



Stella Maris

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of the Mother of God

Dear Family, Friends, and Benefactors,

The Sisters have been busy with preparations for the joyful feast of Christmas. Throughout the season of Advent, we have had Christmas choir practices, program practice with our students, and were decorating churches, cleaning and baking.

As the Sisters gather together for the Christmas vacation, we have many beautiful customs to look forward to. We open presents and have a Christmas dinner. On the feast of St. John the Evangelist, we have a Christmas sing-along with our parish. We read Christmas stories around the Christmas tree. In our chapel, lit only by the Christmas lights, we pray the joyful mysteries of the rosary, and sing a Christmas hymn after each decade. We will go ice skating and go for walks in the countryside. Best of all is simply enjoying the comradery of our large family of Sisters.

On March 19th, Sr. Mary Perpetua (IL) will be renewing her vows, and two postulants will be received as Novice Sisters. Four Novice Sisters will take their First Year Vows on Easter Monday, April 18th. Three other Sisters, Sr. Mary Martina (MN), Sr. Noel Marie (MI), and Sr. Maria Antonia (IA) are preparing to make their Final Vows on Easter Tuesday, April 19th. They will make the required eight day retreat during Holy Week.

The Sisters wish you and your families a joyful Christmas season and a blessed New Year.

Please keep our Sisters in your prayers.

With our prayers,
The Sisters of the Mother of God





Phoenix, Arizona

(above and below)



Denver, Colorado



Colorado Springs, Colorado
(above and below)



Burlington, Colorado
(above and below)



Persia, Iowa
(above and below)





Sartell, Minnesota



Wisconsin Dells



Seneca, Wisconsin



Harmony, Minnesota
(above and below)



Lebanon, Ohio
(above and below)



Total
Consecration
to Jesus
through Mary
December 8



Omaha, Nebraska



An excerpt from *Vocations* by Fr. William Doyle, SJ

The Harvest of Souls

In the preceding pages we have seen briefly the nature and obligation of a vocation, and glanced at a few of its privileges and advantages. Yet some, even among Catholics, may be found to ask what need is there for so many priests and nuns?

Long ago, while yet the Savior trod this earth, we read that once He sat by the well-side, weary from His journeying. As He paused to rest, His gaze fell upon the waving cornfields stretching far out of sight, the ears bending under their load of countless, tiny seeds, each bearing its germ of life. To the eyes of His soul, devoured with a burning zeal, it was an image of the vast multitude of human beings He had come to save, of the souls of those with whom He lived and the myriads who would follow Him. Silently He looked at the solitary husbandman, sickle in hand, slowly gathering the sheaves of golden corn; then sadly turning to the disciples, He said, with a hidden meaning in His words: "The harvest indeed is great, but the laborers are few. Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest that He send laborers into His harvest."

The words died away, but their echo has never ceased to sound. "The harvest is great, but the laborers are few." Turn where we will, in no matter what part of the globe, and there we shall see still the harvest of souls, waiting to be garnered into the Master's granaries.

"Send me half a million priests," writes a Jesuit missionary from India, "and I promise to find them abundant work at once."

"For the love of God, come out to us. I have come across millions of men here in Africa who need but to hear Our Lord's words and deeds to become

so many good and happy Christians."

Another, as he gazes at the teeming Chinese population around him, exclaims: "The ten thousand catechumens of my district would be a hundred thousand tomorrow if there were priests and nuns enough to instruct and receive them."

"The harvest indeed is great"— a total pagan population in the world of 995,000,000 (in 1910 — ed.), or eight out of every thirteen of the human race, who have never heard the Name of God, each with an immortal soul looking for salvation. America, on the authority of Archbishop Ireland, with its forty thousand converts in one year; England, registering, at the last census, twenty million of her people as having "no religion," while from every town and village of our own land comes the cry for more Brothers, Priests and Nuns to labor in the fields "white with the harvest."

"Pray ye, therefore," still pleads the Savior from the tabernacle, as He gazes on the vast work yet to be done, "pray ye the Lord that He send laborers, many and zealous, into His harvest."

An Appeal

Boys and girls, young men and ladies, with your young lives so full of promises opening out before you, have you no nobler ideals, no loftier ambition, than to spend your days in pleasure and amusement, while your brothers and your sisters look appealingly to you for help? Lift up your eyes and see the harvest awaiting you, the most glorious work ever given man to do — the saving of immortal souls!

The day of Ireland's greatest glory was the time when the land was

covered with a golden network of schools and monasteries; when her missionaries and nuns were to be found in every clime and country; when every tenth Irishman and woman was consecrated to God and His service. "If our country would be born again," wrote Thomas Francis Meagher, "she must be baptized once more in the old Irish holy well." This is the work that lies before you, the work God looks to you to do — strengthening the Faith that St. Patrick, St. Francis Xavier, St. Alphonsus and the other saints left us, preaching the truth to an unbelieving world, sacrificing yourselves, as your ancestors did before, leaving home and friends, and, for the sake of God, giving your life that others may be saved.

A vocation is, indeed, the gift of God, but through love of the souls whom He longs to save, gladly would He bestow it on many more, if only they would listen to His voice or ask Him for this treasure.

Are you one, dear reader, at whose heart Jesus has long been knocking, perhaps in vain, inviting, pleading, urging? "The Master is here and calls for you;" He has need of you for His work. Follow Him bravely and trustfully; you will never regret it. But if you have not yet heard that voice, then remember His words: "Ask and you shall receive;" ask Him for a vocation, not once but daily. Ask confidently, perseveringly, for He has pledged His word to hear you, so that you, also, may share the happiness of those who serve the Lord, and that "your joy" — like theirs — "may be full."

"One thing I have asked of the Lord, this will I seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life." (Psalm XXVI, 4)