention.

**PICTURE OF SACRED HEART**  
 You can place a picture of the Sacred Heart in one of our mission chapels or only a Five Dollar donation will buy a large picture of the Sacred Heart in the Near East.

**STILL WAITING**  
 Checking over membership, we find that some members have not answered our letter asking a renewal of membership in our Mission Society. We are hoping and praying. Dues are One Dollar a year.

**OUR SCHOOLS**  
 Five Dollars will support a child in our mission schools for six months. It is impossible to admit all the children who apply because we have not the means. Help support our mission schools.

**TWO DOLLARS**  
 If you give Two Dollars you will support a missionary for nearly three days.

**EVERY GIFT HELPS**  
 Some people think we will never miss the little they could give. We rarely receive a large donation. The good done in the missions is possible because of many small donations. Your little will help.

**CANDLES**  
 You can supply a mission chapel with candles for a year by a donation of Eight Dollars.

Send all communications to  
**Catholic Near East Welfare Association**  
 480 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York, N. Y.