Holy Childhood Association

Rev. John S. Randall
DIRECTOR

Dear Boys and Girls:

Once again our Holy Childhood mailbag is bulging and fairly bursting at the seams with your letters telling of your mission work. We always enjoy hearing from you—so do not hesitate to write at any time and let us know what you are doing in mission work, what you are studying about the missions and the fact that you are praying for the missionaries very often.

In connection with praying for the missions, may I call to mind the particular mission intention for February. It should interest you very much and I am looking particularly to the boys and girls to carry out the Holy Father's wishes in appealing for prayers for this intention. He asks us this month to pray for the conversion of pagan children in mission schools.

There were more than four million boys and girls in schools of Catholic missions at the outbreak of the war. Seventy-six thousand teachers were engaged in these schools. Pagan children are welcomed in the mission schools. There is always the hope that the good example of the teachers and the Christian boys and girls will win their interest in our holy Faith. But the grace of conversion must be obtained by prayers and sacrifice. These are our contributions to the missionary cause.

IN THE MAIL

From Boy Scout Cub Billy Moser in Elmira comes the request for an African baby. She is to be named after the music teacher, Sister Sylvia, who is also director of the Boys' Choir. You will be interested to know how Billy earned this money for his adoption. He earned $3.00 by selling scrap to a foundry. The rest he saved by not going to the movies. Many thanks, Billy, and good luck and success in your Scout work.

NOTE: Billy is carrying out the slogan which appeared in The Shield magazine, For Uncle Sam the Salvaged Things; to Missions What the Salvage Brings, and Uncle Sammy Gets the Tin, the Missions What the Tin Brings In.

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Next we heard from St. Francis de Sales School, Geneva. Sister enclosed a check for $34.66 for dues. We are deeply grateful to the boys and girls who were so interested in promoting the work of the Holy Childhood, for you know that is the purpose to which the dues are put.

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To celebrate the month of March by an act in honor of St. Joseph, the boys and girls of the Third Grade of Sacred Heart School, Rochester, have ransomed a little Negro baby from Selma and asked that he be given the name Joseph. Indeed, boys and girls, we shall see that you receive the certificate that you may post it during the month of March.

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To our fund for the mission orphanages from the sale of Christmas Seals we add $4.50 from St. Vincent's School, Corning. This will be most welcome now when the mission orphanages are crowded to overflowing.

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Blessed Sacrament School surprised us with the ransom of SIX babies at one time. The Seventh Grade, Room 20, has to its credit three adoptions from Selma, Alabama, John Francis, Joseph Thomas, Frances Paula. The Fifth Grade, Room 14, has chosen two Chinese babies, John Thomas Aloysius and Mary Agnes, while the First Grade has asked for a little Chinese baby to be named Doretta. It is not very often that we receive such an overwhelming surprise when we open our morning mail. It will be a pleasure for us to carry out the instructions in Sister's letter.

The Pupils of St. Boniface School celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the priesthood of their Pastor in a beautiful way. They ransomed in his honor a little pagan baby and asked that he be named John Francis. We shall send them post-haste a certificate that they may give their Pastor as a souvenir of their Jubilee Gift. It will please him greatly.

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St. John's, Clyde, pops up again with a ransom from the Third and Fourth Grades. This time it is the ransom of a little boy to be named Raymond Walter. They have chosen a little Indian baby, this time, and have asked Raymond Walter Lawson who worked so hard for the adoption and Dolore Novembrini to act as godparents.

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Our mission workers of Fifth Grade South, St. Andrew's School, sent in the adoption blank with the notation that they wished an African baby to be called Carmelita Loftis and that Regina Cusimano and George Guion are to be godparents. If you read The Shield this month, you noted that the Sisters conduct child welfare centers and orphanages and "workrooms" where the little girls and women are taught to do basketwork, lace-making, embroidery and carpet weaving. We have seen some of their lacework and it is very beautiful. Undoubtedly some day little Carmelita will one day be a pupil of these schools.

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A line in a letter from the Sixth Grade Pupils of St. Alphonsus' School, Auburn, expresses, I am sure, the opinion of all our little mission workers. They write: "We enjoy giving our pennies to such a worthy cause." Their pennies this time go to the ransom of a Chinese baby to be named David Thomas, with Marie Farrely and Edward Walsh as godparents.

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These Ransoms were tucked away in a letter from Sister Hortense of St. Ann's School, Hornell. They come from Grade 3, Grade 7 and Grade 8. The first to be adopted is a Chinese girl, Rose Agnes. Ray Carrig and Mary De Sales Welch will act as godparents. Likewise the Seventh Grade has placed an adoption for a Chinese baby, Francis, with John Dugo and Margaret Raish as godparents. The third is to be an Indian girl for Grade 8, Mary Catherine Patricia with Lucy Gallese and Francis Argentieri as godparents.

Catholic Guidance Given In Current Events By Verein

Spiritual Aid for Men Discharged From Service

How those at home can assist members of the armed forces upon their return from the far-flung battle fronts of the world is indicated clearly in a resolution drawn up by the youth section of the 87th annual convention of the Central Verein, held in St. Louis.

The plan is original with the CV's Youth Movement and has already provoked much favorable comment on the part of priests and laymen. Concerned with arranging for spiritual retreats to be made by soldiers, sailors and marines when they have come back, as many of those wounded in battle are doing even now, the statement affirms:

The young men who are now serving, or will serve, on the battle fronts of the world will not return to us the same as they left. They will return more mature and more experienced, with the memory of hardship and suffering, temptation and the occasions of sin. Certain among them will return wounded, both physically and spiritually.

Even now, some members of the nation's fighting forces are coming back from the scene of battle, wounded by enemy shot and shell. The question naturally arises: what are we going to do for these young men? What will be our policy in helping them?

We urgently recommend they make a spiritual retreat upon their return home. The solitude, the curative properties of spiritual comfort, the Sacraments and their life-giving effects will combine to give back to them a proper perspective of life and things, will clear their minds of those things best forgotten.

Concerning the means whereby this suggestion can be made possible, we propose first, frequent contact and constant interest on the part of those on the home front, and secondly, the practice and realization of the recommendations of our resolution, "Catholic Young Men and Post-War Reconstruction," in order to bring about an actually operative Christian society, a tried scheme of life, particularly the recommendation regarding retreats. Practical Christianity of this nature would automatically nullify the danger of our being talkers only, or planners of mere "emergency measures." For ours is the Christian apostolate of realizing the Kingdom of Christ on earth.

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St. Patrick's School, Corning, made us blink when we opened the letter to see a [illegible] check for $[illegible] and the request for Fifteen adoptions. The Sixth Grade must have worked particularly hard for we saw seven [illegible] to its credit: two Japanese boys, Joseph and Gerald; two Chinese girls, Dorothy Marie and Mary Grace; two Negro boys, Edmund William and Joseph Arthur, and a Negro girl, Angeline. The Fourth and Fifth Grades have requested two babies, a Chinese boy, John Edmund, and a Negro boy, Andrew. Mary and Joseph are the names selected by the Third and Fourth Grades for their Chinese girl and [illegible] boy. Three little Chinese babies will thank the First and Second Grades for their adoptions and their names, Joseph, Anthony, John Henry, Agatha Marie. Joseph and Robert Kelly of the Eighth Grade have ransomed a baby in their name and have asked that he be called Robert Joseph. Enclosed with the offering for the adoption was $[illegible] sacrifice money.

And to conclude the report with the assurance that the boys and girls pray daily for the Propagation of the Faith, was a notation that $[illegible] was collected for Christmas seals.

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The Boys and Girls of the Sixth Grade of Sacred Heart School, Rochester, have ransomed a Chinese boy and a Japanese girl naming the boy John and the girl Mary Theresa. It is good to see that the boys and girls showed no partiality in their adoptions.

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A Negro baby is the newly-adopted friend of the Fifth Grade of St. Mary's School, Corning. We are arranging that he will receive the name Martin de Porres at his baptism. The boys and girls have chosen wisely in selecting this Saint as his patron.

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Captain Frank Doyle of Nazareth Hall tells us that they are striving for the hundred-mark before June in the matter of adoptions. If the Fifth Grade teams work as hard as they have they will certainly reach their goal. Captain Doyle reports the adoption of five babies today. David Timothy from China, Martin Porres from Selma, Alabama; John Andrew from the Leper Colony in Hawaii, Mary Agnes from Alaska and George William from Africa. That is indeed a League of Nations in adoptions, bound together by the strong and beautiful tie of a common Faith and all the children of God.

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Peter Anthony is the name of the latest adoption of St. John's School, Clyde. He is to be an Eskimo baby and Peter De Vito and Margaret Salerno are his godparents. The boys and girls hope that Peter Anthony will help them get to Heaven by his prayers. We are sure that he will be only too happy to pray for his little benefactors in America.

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St. Andrew's School scored again—from the Eighth Grade South comes the adoption of a Japanese baby, Mary Josephine Ford; the Sixth Grade South a Hawaiian girl, Mary; the Fifth Grade South an Indian girl, Mary Geraldine; the Sixth Grade North boys, a Chinese baby, Elmer William (named after whom, I wonder). We hope we did not overlook crediting St. Andrew's with these other adoptions — Eighth Grade North, a Chinese baby, Gerald Roessel; Grade Four Girls, Chinese Twin Joseph and the Chinese Girl Mary; Third Grade South, a Japanese baby, Patrick Joseph. To this was added a mission donation of $30.

Last of all, we have an offering of $1 from Nazareth Model School for dues in the Holy Childhood.

To all the boys and girls who have made this fine mission record possible we say, "thank you a thousand times."

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Have you decided on your mission program for Lent?

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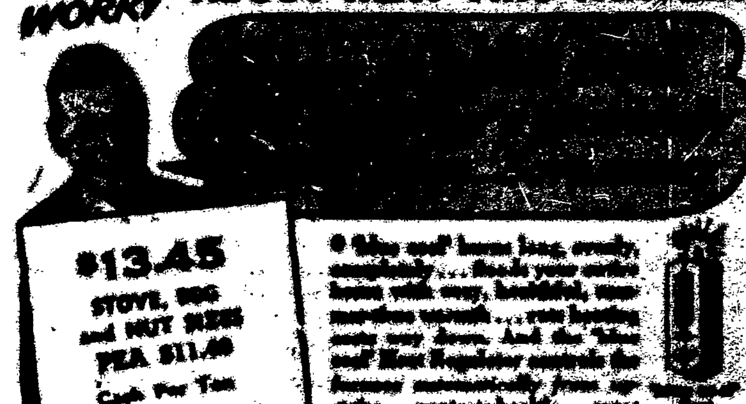

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