

Mass Sunday, p. 481. Monday St. Gregory, p. 822; 2nd col. of Octave, p. 477.

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Don't neglect Sister Emelia and her Hottentots! The fund so far is an even \$5.

Korean Thanks.

(By Father E. R. Barron, former Notre Dame student, now a Maryknoll missionary in Anchu, Korea.)

This letter is leaving here with a fervent prayer that you will receive it in kindness and, after reading it, be dispossessed of the idea that my long delay in acknowledging your substantial gift manifests in any way a lack of gratitude for what you at Notre Dame have done. I am too mindful of the urgent need of your continued support. When your letter arrived and I found your check for \$84.26 (the second check for \$19.00 had not yet reached him) my first impulse, after a few swings of the Highland Fling, was to reply immediately. But my hands were already preoccupied with the very important work of preparing a large group of catechumens for the reception of Baptism.

This past Christmas has been the most joyful I have ever spent. Seventy-two catechumens, after a long and difficult preparation, were baptized Christmas Eve and received their first Holy Communion at Midnight Mass. Somehow I felt these 72 were making some reparation for the offense offered the Holy Family when the Innkeepers refused admission. These poor souls made room for the Infant Jesus by not only expelling the devil and by forswearing all allegiance to him, but purged all pride from their hearts by enduring with true humility the threats and slanders and jeers and ridicule of their friends.

During the baptismal ceremony the words of Christ, "Many shall come from the east and west and sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, but the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into exterior darkness," kept cruising through my mind. The Jews saw Jesus in person, witnessed His miracles and listened to his instructions, then put Him to death. Here these zealous souls see Jesus in the Eucharist through faith, hear accounts of His miracles and doctrines through imperfect ministers, and come to adore and love Him!

Immediately after Christmas I had my band of catechists beating the bushes for more recruits to fill the void made in our catechumenate class by the 72 just baptized. In no time, the enrollment again numbered 200. Six months are required to break them from pagan customs, musty with age, and instill into them a true Christian spirit. To them it means a complete revolution of mind and heart, as paganism is the direct antithesis to Christian worship and ideals. Yet as difficult as it is to change their ideas and domestic customs we have met with phenomenal success, which proves beyond doubt the wonderful ways and powers of Divine Grace. And Christ's graces and provident care are still being manifested. Our Easter crop of Baptisms numbered 69. Slowly but surely the frontiers of Christianity are being broadened, and slowly but surely Satan is being rooted from his domain. Every new convert is just another boot for Old Nick--and every boot carries the Notre Dame sting!

In this work of evangelization you are playing a very important part--so important that without the substantial help you have been giving me, I would never be able to recruit and instruct new catechumens. Another necessary and difficult phase of our work is to accommodate these Christians to a suitable place for worship. We have 800 in attendance at Mass on Sundays, and as yet are without a church, using the school temporarily. I have started a fund for the church but so far it is nowhere sufficient to permit me to begin digging the foundations. I'm not discouraged but intend to bang away, advancing yard by yard. The church, when built, will be in honor of Our Blessed Lady. --I hope and pray you will continue to take an interest in me. I need your help. In my Masses and prayers I shall continue to remember you all, you who have been so loyal and generous in helping to spread Christ's Kingdom throughout the Far East.

PRAYERS: (deceased) father of Edward Cronin (Carroll); two special intentions of Mr. Louis J. Thornton, '29. Ill, mother of John Keenigshoff (Dillon); father of Aurelius Rizzi (Brownson). One Special Intention.