

University of Notre Dame  
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"Mary."

The angel Gabriel brought the glad tidings to a virgin named Mary. Some think that "Mary" means "serene"; others, that it signifies "powerful"; and still others that it stands for "lady." Perhaps it means literally, as it does in fact, all three: "serene, powerful Lady."

St. Bernard thinks that Mary signifies "Star of the Sea." In ancient times before the compass, captains guided their ships by the polar star. Now in the troublesome darkness of doubt, in the stormy waves of trials and sufferings, in the sharp winds of temptation, the love and virtues and assistance of the "serene, powerful Lady" are our Star of the Sea.

Start your devotions to Mary this October. Only five freshmen, out of a class of more than 800, are so far attending five-o'clock Rosary Devotions in the church during the month of October. Comparatively few freshmen have signed up for October adoration.

These devotions, it is true, are new to most of you. But don't put off taking part in them. If you give them half a heart they will become among your most fragrant and most pleasant experiences at Notre Dame.

A Missionary's Appeal.

The following letter comes from Father Raymond Massart, C.S.C., a Notre Dame graduate of 1927, now laboring among the pagans of India:

"These days in this jungle vineyard we have wonderful opportunities of winning large groups of unbelievers to the Church. I heard the old Bishop say recently that in his twenty-eight years in Bengal he was unable to recall a time when more 'gates to the Faith' were opening to the missionary than at the present time.

"But the last five years have been hard on us. This you understand. People back in America have been careful that few crumbs fell from their tables. Hence our lean fare in this far-off place, the almost exact antipodes of Indiana.

"We are glad to put up with our personal sacrifices. Our most urgent need in the mission is an adequate corps of qualified catechists. I have only seventeen native apostles in the immense tract covered by this new station, called the Baluchora Mission. As the diocesan training school for catechists had to be closed down five years ago, owing to lack of funds, my lay colleagues are mostly raw recruits whose chief asset is their good will. Very few of them would qualify for the eighth grade. With these unformed recruits little can be done.

"The mission hopes to be able in January to open a training class for catechists in connection with the Junior Apostolic School at Bandhura. This training class would prove a godsend to us, for the catechist is almost like another missionary. But here in Bengal--which is the foremost province intellectually in all India--an untrained catechist is worse than useless, bringing shame on his ministry by his low ideals and his want of knowledge. I would require, at a minimum, about one hundred dollars to put each of my four men through the two-year training course. My few friends at home are unable to help me. Remembering what you are doing for Bengal, I assure you I would not come to you unless our need was desperate. Is it possible that some of your readers would be able to help me?"

Mail or hand in your contributions to Prefect of Religion, 117 Dillon Hall, Notre Dame, Indiana.