

Vive Jésus et Marie!

From our Convent: Instituto de Santa Magdalena, Travessa da Luz 2, Lisbon.

ECHOES FROM SION, No. 8.

Very honored and beloved Mothers and
Very dear Sisters,-

According to our promise, we come to give you the latest news from the dear Mother House. We have not had any direct news since the letter of July 21, of which we sent you an extract in our Echoes No. 7, but Our Very Honored Mother General profited of the occasion of a visit to the Mother House of an American nurse, to send a letter to dear Mother Provincial of Peekskill, a copy of which she had the kindness to send us. Our beloved Mother wrote: "How very pleased I am to be able to send you a few lines to assure you that we are all well and that Our Lord has watched over us in a very loving, paternal manner. We feel that we owe our protection to our great Saint and Mother, and many Holy Masses are being celebrated in her honor in thanksgiving for our miraculous preservation. We have, however, to mourn one victim here and thirteen others among our beloved Sisters, as well as an equal number of Magdalens and children. We recommend them very specially to your prayers and those of our dear Sisters. We feel sure that they are praying for us in heaven."

Her Charity asked dear Mother Provincial to send this news to us, saying that she had received no word from us for a long time, although we have sent ten letters by every conceivable route since the last one which she acknowledged. We quite understand the anxiety of our beloved Mother, because she knows so well that our letters are always laden with the affairs of the Provinces with which we are in correspondence, and naturally we feel the need of her dear lines. God imposes this sacrifice, however, but we trust that the end is now in sight.

Our beloved Mother adds: "May Our Divine Lord send us His own Peace soon!...We shall have a profession and Clothing ceremony on September 29, and a Perpetual Vows ceremony on October 20. We had a great joy on August 13, when the nephew of one of our Sisters was ordained in our chapel at St. Nicholas. It was wonderful, and consoled us for many things."

The lady also wrote to dear Mother Provincial giving her impressions of the Mother House and saying that the workmen were repairing the damage, which is all repairable.

About the same time we received a letter from dear Mother Provincial of Finchley, who had had a little word from our dear Sister Mary of St. Canice. Sister has for some time past been at our Convent at Charenton, and she said that all was well at the Mother House, but that they had had some damage as also at Paris. She also said that the Community of Our Lady of Charity of the Refuge at Caen had suffered very much, as well as our House at Valognes - (we had already told you of the great trial which had befallen this dear House, in our last Echoes). We do not know the name of the dear victim at Angers, neither do we know the names of the others. We understand the necessity of writing discreetly still, but we hope that we may soon be able to share the anguish of Our Very Honored Mother General without restriction. As soon as we have any further news we shall write again, knowing how much all hearts are turned towards our dear Sion. For the moment, however, we must be content to thank Divine Providence for their protection, and continue to pray for our other dear communities in peril.

If our very Honored Mother General were able to write to us, we know she would ask us to send your Charities an assurance of her loving interest, with a very maternal blessing, and to anticipate her Christmas Wishes to those of her daughters who are at a distance. In the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, I am happy to remain, Your very devoted Sister and Servant in Our Lord.

Signed:

Sr. Mary of St. Euphrasia. Rel. of O.L. Of Charity of the G.S.

Vive Jésus et Marie!
ECHOES FROM SION. No 9.

Very Honored and Beloved Mothers
and very dear Sisters,--

It is to be hoped that at least some of Your Charities have been more successful than I have been in receiving direct messages from our Beloved Mother General. But for those who have not had this consolation, I am happy to transmit the latest news we have received indirectly.

Just as we were hoping to return to the Mother House, we have received a letter from dear Mother Provincial of Finchley, enclosing a letter she had received from Our Very Honored Mother General, with a message to us to go to England at once, where she hoped we could more easily communicate with Her Charity and continue our mission of intermediary between her and Your Charities. Alas, we could not, in imitation of St. Joseph, depart without delay, much as one would wish to emulate such prompt obedience. We are living in an age of formalities, and these may take some weeks. Perhaps when this letter reaches many of Your Charities we may be in England; on the other hand, we may be detained here longer or even indefinitely. The experience of others proves that we cannot make plans of such a nature at present, but we mention these facts to your Charities now, and when we leave we shall let you know as promptly as possible. Until then we shall be at the Lisbon address, and when we succeed in carrying out our Beloved Mother General's wishes, we shall be at

Convent of the Good Shepherd, Ford, Liverpool, England.

Our Very Honored Mother General confirms the sad news that at Valognes the dear Mother and eight of our Sisters met a tragic death, and a like number of our dear Magdalens and children. Dear Sister Assistant is bravely taking care of the remainder of the household in a Trappist monastery while their convent is being rendered habitable. The Sister at the Mother House who shared their fate was our dear Sister Mary of St. Ursula, who was for many years Sacristan at St. Nicholas. Our Mother also told us that our dear Sr. Mary of St. Martha died on July 27th, R.I.P. From another source we learn that the Monastery of O.L.C. of the Refuge of Caen no longer exists and practically all the relics of our Holy Founder, St. John Eudes, have perished. Our Houses, No.4,12 and 15 on page 1, and No.12 on page 2 have been damaged, but the buildings can be repaired. The houses No.7,16 and 17 in the 2nd Province have not been touched and they feel sure that they owe their preservation to their proximity to Our Lady's shrine. The Houses No.4, 5, 6,8 and 10 in the same Province as well as four of the Houses that were formerly of O.L.C. of the Refuge, were under fire for several days and suffered especially from hunger. The worst days for the dear Sion were those of 13, 14 and 15 August, and the office of Our Very Honored Mother General, the Community room and part of the cloisters were damaged. At St. Nicholas many of the windows were broken. The devoted Chaplain at Conflans, Charenton, was found dead beneath the ruins of his house, but our Sisters, who live quite near, were miraculously preserved.

We were very sorry not to have been able to send you any Christmas message from Our Very Honored Mother General this year, but Your Charity will understand the reason. However, our hearts were closely united with the Holy Family in the Midnight Cave, and we trust that before the dawn of another year, all barriers will be laid low and world-wide peace may reign.

In the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and that of His Holy Mother, I am happy to remain,
Very Honored Mothers and Beloved Sisters,

Yours very devotedly,

Gleason

Sr. Mary of St. Euphrosia

Rel. of O.L.C. of the Good Shepherd.

Blessed be God!

Vive Jésus et Marie!

Very Honored and Beloved Mothers
and very dear Sisters,-

Since writing "Echoes No.9", we have received a nice interesting letter from Our Very Honored Mother General, which we wish also to share with Your Charities. It bears the date of January 2nd. Our Beloved Mother writes: "We had been longing for news of you and all our Shepherdesses when your little note of November 4th, reached us. Soon after your long letter of July 22nd turned up, so we must not give up hope of receiving the others you have sent. Our greatest joy, however, was your long and interesting missive of December 18th, which was quite refreshing by its recent date and the details it contained; we received it on December 28th, and New Year's Eve your Christmas greetings brought us another wave of joy." Then Her Charity mentions several letters she had addressed to us, but which, alas, we had not received. Then she says: "We had a very happy and peaceful Christmas here. It was wonderful to hear the bells of the Cathedral chiming out their joyous peals for Midnight Mass, as in pre-war days. How much our thoughts and prayers were with you and all our dear Shepherdesses, and especially those who still had to keep their greetings shut up in their hearts with danger and sadness all round them. The Divine Infant will have given them joys that are not of the earth, and soon perhaps the blessing of Peace. We had in all eighteen Masses in the Mother-house that night and the following morning, and our Midnight Mass was wonderful. As for the past two years the refectory presented a fairy-like appearance, and God's loving Providence helped us with the material part of the feast. Our children seemed perfectly happy and received plenty of good useful gifts. The orchestra of the Grand Class played before Midnight Mass and during the Offertory; they have made wonderful progress. Our vigil on New Year's Eve was very prayerful and consoling, and there again we recommended all our beloved Shepherdesses, as well as our Magdalens and children, to the Divine Master, praying that the year 1945 may be one of holiness and happiness for all." Our Mother continues: "We have received a few telegrams, two or three letters and a number of cards, which show that the post is not only slow but very uncertain. Still, we are hoping that it will become more regular shortly." Our Mother said that she was deeply touched at the filial affection of the dear Mothers, who only awaited the first moment possible to express their sentiments of union and devotedness. We had told our dear Mother of the anxiety you had expressed to send her material aid, which we also were anxious to do, and Her Charity says: "As for the material help you are so anxious to send us, we have made inquiries, but we feel it is not the moment to chance any message of that kind, unless it could be entrusted to some reliable person, so please assure the dear Mothers of my heart-felt gratitude and appreciation, and later on we can see what is best to be done. There are plenty of repairs and other works to be done, but the material cannot be had, and for the daily needs God's Providence is with us."

Our Beloved Mother wishes us to return to Angers as soon as possible instead of going to England, as we had intimated in "Echoes No.9". How many, many things we shall be able to tell Her Charity regarding each dear Province, details which could not be written, especially during the past year. You will realize what a joy it will be for us to see our Beloved Mother General again and share her joys and sorrows in a more intimate manner even than we have been able to do from a distance. We hope, too, that the Postal service will continue to improve so that all may have the direct contact with Our Beloved First Shepherdess which each of Your Charities longs for so much. Let me assure you of my sincere appreciation of the confidence you have shown me during my mission in Portugal and I only regret that I have not always been able to reply as promptly nor as satisfactorily as my heart longed to do. Our dear Mother speaks of a Christmas circular which she sent us, and we hope it will reach us before we leave so as to be able to send it to Your Charities. We unite with our Beloved Mother in wishing you God's best blessings during 1945, and in union with the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary remain,

Yours very devotedly in Our Lord.

Sr. Mary of St. Euphrosia,

Rel. of O.L.C. of the Good Shepherd

Blessed be God!

Very Honored and Beloved Mothers
and very dear Sisters,-

When we sent Echoes No.10 to Your Charities, we thought that number closed the series, but we have received a few other messages from our Beloved Mother General in a recent letter, which we are happy to transmit. Her Charity writes: "Please God, correspondence will become easier from now on. I imagine the dear Mothers do not realize that they can write to us, as the Post Office officials and the Military authorities here say that letters can be sent to and from other countries as easily as throughout France. Will you therefore advise the dear Mothers to write directly, especially in view of your return to Angers." We fear there may still be some disappointments, as the ordinary postal service may be slow for some time, but D.V.- all that will be overcome by degrees.

Her Charity tells us that Rev. Mons. Saudreau had another bad attack recently while saying Holy Mass, and he was heard to repeat several times "Oh! my God, grant me the strength to finish my Mass!" He had rallied, however, but each attack leaves him weaker. It seems to have been extremely cold, and they were badly off for fuel, even for the kitchens, but they promised good St. Joseph the devotion of the Nine Wednesdays, which had scarcely begun when they received some coal. Our Mother adds that he obtains many other blessings in a like manner and that our Holy Mother St. Euphrasia was well inspired to name him "The royal and powerful protector of the work of the Good Shepherd." Eight postulants had been clothed on the Feast of the Holy Heart of Mary and six Novices professed. The retreats for young ladies had been resumed with unusual attendance, and some of the brave young girls came sixty miles on bicycle to make their retreat. Our Lord is sending the Congregation some good vocations through this channel, and both priests who preach the retreats and the retreatants manifest deep interest in our work. Please God the good faithful Blue-Bird will soon resume its role, for which our poor little Echoes have so feebly tried to supply, and then all hearts will throb with new life emanating from its center, Angers, which may well be called the heart of our Holy Institute.

Our Very Honored Mother General has so many urgent needs that we have resumed our enquiries regarding the transmission of funds to her. It still presents difficulties, but an official at the American Embassy promised to send a letter for me with a recommendation in his own name to the President of the Chase Bank in Paris, which is a branch of the same bank in New York, and if the reply is satisfactory, we shall let Your Charities know.

You will be happy to know that dear Mother Mary of the Divine Heart's Cause advances in spite of the difficulties. On Nov.10, His Excellency the Bishop of Porto, presiding at the Special Ecclesiastical Tribunal appointed for the Cause, performed the very solemn ceremony of opening the tomb of the Servant of God and examining the relics. Besides the Ecclesiastics, Doctors, etc., three Religious of the Good Shepherd were permitted to assist. We regretted very much not to have been of the number, but it was only on the eve that dear Mother Provincial of Vila Nova de Gaia was advised that she with two companions might be present. After the examination required by Holy Mother the Church, the precious remains were placed in a new double coffin and laid in the grave prepared for them in the little mortuary chapel, whereas they had heretofore been in a shrine, greatly venerated by the people. A marble slab was placed over the grave with the original inscription. It is to be hoped that the cause may advance more rapidly now, since the important work of the Portuguese Tribunal is completed, but the two miracles necessary for the Beatification are still wanting, and Our Very Honored Mother General would be so happy to hear of any extraordinary cures that Your Charities may know of.

Let us hope that to the joyful peal of the Alleluias of Easter may be added the joy of Peace, with liberty and justice to the whole world! As you will have received our beloved Mother's Christmas Greetings, we trust you will also have had other direct messages, but if not, you will know that Her Charity's best blessing reaches the most distant corner of our cherished Congregation, as well as the prayers of

Yours ever devotedly in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Blessed be God!

Sr. Mary of St. Euphrasia
Rel. of C.L.C. of the Good Shepherd.