

Society for Propagation of the Faith

The REV. JOHN S. RANDALL, Director

50 Chestnut St. Home - Foreign Catholic Missions Stone 4013

The Children Need Shoes

We are sure that if it were possible for friends of the mis-

sions to receive personally such a letter of thanks and gratitude as this one from Sister Mary Austin, R.S.M., they would have a keener appreciation of the many ways a dollar must be "stretched" by the missionaries.

Writing from Demerara in British Guiana, Sister begins: "On May seventh, a communication from the Royal Bank of Canada nearly gave me heart failure. Down here, a letter from

the Bank is something unusual! But when I opened the letter and found your check for the Leprosy Asylum I was sure that the cardiac attack would be precipitated.

"For the men and women both, shoes were the big item of need. Of course, there were little gifts of socks for the men and crocheting needles and cotton for the women, but they were all really in need of mosquito boots—shoes that come up almost to the knee and protect the poor folks from the insects which are swarming in clouds at this particular season. The children, too, were in need, begging not only for shoes but for all kinds of clothing. They long to get things other than those given by the Administration, for the obvious reason that institution clothes are always alike. Funds were also reserved for sick diet, when a patient becomes too sick to consume regulation diet it is worth your life to get extras. So you provided a little "sinking fund" for each department which will cover this need this along with the things mentioned above.

"Thank you for your great goodness to us. You not only provide food, clothing, and medicine for the patients but you give joy and courage and fresh incentive to your fellow-countrywomen working here. Just to see your magnificent generosity in those dreadful days makes each of us feel that she too has good reason to make more and greater sacrifices. Thanks many, many times over, and if you should ever have any funds to dispense to the sweetest black, brown, white, tan, yellow, and cream-colored orphans, please don't forget a lumbering old woman who loves her boys dearly."

Christ Lights the Arctic Night

Father James Dunleavy, O.M.I., who spent a part of the few years of his priesthood in the Arctic missions, wrote in a magazine article just before his death: "The sun, which makes this world such a pleasant place to live in, deserts the Eskimos for three months of each year. For almost ten months of the year the country is a vast desert of ice and snow and during this period the thermometer drops at times to 60° below zero. For days squalls of snow pellets blot out the sky, sting the face, freeze the eyelashes together, and threaten to annihilate man and beast.

"During these winter months it is impossible for the Eskimo to go to the missionary. Therefore, the missionary goes to the Eskimo. Clad in native garb and accompanied by his guide, he sets out by dogsled to make the rounds of the Eskimo camps, scattered over an area of several hundred square miles.

Father Dunleavy concluded: "considering the toll in suffering and hardships which are the price of Eskimo missions, some Catholics may wonder if they are worthwhile. The answer to this objection was given by the Pope of the Mission, the late Pius XI. He told Bishop Turquetil, O.M.I., founder of the Hudson's Bay Mission, to send his Oblates to the end of the earth, even if there be but a single soul there to receive the Gospel of Eternal Life."

Spiritual Life or Death

From Banguelo, where the White Fathers are laboring in North Rhodesia, we learn that the situation of the missions is desperate. Bishop Roy writes: "Not only the work of the native priesthood and the spread of the Faith among the pagans is threatened but this whole poor mission is in danger of crumbling down. The help which used to come from France, Holland, and Belgium is completely cut off. No news comes even from our families. We do not know whether they are dead or alive. Unless we get assistance immediately, we face disaster for all the missions here. I will have to call my missionaries to one centre and live as best we can until after the war. Our 92,754 Catholics live in 2,741 villages spread over a wide area. If our missionaries or catechists cannot, for lack of means, visit them periodically, there will be a great loss of souls. What a tragedy to have to abandon so many thousands of youngsters to all the evils of surrounding paganism! It's a question of spiritual life or death for them all."

There are only seven 13th century round churches remaining in Denmark. Built to serve also as refuges from piratical invaders in medieval times.

Catholic Near East Welfare Association

Registration

During the summer our missionaries register children for school. They accept as many as possible. It costs Five Dollars a child for a half year. Will you sponsor the Christian Education of a poor child for a half year or longer?

CHEERFUL NEWS FOR LONELY MISSIONARIES

The life of a missionary is a hard one. Away from home and friends, he lives amid strange people, in distant lands, in isolated villages sharing the poverty of his people. His days are filled with many difficulties, sacrifices, and hard work. When away from home, how we long to receive letters and our home paper. We read them with pleasure and enjoyment. The men in service have taught us this truth. They constantly ask for letters from home, for local papers and periodicals.

Imagine then how the lonely missionary longs for a periodical or paper written in his native language. To bring cheer to the mission priests in Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Iran and Iraq, a religious review is to be published in their native language—Arabic.

This publication is to be entitled, "You are the Salt of the Earth." Its purpose is to inform, to cheer, and to encourage these heroes of God. One missionary hearing of the project, wrote: "The news comes of a breath from heaven. What a pleasure to look forward to! It will give that inspiration often needed, when one is cut off from the company of fellow priests and folks at home."

Only lack of funds threatens the abandonment of this plan. It will cost about Fifty Dollars to ensure a monthly issue. Six Hundred Dollars will guarantee its publication and mailing for a year. Please send a donation—large or small.

The grateful prayers of the priests, who labor in difficult and discouraging missionary fields, will reward our readers who respond to this appeal.

A GREAT HELP

Some people send Ten Dollars a year for the support of our young men studying to become missionary priests. Others send a Dollar a month as members of our Student Support Club. Will you join one of these two groups? Your contribution will be a great help. You know many little donations can do much.

ON THE ALTAR

A Crucifix and two Candelsticks, Altar Linens and Mass Book can be donated to a mission chapel for Thirty-two Dollars.

DID YOU REMEMBER?

Some time ago, we appealed for help for the Fathers of the Congregation of St. Paul. In order to provide food for their hungry people, they had to suspend all other work. As the Superior wrote: "It is doubly hard to do missionary work when the people are in need of the essentials of life." If you have not given a cent to aid these intrepid men, we ask you again to do so. One, Two or Five Dollars will be a great help. Send a donation today.

DAY'S SUPPORT

When you send a Dollar, you support a missionary for a day! By support we mean, not only the means to live, but also to keep busy about his mission.

A REQUISITE

Two Mass Candles must burn on the altar when Mass is offered. It costs about Eight Dollars a year to supply a mission chapel with candles for Mass and other devotions. Make this gift to a mission chapel. The candles will burn for your intentions.

FOR OUR BOYS

Why not enroll a relative or friend who is in the armed forces of our country, in our Association? He will share in the good works of our missionaries and in Fifteen Thousand Masses offered every year for our members. Membership offering is One Dollar a year.

MASS OF PETITION

Ask our missionaries to offer Holy Mass that God will protect you during your vacation when so many dangers to health of soul and body are present.

A BEAUTIFUL GIFT

Every chapel should have a Ciborium. That is a vessel from which the priest distributes Holy Communion. Ten Dollars will purchase a suitable Ciborium for one of our mission chapels.

FAMILY ENROLLMENT

We have a Family Membership in our Association. A family is a husband, wife and children, or, father, mother, sisters and brothers. Family Membership offering is Five Dollars a year. Have your family share the rich spiritual benefits of our missionary work.

Catholic Near East Welfare Association
480 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York, N. Y.

The World's Outstanding Figure

HIS HOLINESS, POPE PIUS XII

We are at the present time observing the Silver Episcopal Jubilee of His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, the two hundred and sixty-second occupant of the Throne of the Fisherman. Hopefully our society rent by war, looks to him in this hour of darkness for the spiritual direction which alone can restore to it health and peace. While he is in his own right a man of extraordinary character and attainment, his position as the leader of three hundred and fifty million Catholics spread throughout every country of the globe makes him the most important figure in the world today.

A short biographical study of the reigning Pope has been issued in order that all—Catholics and non Catholics, grown ups and children, the ordinary reader and the student—may learn the highlights of his career and appreciate his work for humanity. In content the book is especially adapted for school work, while its attractive format makes it a most appropriate gift for many occasions.

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