

GOD'S OWN FRONTIER





Dear Boys and Girls:

This story has been written for you--the boys and girls whose Teachers are the Sisters of Loretto. This story belongs to you in a special way because one hundred and fifty years ago, Loretto Sisters were planning for your school, your spiritual welfare and your education. They did not sit at home and plan and dream. They went into the wilderness to face hardship, hunger, Indian attacks, disease and death that they might bring to you the gift of the knowledge of Our Lord and His Blessed Mother, a happy classroom in which to learn and a quiet chapel in which to pray.

We hope you like this book and will always measure up to what it stands for: Faith, Morals, Culture.

Devotedly,

Mother Mary Luke

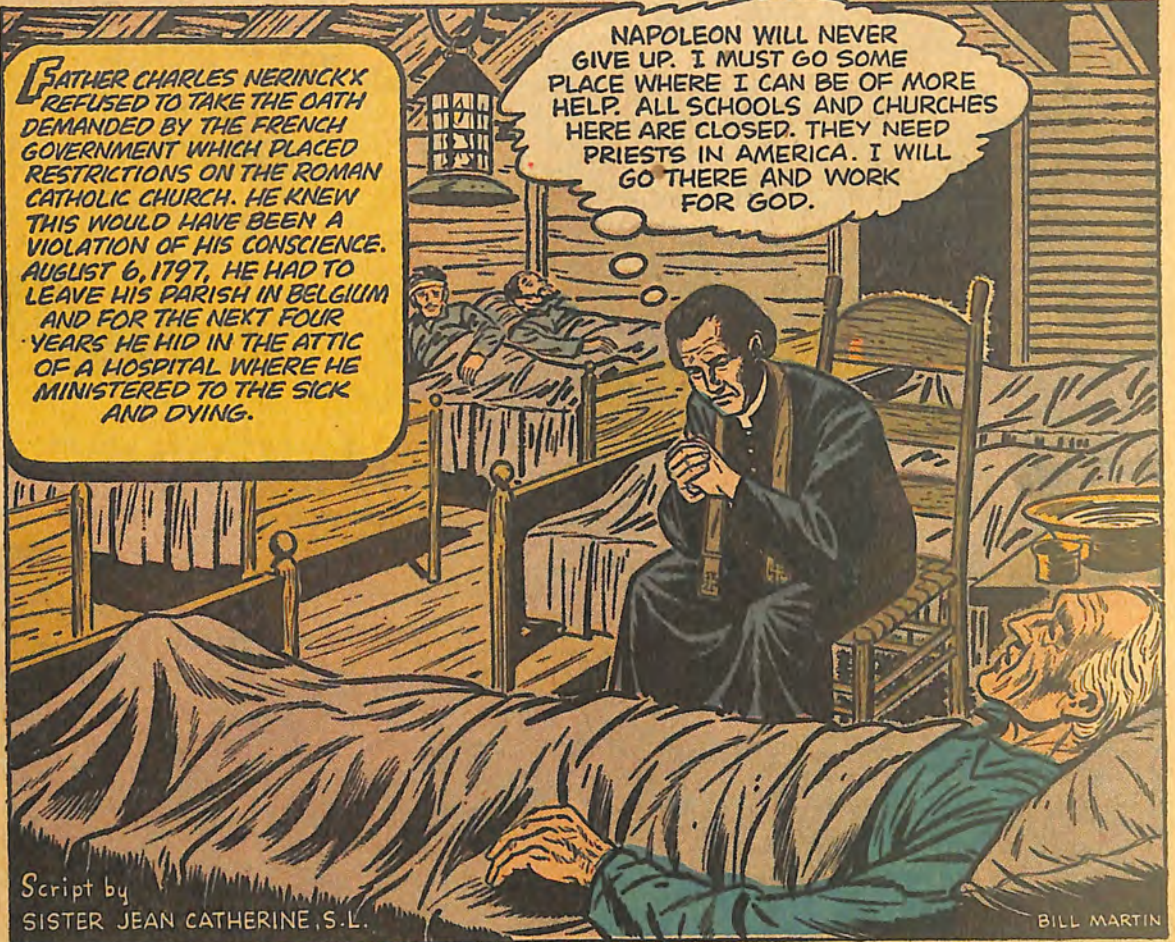
Mother General of the Sisters of Loretto

GOD'S OWN FRONTIER

The STORY of the SISTERS of LORETTO

FATHER CHARLES NERINCKX REFUSED TO TAKE THE OATH DEMANDED BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WHICH PLACED RESTRICTIONS ON THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH. HE KNEW THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN A VIOLATION OF HIS CONSCIENCE. AUGUST 6, 1797, HE HAD TO LEAVE HIS PARISH IN BELGIUM AND FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS HE HID IN THE ATTIC OF A HOSPITAL WHERE HE MINISTERED TO THE SICK AND DYING.

NAPOLION WILL NEVER GIVE UP. I MUST GO SOME PLACE WHERE I CAN BE OF MORE HELP. ALL SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES HERE ARE CLOSED. THEY NEED PRIESTS IN AMERICA. I WILL GO THERE AND WORK FOR GOD.



Script by
SISTER JEAN CATHERINE, S.L.

BILL MARTIN

BALTIMORE, 1804

WELCOME, FATHER NERINCKX.

IT'S SO GOOD TO BE HERE IN AMERICA.



HE ATTENDED GEORGETOWN COLLEGE TO LEARN THE LANGUAGE OF THE COUNTRY HE CHOSE FOR HIS NEW HOME.



ONE DAY HE HEARD THE TRAPPISTS WERE GOING TO KENTUCKY AND HE WANTED TO GO WITH THEM.

MAY I RIDE ALONG WITH YOU? I WOULD LIKE TO START MY MISSIONARY WORK ON THE NEW FRONTIER.



OF COURSE, FATHER. WE ALWAYS HAVE ROOM IN OUR WAGONS FOR THOSE WHO WORK FOR GOD.



AND SO, FATHER NERINCKX STARTED THE LONG TRIP WEST WITH THE TRAPPIST MONKS.

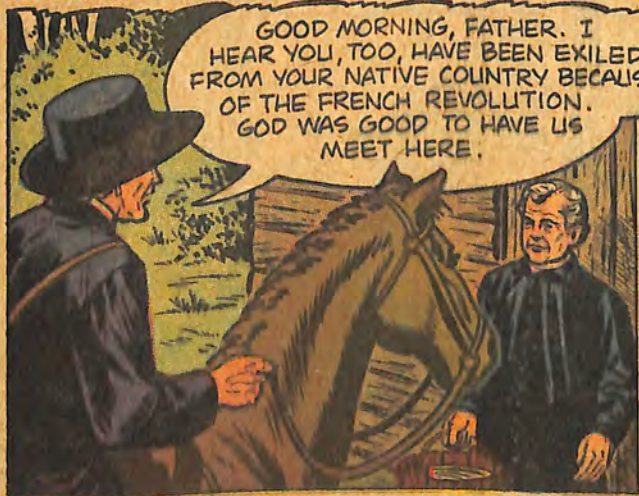


BUT THE TRIP WAS DELAYED MANY TIMES BY WAGON BREAKDOWNS. TOO SLOW FOR FATHER NERINCKX WHO WAS EAGER TO START IN HIS NEW MISSIONARY WORK. HE BOUGHT A HORSE AND SADDLE FOR \$75.00, AND CONTINUED ON ALONE INTO THE UNKNOWN WILDERNESS.



ON JULY 18, 1805, A FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN FATHER NERINCKX AND FATHER THEODORE BADIN DEVELOPED WHICH WAS TO LAST FOR MANY YEARS.

GOOD MORNING, FATHER. I HEAR YOU, TOO, HAVE BEEN EXILED FROM YOUR NATIVE COUNTRY BECAUSE OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION. GOD WAS GOOD TO HAVE US MEET HERE.



YES, FATHER, AND YOU ARE WELCOME TO STAY HERE WITH ME AND HELP TEACH THE PEOPLE ABOUT GOD AND THE CHURCH.



FOR SEVEN YEARS THE TWO PRIESTS WORKED SIDE BY SIDE TO BUILD MANY CHURCHES FOR THE PEOPLE. THEN ONE DAY...

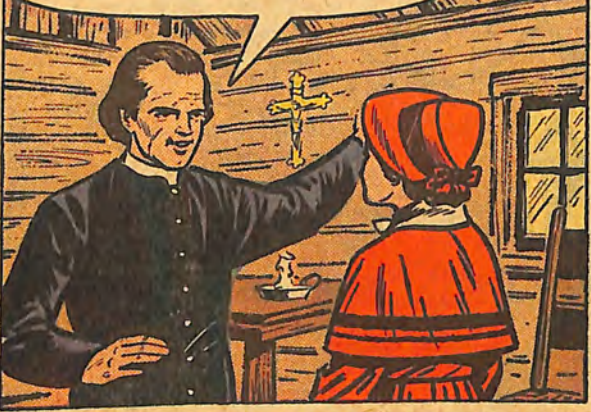
MY NAME IS MARY RHODES, FATHER. I AM HERE VISITING MY BROTHER AND WOULD LIKE TO START A SCHOOL NEAR YOUR CHURCH.



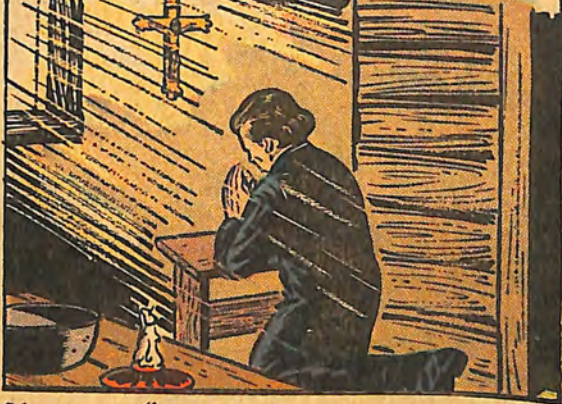
I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO GET A VERY FINE EDUCATION IN MARYLAND AND WOULD LIKE TO PASS IT ON TO THESE LESS-FORTUNATE CHILDREN HERE.



INDEED, YOU ARE AN ANSWER TO PRAYER. I WILL TRAIN YOU IN TEACHING YOUR RELIGION AND HELP WITH THE SCHOOL. PERHAPS SOME DAY WE CAN START A SISTERHOOD.



FATHER NERINCKX KNELT BEFORE HIS CRUCIFIX AND THANKED GOD FOR THIS HELP.



HIS MOTTO: "DO NOT FORSAKE PROVIDENCE AND HE WILL NEVER FORSAKE YOU" HELPED HIM THROUGH ALL HIS TRIALS AND HARDSHIPS.

AFTER THE SCHOOL WAS WELL STARTED, TWO MORE GIRLS, CHRISTINA STUART AND NANCY HAVERN, JOINED MARY IN THE WORK.

LET'S HANG THE MOTTO ON THIS WALL, MISS NANCY. EVERYONE CAN SEE IT FROM HERE.



May God bless what has been begun for His honor and glory. His providence is our only reliance.

GOOD NEWS TRAVELED FAST AND SOON WOMEN FROM ALL OVER THE NEW FRONTIER OF KENTUCKY WERE BRINGING THEIR CHILDREN TO THE NEW SCHOOL.

GOOD MORNING, MISS MARY. I WANT MY DAUGHTER TO LEARN HOW TO READ AND WRITE.

I HEAR YOU TEACH NEEDLEWORK OF ALL KINDS AT YOUR SCHOOL, MISS NANCY. I BROUGHT MY DAUGHTERS TO ENROLL IN YOUR SCHOOL.



AND SOON...

OUR SCHOOL IS FULL. WE CAN'T TAKE ANOTHER CHILD.

OH, YES, MISS CHRISTINA, WE MUST TAKE ANYONE WHO COMES. WE CAN ALWAYS MAKE ROOM FOR ONE MORE. GOD WILL PROVIDE.

BUT, MISS MARY, THE CHILDREN ARE SO CROWDED ALREADY.

I HAVE AN IDEA, MISS CHRISTINA. LET'S KEEP THESE POOR CHILDREN WHO LIVE SO FAR AWAY. MANY OF THEM HAVE NO SHOES TO WALK IN THE SNOW AND WE CAN HELP THEM SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY.



THUS, THE ONE-ROOM HOME WAS TURNED INTO A KITCHEN, DINING ROOM, AND SCHOOL DURING THE DAY. AT NIGHT, IT SERVED AS DORMITORY FOR THE CHILDREN. THE THREE YOUNG LADIES SLEPT ON THE "UPPER SHELF" AS THE ATTIC WAS CALLED.



ON APRIL 25, 1812, IN THE CHURCH OF SAINT CHARLES IN KENTUCKY, FATHER NERINCKX GAVE THE VEIL AND HABIT TO THESE FIRST THREE GIRLS. THUS, BEGAN THE FIRST AMERICAN SISTERHOOD WITH NO AFFILIATIONS WITH EUROPE.



ONE YEAR LATER, AUGUST 15, 1813, THE THREE GIRLS RECEIVED THEIR BLACK VEILS AND PRONOUNCED THEIR VOWS.

NOW THAT YOU HAVE MADE YOUR VOWS OF POVERTY, CHASTITY, AND OBEDIENCE, GO AND TEACH ALL CLASSES, COLORS, AND CREEDS.



SEE HOW THE CHILDREN LOVE OUR FOUNDER, FATHER NERINCKX.

YES, SISTER MARY, HE ALWAYS HAS SUCH WONDERFUL STORIES TO TELL THEM WHEN HE FINISHES THE CATECHISM LESSONS.

GOD MUST BE PLEASED WITH HIS SACRIFICES. ALREADY HE HAS GIVEN KENTUCKY FOURTEEN CHURCHES. THE WORK, THE WORRY, AND THE HARDSHIPS THAT WENT INTO THE MAKING OF THOSE FOURTEEN CHURCHES NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW. TRULY HE IS OUR UNNAMED SAINT.



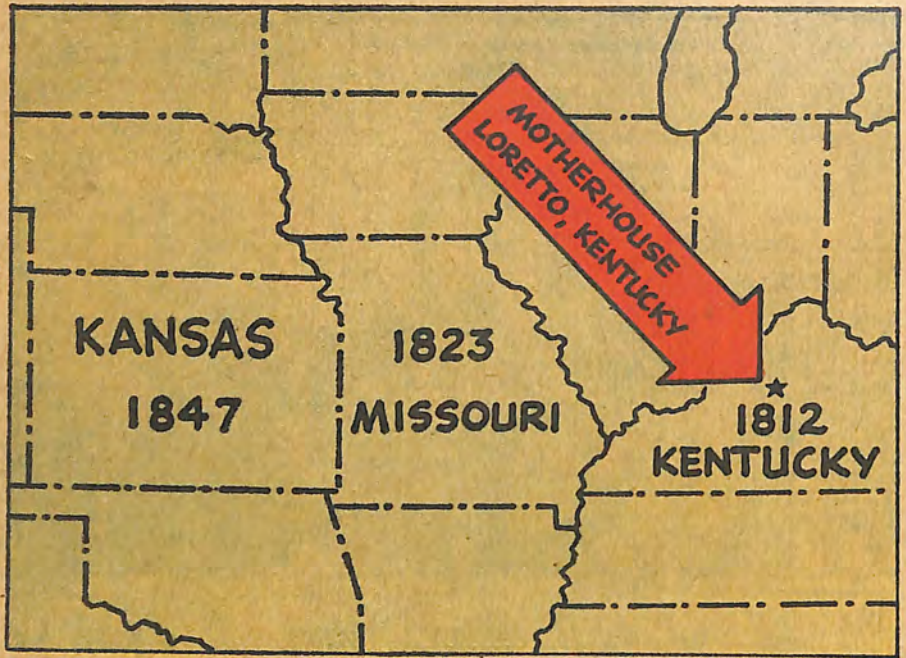
THEN MORE AND MORE GIRLS CAME TO FATHER NERINCKX TO SEEK ADMITTANCE INTO THE NEW LORETO CONGREGATION.

I HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER YOU BUT HARDSHIP AND POVERTY. THE LIFE OF A RELIGIOUS IS HARD. MANY TIMES THESE SISTERS HAVE NOTHING TO EAT AS THEY GIVE ALL TO THE POOR.

WE ARE WILLING TO SUFFER ANYTHING, FATHER. JUST LET US HELP THESE SISTERS. WE WANT TO CONSECRATE OUR LIVES TO GOD'S SERVICE, ALSO.



THE NEW CONGREGATION GREW RAPIDLY AND BEFORE LONG THE SISTERS HAD BEEN ASKED TO TEACH IN MISSOURI. THE INDIANS AND COLORED CHILDREN WERE FAVORITES OF FATHER NERINCKX, BUT BEFORE HE COULD OPEN SCHOOLS FOR THEM, HE DIED IN 1824. LATER THE SISTERS OPENED A SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB, THEN AN INDIAN SCHOOL IN KANSAS, AND LATER STILL A SCHOOL FOR COLORED CHILDREN IN KENTUCKY.



ONE DAY BISHOP LAMY CAME TO SEE THE MOTHER SUPERIOR AT LORETTO, KENTUCKY.

I HAVE COME FROM NEW MEXICO TO ASK FOR TEACHERS TO HELP CARE FOR THE CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN MY TERRITORY.

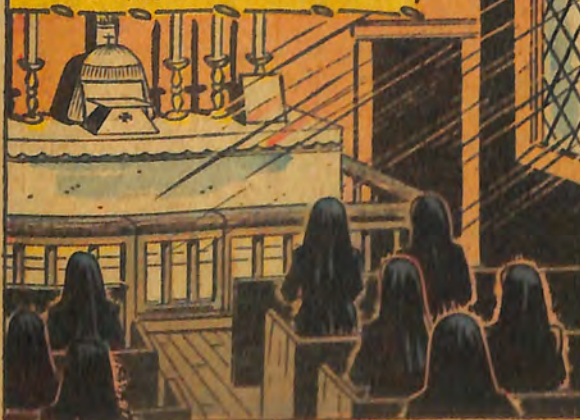
THE GREAT SOUTHWEST! MY SISTERS WOULD HAVE A LANGUAGE BARRIER THERE. IT WOULD MEAN STARTING ALL OVER AGAIN.

BUT MY PEOPLE ARE WITHOUT HELP. THEY NEED TEACHERS LIKE YOU WHO CAN HELP THEM.

WE WILL PRAY AND ASK GOD TO DIRECT US IN DECIDING WHICH SISTERS SHOULD GO.



THE SISTERS KNELT BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND ASKED GOD'S GUIDANCE IN THIS GREAT DECISION.



WE ARE READY, BISHOP LAMY. SIX SISTERS OF LORETTO WILL RETURN WITH YOU TO BEGIN MISSIONARY WORK IN THE SOUTHWEST.



THE SIX SISTERS OF LORETTO STARTED OUT FOR NEW MEXICO. NOT ONE OF THEM WAS THE FASTEST GUN IN THE WEST. INSTEAD OF RIFLES THEY CARRIED ROSARIES AND THEY PACKED CRUCIFIXES, NOT COLTS. BECAUSE OF AN EPIDEMIC OF CHOLERA, ONE OF THE SISTERS DIED AND ANOTHER HAD TO RETURN TO KENTUCKY.



IN SEPTEMBER, 1852, THE FOUR SISTERS ARRIVED IN SANTA FE TO BEGIN THEIR WORK.



THEY WORKED CONSTANTLY, DAY AFTER DAY, WITH LITTLE OR NO FOOD, MONEY, OR CONVENIENCES, YET WILLING TO SHARE THE LITTLE THEY HAD. THE CONGREGATION AND THE TERRITORY GREW AND GREW.

SOON BISHOP LAMY MADE A DECISION.

WE NEED MORE SISTERS TO HELP IN THE SURROUNDING TERRITORY. I WILL MAKE ANOTHER TRIP TO KENTUCKY AND BEG FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS.



ON HIS RETURN TRIP FROM KENTUCKY WITH THE NEW SISTERS, THE WAGON TRAIN WAS ATTACKED MANY TIMES BY HOSTILE INDIANS. ONE OF THE SISTERS DIED OF FRIGHT.

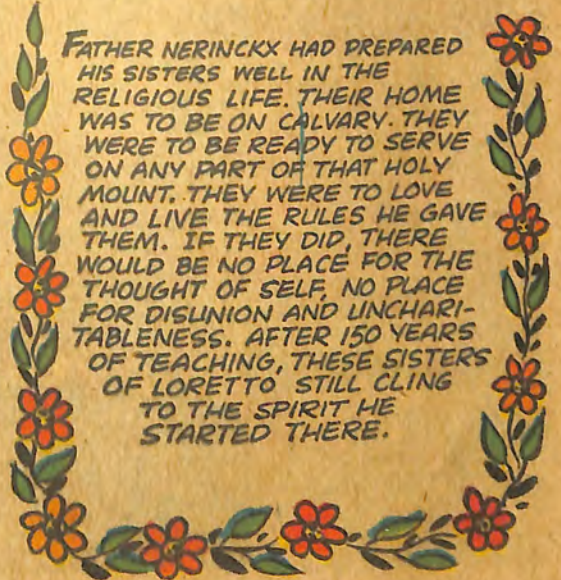


IN 1855, A NOVITIATE WAS OPENED IN SANTA FE. NEW SCHOOLS KEPT OPENING ALL ACROSS THE UNITED STATES. TRIUMPH CAME IN THE LITTLE VICTORY OVER ONE CHILD'S IGNORANCE, THEN IN GREAT WAVES AS THE SISTERS WERE ABLE TO BUILD UPON THEIR PRAYERS.

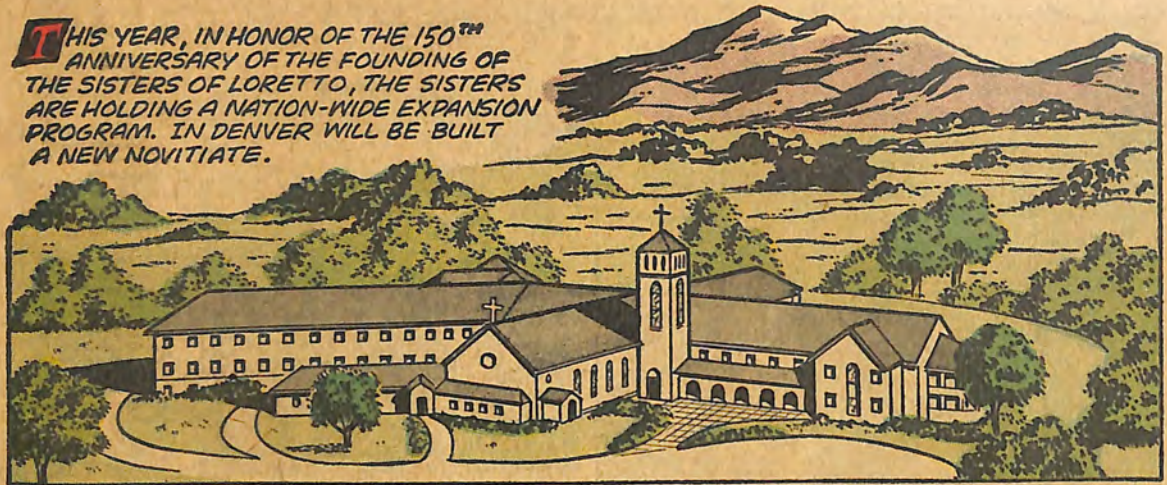


TODAY, THE SISTERS OF LORETTO HAVE 105 SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH AMERICA. THEY HAVE THREE COLLEGES AND TWENTY-SIX HIGH SCHOOLS.

FATHER NERINCKX HAD PREPARED HIS SISTERS WELL IN THE RELIGIOUS LIFE. THEIR HOME WAS TO BE ON CALVARY. THEY WERE TO BE READY TO SERVE ON ANY PART OF THAT HOLY MOUNT. THEY WERE TO LOVE AND LIVE THE RULES HE GAVE THEM. IF THEY DID, THERE WOULD BE NO PLACE FOR THE THOUGHT OF SELF, NO PLACE FOR DISUNION AND UNCHARITABLENESS. AFTER 150 YEARS OF TEACHING, THESE SISTERS OF LORETTO STILL CLING TO THE SPIRIT HE STARTED THERE.



THIS YEAR, IN HONOR OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE SISTERS OF LORETTO, THE SISTERS ARE HOLDING A NATION-WIDE EXPANSION PROGRAM. IN DENVER WILL BE BUILT A NEW NOVITIATE.



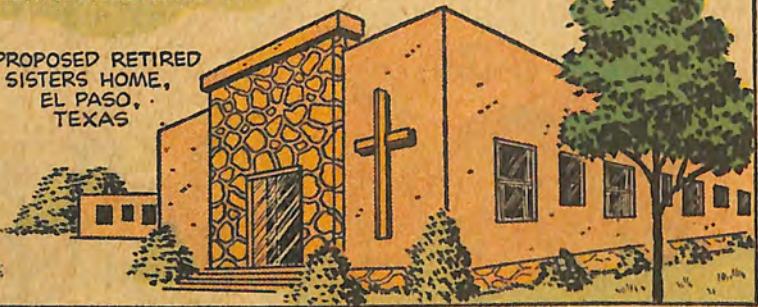
ADDITION - LORETTO HOUSE OF STUDIES, WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI



THE HOUSE OF STUDIES FOR THE YOUNG SISTERS WILL BE ADDED ON TO IN ST. LOUIS. HOMES FOR THE RETIRED AND AGED AND INFIRM SISTERS WILL BE BUILT IN ST. LOUIS AND EL PASO.



PROPOSED RETIRED SISTERS HOME, EL PASO, TEXAS



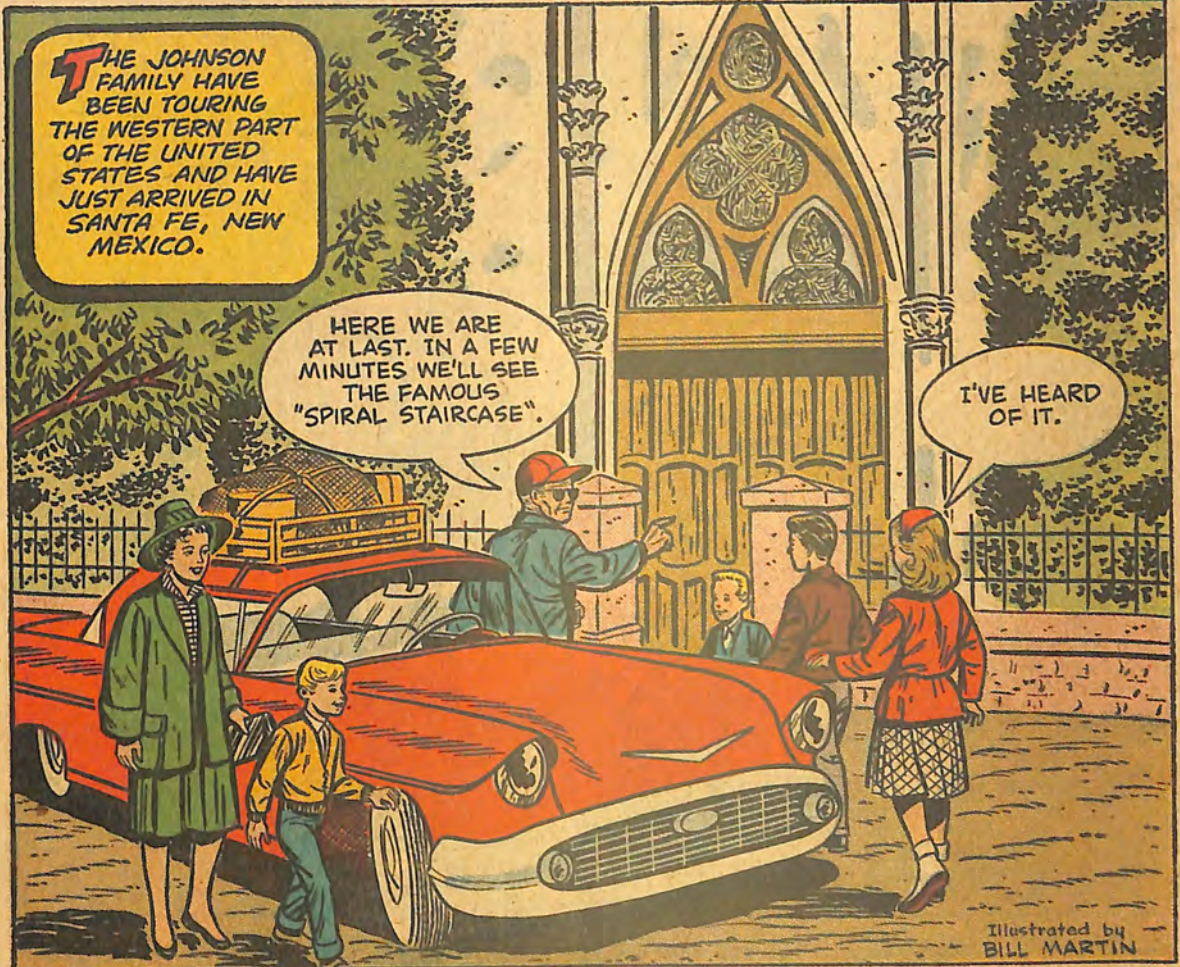
AND BEST OF ALL, IN KEEPING WITH THE GREAT DEVOTION OF FATHER NERINCKX, THE SISTERS ARE BUILDING A CHAPEL OF PERPETUAL ADORATION AT LORETTO, KENTUCKY. THIS CHAPEL WILL BE BUILT ON THE SPOT WHERE FATHER NERINCKX FIRST LIVED IN KENTUCKY. IT WILL BE A THANK-YOU GIFT TO GOD FOR THE MANY, MANY BLESSINGS DURING THE PAST 150 YEARS.



IN OUR SPECIAL CHAPEL OF PERPETUAL ADORATION WE WILL ASK GOD'S BLESSING ON ALL OUR FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS. WE WILL ASK GOD TO BLESS YOU AND THANK YOU FOR US IN A MANNER THAT ONLY HE CAN DO.

the SPIRAL STAIRCASE

A Modern-Day Wonder



THE JOHNSON FAMILY HAVE BEEN TOURING THE WESTERN PART OF THE UNITED STATES AND HAVE JUST ARRIVED IN SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO.

HERE WE ARE AT LAST. IN A FEW MINUTES WE'LL SEE THE FAMOUS "SPIRAL STAIRCASE".

I'VE HEARD OF IT.

Illustrated by BILL MARTIN



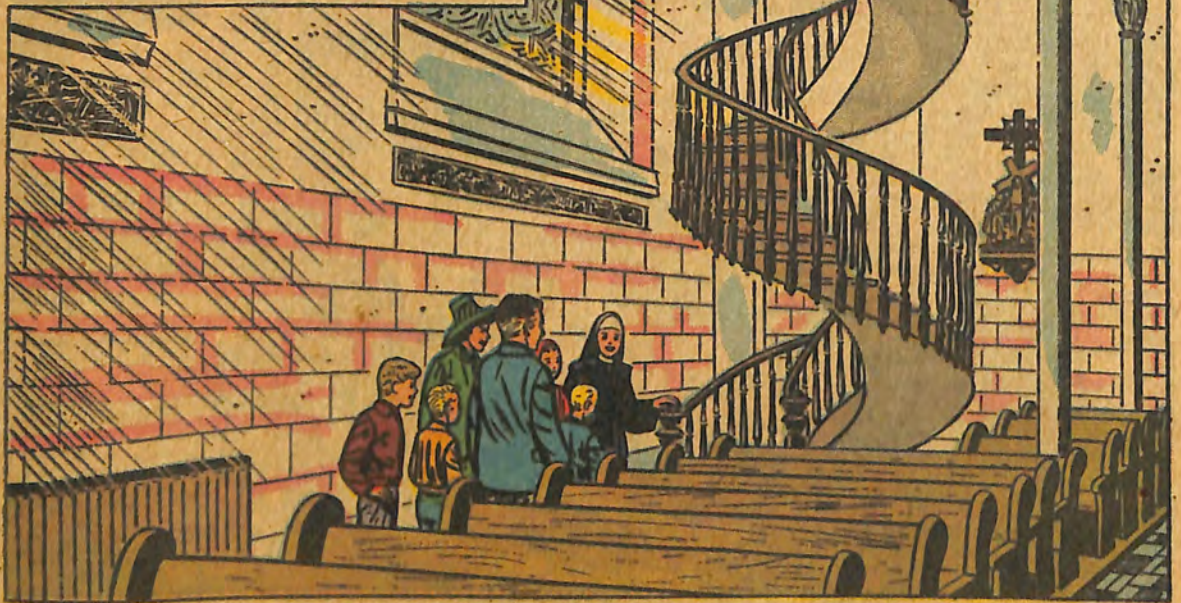
THERE'S QUITE A STORY ABOUT THE OLD STAIRCASE. BUT LET'S GO IN AND LET THE SISTERS TELL US ABOUT IT.

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

GOOD AFTERNOON, SISTER. IS THERE SOMEONE WHO COULD SHOW US THE FAMOUS WINDING STAIRCASE?

I'LL BE GLAD TO SHOW IT TO YOU. COME WITH ME.





"MOTHER MAGDALEN HIRED MASONS, CARPENTERS, AND ARCHITECTS TO BUILD THE CHAPEL."



"BEFORE VERY LONG THE CHURCH WAS COMPLETED... BUT A PROBLEM AROSE..."

SISTER, SOMEONE'S MADE A DREADFUL MISTAKE!

YES. THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE TO BUILD A STAIRWAY TO THE CHOIR LOFT.

HOW ARE THE SISTERS GOING TO GET UP AND DOWN?

"SOME OF THE SISTERS WENT TO INSPECT THE WORK."

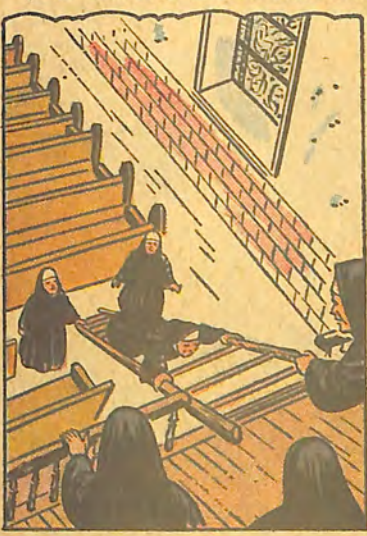
THE WORKMEN ARE RIGHT. THEY COULD NEVER FINISH A STAIRCASE IN THAT SPACE.

WELL, THEY STARTED, ANYWAY. THEY TELL ME THAT AFTER THEY PUT THE TWO LARGE BOLTS IN THE CHOIR LOFT, AT THE BEGINNING OF THE STAIRCASE, THEY FOUND IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE.



"THE SISTERS USED A LADDER."

WELL, THERE IS ONE WAY TO GET UP TO THE CHOIR LOFT.



I'M SURE THAT IF WE PRAY HARD ENOUGH, ST. JOSEPH WILL FIND THE ANSWER. HE HASN'T FAILED THE SISTERS OF LORETTO YET.



"ONE DAY, WHILE SISTER MAGDALEN WAS TALKING TO SOME OF HER PUPILS..."

WELL, CHILDREN, TODAY IS THE LAST DAY OF OUR NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH. I HOPE HE HAS HEARD OUR PRAYERS.

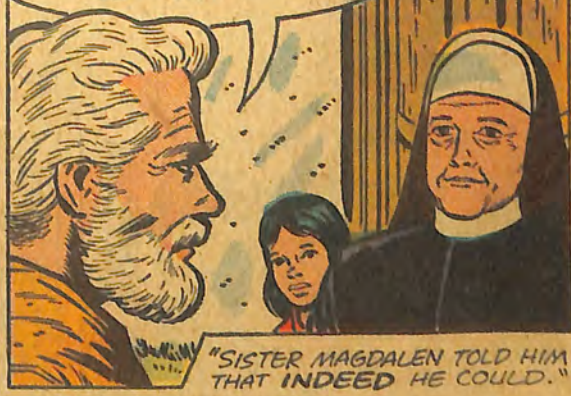
I'M SURE HE HAS, SISTER!

I WONDER WHO THAT OLD MAN IS, SISTER.

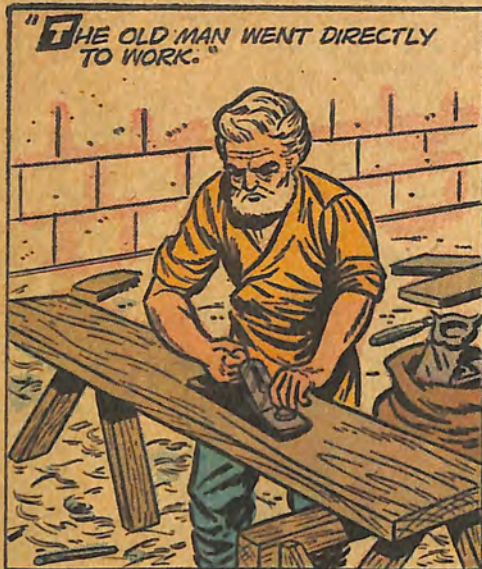


"THE OLD MAN APPROACHED SISTER MAGDALEN, AND..."

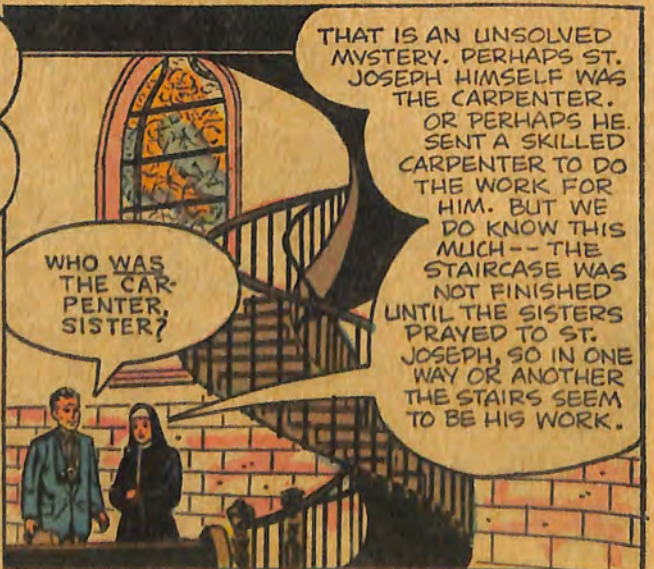
I HEAR THAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A CARPENTER, SISTER. PERHAPS I CAN HELP YOU.



"SISTER MAGDALEN TOLD HIM THAT INDEED HE COULD."

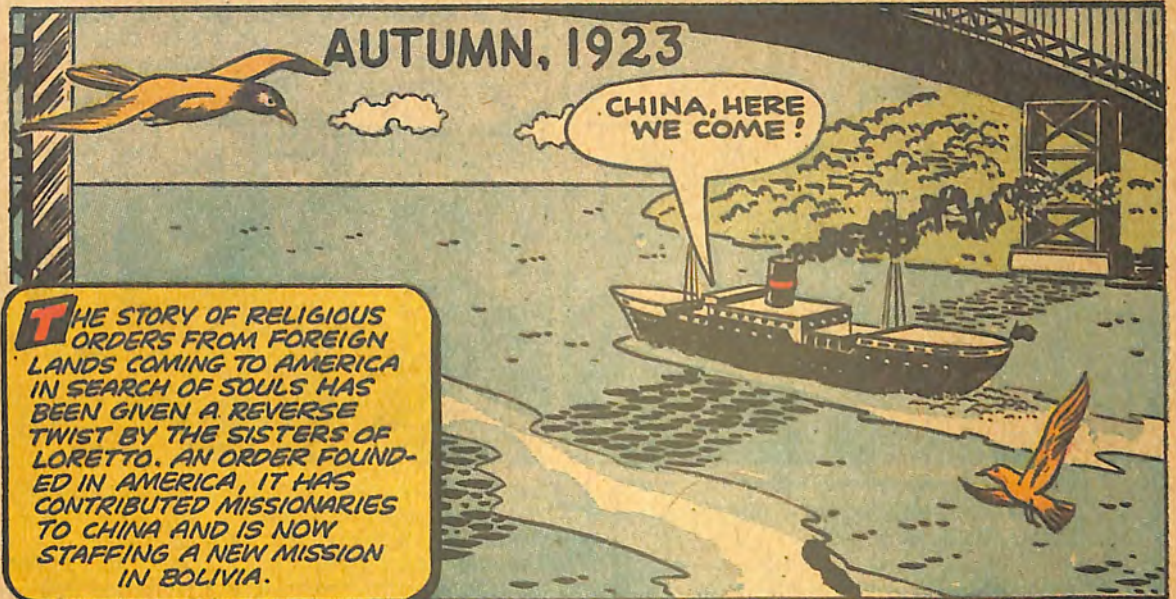


"ONE DAY, SISTER MAGDALEN ENTERED THE CHAPEL TO FIND THE STAIRWAY FINISHED..."



NEW HORIZONS

AUTUMN, 1923



THE STORY OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS FROM FOREIGN LANDS COMING TO AMERICA IN SEARCH OF SOULS HAS BEEN GIVEN A REVERSE TWIST BY THE SISTERS OF LORETTO. AN ORDER FOUNDED IN AMERICA, IT HAS CONTRIBUTED MISSIONARIES TO CHINA AND IS NOW STAFFING A NEW MISSION IN BOLIVIA.

THE SISTERS WERE MET IN CHINA BY A PEOPLE STARVING FOR BOTH SPIRITUAL AND MATERIAL WANTS.

SISTERS, I DON'T BELIEVE ANY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD NEEDS YOU MORE THAN CHINA. THE PEOPLE ARE IN TERRIBLE NEED, BOTH SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY.

YOUR GRACE, THE SOONER WE CAN GET TO WORK, THE HAPPIER WE WILL BE.



INSTRUMENTS IN THE FAITH WERE QUICKLY ORGANIZED.



IN THE MIDST OF WIDESPREAD FAMINE AND DISEASE, THE SISTERS' WORK STOOD OUT AS A RAY OF HOPE FOR THE SUFFERING PEOPLE.



NOR DID JAPAN'S ATTACK AGAINST CHINA PREVENT THE SISTERS' SEARCH FOR SOULS.



FINALLY, HOWEVER, THE SISTERS WERE CAPTURED BY THE JAPANESE.



YOU WILL BE INTERNED FOR THE DURATION OF THE WAR.

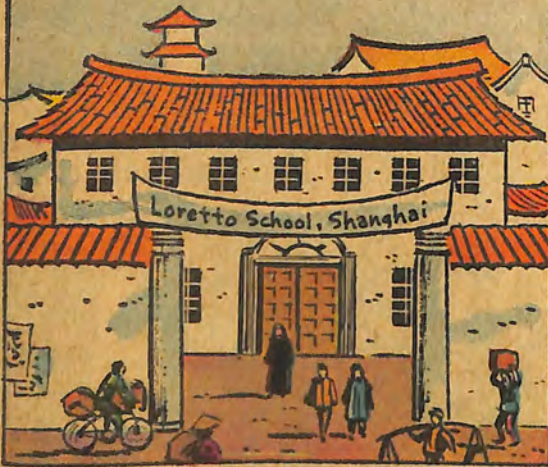
YET, WHEN THE WAR ENDED, THE SISTERS COULD BE FOUND IN HAN YANG ...



ONLY THREE MORE CLASSES FROM THE SISTERS, LI-SAN. THEN WE CAN BE BAPTIZED!

THEN IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE I CAN BECOME A SISTER TOO!

... AND AT THEIR GRADE AND HIGH SCHOOL IN SHANGHAI.



THOUSANDS WERE BAPTIZED, HUNDREDS EDUCATED IN THE FAITH, AND A NATIVE SISTERHOOD BEGAN. THE FRUITS OF THE SISTERS' LABOR WAS JUST BEGINNING TO RIPEN. THEN...



THE HAN YANG SCHOOL WAS CLOSED BY THE REDS.



FIVE SISTERS HELD OUT FOR A TIME IN SHANGHAI, BUT THE SCHOOL THERE TOO WAS FINALLY CLOSED.

IN SPITE OF APPARENT DEFEAT, THE SISTERS FEEL THAT THEIR WORK IN CHINA STILL LIVES IN THE MINDS OF MANY OF THEIR PUPILS.



MY HEART IS STILL WITH MY STUDENTS IN CHINA, FOR I KNEW THEM WELL. AND I KNOW THAT THEIR HEARTS ARE STILL WITH GOD. COMMUNISM MAY CONQUER LAND BUT IT CANNOT CONQUER MINDS THAT KNOW THE TRUTH.

WITH THEIR WORK IN CHINA POSTPONED, THE SISTERS BEGAN TO LOOK FOR A NEW MISSIONARY FIELD.

REVEREND MOTHER, LORETTINES EVERYWHERE ARE EXPRESSING THEIR WISH FOR A NEW FOREIGN MISSION.

YES, SISTER. IT IS MY WISH TOO. BUT WE MUST FIND THE PLACE WHERE IT IS MOST NEEDED AND WILL DO THE MOST GOOD.



THE SISTERS LOOKED TOWARD ANOTHER COMMUNIST-THREATENED COUNTRY.

I HAVE RECEIVED MANY REQUESTS FOR OUR SISTERS TO GO TO SOUTH AMERICA, PARTICULARLY FROM MISSIONARY PRIESTS IN BOLIVIA.

PERHAPS THAT IS WHERE OUR CALLING LIES.



AFTER MUCH PRELIMINARY STUDY, THE SISTERS FLEW TO LA PAZ, BOLIVIA, WHERE THEY WERE WELCOMED BY THE ARCHBISHOP.

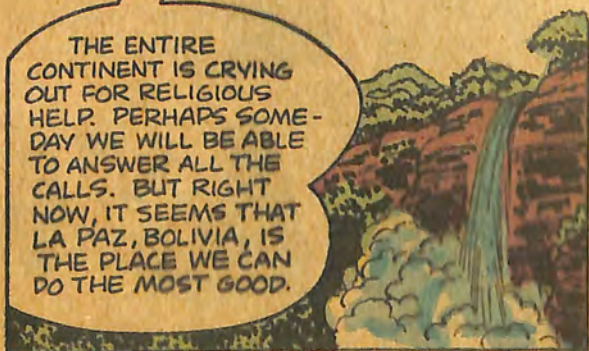
BOLIVIA IS A GREAT AND WONDERFUL COUNTRY. BUT NOW MORE THAN EVER IT NEEDS THE WORD OF GOD. WE MOST ARDENTLY HOPE THAT YOU WILL SEND SISTERS TO TEACH HERE.



THE SISTERS ALSO VISITED OTHER NEEDY SOUTH AMERICAN LANDS.



THE ENTIRE CONTINENT IS CRYING OUT FOR RELIGIOUS HELP. PERHAPS SOMEDAY WE WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER ALL THE CALLS. BUT RIGHT NOW, IT SEEMS THAT LA PAZ, BOLIVIA, IS THE PLACE WE CAN DO THE MOST GOOD.



SHORTLY AFTER THEIR RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES, AN ANNOUNCEMENT WAS GIVEN OUT TO THE SISTERS OF LORETTO.

SISTER! SISTER! OUR ORDER IS GOING TO HAVE A NEW MISSION -- IN LA PAZ, BOLIVIA!

WHAT WONDERFUL NEWS! HOW I'D LOVE TO BE CHOSEN TO GO!



ONLY THREE SISTERS WERE CHOSEN FROM THE MANY VOLUNTEERS FOR THE NEW MISSION.

IN OCTOBER, 1960, THE NEW SCHOOL IN LA PAZ WAS OPENED.



THIS BEGAN THE LATEST CHAPTER IN THE MISSION STORY OF THE SISTERS OF LORETTO. IT IS A STORY WHICH HAS CARRIED THEM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, OVER THE PACIFIC OCEAN, AND INTO SOUTH AMERICA. IT IS A CONTINUING STORY ABOUT THE SPREAD OF TRUTH, FROM THE FIRST SMALL SCHOOL ESTABLISHED IN 1812 TO THE LATEST MISSION FIELD OPENED TO THEM IN BOLIVIA.





One hundred fifty years of service! The Sisters of Loretto are doing a magnificent work, but they are not doing enough. They need your help and they need more Sisters to help carry on the works of the Congregation: teaching, nursing, house-keeping, clerical work and serving in foreign missions. They conduct over 100 schools and teach a total of 38,000 students. They have 79 elementary schools, 23 secondary schools and 3 colleges. These schools are for all classes, colors and creeds. Their work extends from the exceptional or handicapped child to the highly gifted student.

From the time these Sisters first enter the Novitiate to begin their God-serving career, to their last days in the Congregation, they never lose sight of the two-fold purpose of the community — love of God and love of neighbor through Christian education.

How does one measure up for a call to the religious life? How does she spend her time? Let's take a look. When a girl first enters the novitiate she spends nine months as a postulant, acquainting herself with the life of a religious. For two years she is a novice and studies the rules of the Congregation. After her second year of noviceship when she pronounces her first vows, she goes to the Loretto House of Studies. There her spiritual formation continues, while at the same time



she completes her work for her bachelor's degree. (Girls who already have this degree are sent on for graduate study.)

After two years in the House of Studies, the young Sister is appointed to one of the Loretto houses to begin her apostolic career, following in the footsteps of hundreds of other generous American girls who, since 1812, have heard and answered the call of Christ to become Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross.

These 150 years have been a story of adventure and courage. There was the courage of those first three girls to answer the call for the spirit of adventure necessary to accept the challenge of new fields; courage necessary to confront the dangers of pioneer treks; energy to erect schools for inculcating the ideals of Christlike life and faith and to dare the ignorance of oriental lands. All is being re-lived in this wonderful work of Christian education.

Our past accomplishments and future hopes depend on the strengthening support of your interests. Today, the Sisters of Loretto are one of the leading teaching congregations in this country. They are meeting the challenge with courage, determination and confidence. With nothing to start on, and Providence as their sole reliance, they have recognized that their revenues would be as little as their faith was big.

LORETTO'S WESTWARD MOVEMENT

Seeking the Gold of Souls

7 3 4 2 5

Dates indicate the years of Loretto foundations in the states where existing houses are located.

