



THE
GREAT
PORTAGE

Nov.-Dec. 1956.

La Loche, Sask.

Vol. XI No. 2.

Dear Children

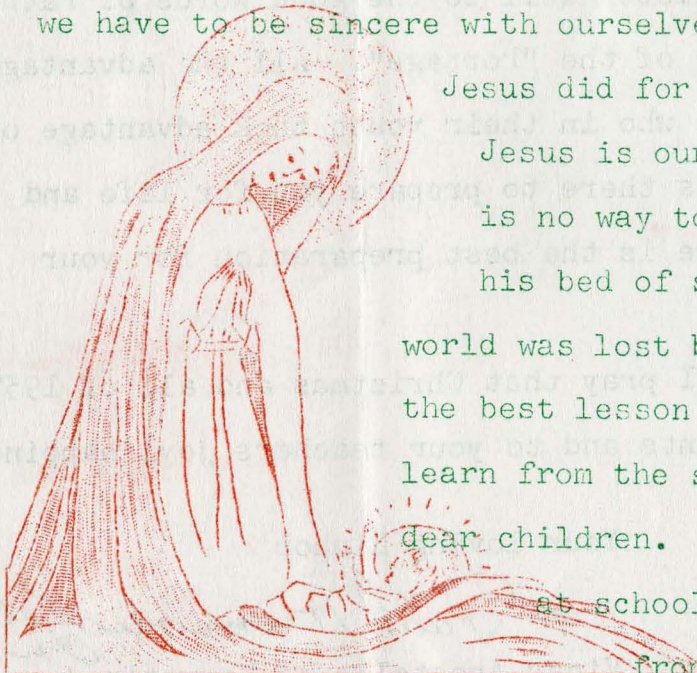
Just a few days ago we were celebrating the Birth of our Saviour Jesus. By this celebration we expressed our thankfulness to Jesus but we have to be sincere with ourselves; if we really appreciate what Jesus did for us, we will listen to his lesson.

Jesus is our Saviour, lying in a manger! There is no way to teach better than example. From his bed of suffering, Jesus teaches us. The world was lost by pride, Jesus our Saviour gave us the best lesson of humility. Each of us has to learn from the school of Bethlehem, and you too my dear children. Do you want to be very good pupils at school? Listen to the lesson of humility from Jesus and his Immaculate Mother.

Here is my best wish to you for the coming year.

La Loche, Sask.
December 29, 1956.

Bernard Mathias M.P.



2.

Dear Boys and Girls:

I enjoyed reading "The Great Portage" and every line brought fragrance of your goodness and kindness to all.

I would ask you to listen well to the good words of Father Mathieu on the first page of the "Portage". All the advantages of life will be for those who in their youth took advantage of the school. The school is there to prepare you for life and the training you receive there is the best preparation for your future success.

I bless you all and I pray that Christmas and all of 1957 bring to you to your parents and to your teachers joy, happiness and peace.

Your loving Bishop

+ Paul Dumouchel
Vicar Apostolic of Keewatin.

The Pas, Man.
Dec. 13, 1956.

Knowing how busy His Excellency Bishop Dumouchel is, we were deeply touched upon receiving this letter written by his own hand. It is with sincere gratitude that we extend our thanks to our dear Pastor.



New Year's Wishes

To the Readers of the GREAT PORTAGE, our generous Benefactors, our dear Pupils and their kind Parents,



Here's the wish
that I am sending
New Year's happiness
sweetly blending
Joy and Peace that's
never ending
All your future
way attending.

Sisters' Residence
La Loche, Saskatchewan,
January 1, 1957.

Sister A. Gamache s.g.m.
Superior.

4.



Christmas Concert

It's December 25th, 7:15 P.M. all the children are happy and there is an air of excitement around the Lajeunesse Hall. No wonder in a few minutes will start the Christmas Concert.

This two hour programme was enjoyed by all. I do think it was a success, the actors put their all into their roles, some were a bit nervous but they mastered their parts well. I am convinced the true Christmas spirit animated all the children who had only one wish: to share their joy and happiness by helping their parents and friends to spend a most enjoyable evening.

Are you interested in the numbers of the programme? Here they are:

1. Merry Christmas To You song --Grades 3 and 4.
2. "In As Much As You Have Done It Unto Me" --playlet --Grade 2 Girls.
3. "Peeping" (A living Christmas Card) -- Grade 1.
4. What Christmas Is (poem) --Lucia Montgrand
5. A Christmas Song --What the Christmas Bells Say --Grade One and Two.
6. The Old Men Is Always Right (comedy) --Seniors
7. The Christmas Rose Drill -- Grade 3 and 4 Girls.
8. Pupils from the four classes presented THE FIRST NOEL in 7 Tableaux:
1) The Annunciation, 2) Near Bethlehem 3) Nativity Scene 4) Shepherd Scene 5) Shepherd at the Manger 6) The Three Wise Men 7) Complete Nativity Scene.

A group of sixteen Senior Girls sang the carols Angels We Have Heard On High, O Little Town of Bethlehem, Silent Night, While Shepherds Watched Their Sheep By Night, The First Noel, The Wise Men, Joy to the

World.

The three narrators Abraham and Ernest Moise and Leon Janvier solemnly recited their parts.

Before the closing number "God Save the Queen", Rev. B. Mathieu addressed the audience. He congratulated the children for the evening's entertainment, and encouraged them to do always their very best. He asked the parents who were with reason proud of their children, to cooperate with the teachers by sending their children to school.

Father then distributed peanuts to the children.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

CHRISTMAS DINNER

It was indeed a happy crowd of school children who arrived at La-jeunesse Hall on Christmas Day for the traditional Christmas dinner. Following the saying of grace and the singing of MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, eager little faces enjoyed a hearty meal prepared and served by the Sisters. The children wish to thank their Pastor for paying the expenses of this delightful meal.

A GREAT CELEBRATION

At half past eleven, Christmas Eve, the church bell merrily pealed announcing the midnight Mass. The church was filled to capacity for this great feast. The beautiful crib and the altar with its many lights and poinsettia decoration contributed to put everyone in a pious mood. Rev. Father B. Mathieu celebrated the three masses and gave an impressive sermon.

As the beautiful hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High" was sung, each one in perfect order came to the communion rail to receive Jesus in his heart.

We were also impressed by the great number of people who stayed for the three masses. It is sure that many blessings and graces were received on that beautiful Christmas night.

NEW CANDLESTICKS

Everyone was impressed to see the beautiful new candlesticks on the altar, on Christmas Day... Father Mathieu thanked everyone who generously contributed to pay this \$154. expense.

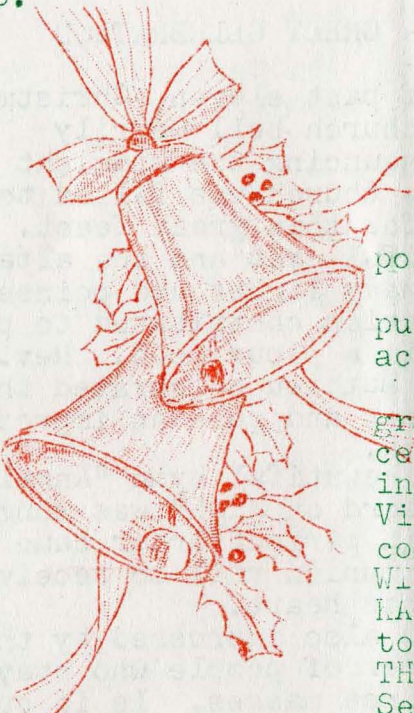
6.

MISSION

OUR PASTOR'S FEAST

This celebration scheduled for October 14 was postponed to November 9.

A short and well rendered programme by the pupils marked the day as an outstanding one for the active participants.



The Seniors in Feast Day Song opened the programme. Abraham Moise presented the children's sincere greetings to Reverend Father B. Mathieu. Morning song was well rendered by the Grade 3 and 4 pupils. Virginie Toulejour and Beatrice Herman presented a comedy RAT IN THE BASKET. Grade 2 Girls recited THE WIND. The Grade 3 and 4 pupils sang the popular KOO-LABURRA Round. Grade Ones' choral recitation took us to Mother Goose Land in --Peter Peter Pumpkin Eater. THE OLD WOMAN AND THE PEDDLER (Action song) by the Seniors brought its good measure of enjoyment and laughter. The Grade 1 and 2 pupils in OH WHERE IS MY LITTLE DOG GONE proved that their feet as well as their hands could mark time as they swung their partners for a measure and more... A playlet PETITIONING THE SAINTS in favour of our devoted Pastor, was a well fitting number for the occasion. Alice Herman presented a spiritual bouquet to Rev. Father.

In return Father thanked and congratulated one and all for the good performance. Father urged the pupils to profit well of the formation they get in school, especially in good manners, character formation -- will and work; and to follow the advice the Sisters give them.

"God Save the Queen" brought the final note to his very pleasant entertainment.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

On December the eighth the Church celebrated the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Our dear Mother Mary was conceived free from original sin and preserved from its stain by the foreseen merits of Jesus-Christ.

On this great feast we gave special honour to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Father B. Mathieu officiated at the High Mass at which we all assisted, and many of us received Holy Communion.

Reverend Father L. Lavigueur gave a wonderful sermon about Our Lady. It was Father Lavigueur's first sermon in Chipewyan. He surely deserves our best congratulations. (Father started learning Chipewyan last June.)

At 5.30 P.M. we all again joined in the singing of love and praise in honor of our dear Mother "who was the first and last in the natural lineage of the Children of Adam in whom sin had no place".

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CHRISTLIKE CHARITY

Late at night Dec. 5th Father Mathieu was suddenly aroused from his sleep by a call for help. Jean Marie Fonataine was coming to get Father for his sick niece. The 18 years old girl Louise Fontaine, suffering from encephalitis and unconscious was badly in need of hospital care and there was no way of bringing her out. Father hitched his dogs and set out with Jean Marie on the twenty-six miles trek. The night was cold but the stars shining in a clear sky made it an agreeable trip. However, the trip back did not prove so delightful. After the girl had been well tucked into the sled, Father and Jean Marie had to run behind all the way back.

In spite of the fatigue of the night, Father was in the chapel the next morning to say Mass.

When the news came out about Father's mercy trip to West La Loche, every one couldn't help but to admire once more the great devotedness and endurance at all times of our missionary priests.



REPORT CARD

November 15 was an exciting day for us. The members of the School Committee were coming to our classrooms for the giving out of report cards. For the last few days we had been busy writing exams on the work taken from the beginning of September. Everyone was anxious to know who was first as there were many prizes to be distributed to the meriting pupils.

Here is a list of those who

SCHOOL

deserved rewards.

Grade VII Marcelline Hainault

Grade VI Abraham Moise

Grade V Beatrice Herman

Grade IV Geordie Herman

Alice Herman

Grade III Jonas Janvier

Grade II Isabel Herman

Grade I Ovide Montgrand

Emile Montgrand

Monique Janvier

After having been gratified by a short but encouraging talk in Chipewyan by one of the trustees, Mrs. Lucia Deltess, everyone resumed his lessons, decided to work harder in order to be ready for the Christmas tests. We could hardly wait also that night to show our cards to our parents who signed them, showing their interest in our school work.

MORE BOOKS

Thanks to Mr. Waugh, our supply of library books has increased with the arrival of ten books for each room. By the way each child dug into them as soon as they were put to use, shows that they were appreciated.

SICKNESS RAGES ON

In spite of the mild winter weather of this year, sickness in our midst has been quite severe judging from the frequent and long absences from school and the many admissions in our Hospital. Egide Herman, Pauline Janvier, Sarah and Alice Herman, Archie Billette, Lucia and Eveline Montgrand, are now back at school. Others had to go to Ile a la Crosse, Marceline Hainault, Martin Jolibois and Edouard Janvier are now doing better. It is hoped after two months of illness that all will enjoy good health and be back once again to the normal routine of school days.

HOT LUNCH

During the very cold days of November, when the children returned after their illness, cocoa and soup were served thanks to the generosity of the Catholic Mission and the Alumnae of St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon.

In behalf of the children, we express sincere thanks to our

generous benefactors, and to Sr. M.C. Gervais who prepares the lunch.

4H CLUB

During the Christmas holidays we received from the Provincial Treasury the last half of the money which was given to us as prizes for our gardens. The amount of \$17.50 was gladly appreciated by all. The members will find a new incentive to better work in their gardens next spring. Our thanks for the donation.

WE SKATE...WE SLIDE...

Notwithstanding his pressing work, our devoted Father Lavigueur took time off to prepare the slide and flood the rink.

For the many happy hours of play these will give us, we are indebted to Father whom we thank heartily.

GIFTS

We are very grateful to Sister C. Frohlich, an old friend, now Superior at Brocket, who sent us Christmas gifts for the school.



MAIL PLANE RETARDED

As continuous foggy weather kept on, the sched mail plane, due on the 19th did not make its appearance causing great disappointment among the people. It was only December 23rd that it came, but the day being a Sunday the mail was distributed on the following day. In spite of the felt hardship of isolation, happiness was seen on every face as

VILLAGE

they offered this sacrifice for the coming of Jesus on Christmas Day.

WEDDINGS

"And so my beloved, when red leaves are falling
The joy bells shall ring out
for you and me".

These words came true on Nov. 6th when Anne Marie Herman became the bride of Edouard Sylvestre at a quiet wedding held at the rectory chapel. Rev. Father L. Lavigueur blessed the matrimonial vows of the new couple.

Mr. and Mrs. Sylvestre will make their home in our midst.

---December 26th was the great day for Alice Sylvestre who became the bride of Marc Janvier at the ceremony held in the church and presided by rev. Father B. Mathieu.

Mr. and Mrs. Janvier departed two days later to their home at Dillon.

To the newly weds our sincere good wishes for a long and happy life.

IN AND OUT

We are always glad to have the visit of our friends and neighbours but most of all we are happy to welcome home for the joyous Christmas Season our dear fathers and brothers. For the last three months, they had left us to go to their trap lines and thereby earn our daily bread. Among our friends we noticed Jonas Park, Alfred Cheechum, Robert Guetre, Martial Montgrand and their families, Philippe Lemaigre, Edouard Park, Pierre Sylvestre and Maxime Lemaigre. From Dillon came Mr. Robby Liberté and his family, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Chanalouin, Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Herman. From WASEKANIO: Mr. Joseph Dene Gann Montgrand, Mr. Gilbert Makesis Montgrand and their families and Mr. Pierre Sylvestre. From WATERWAYS: came Mrs. Eleonor Fontaine. From Prince Albert, Dept. of Natural Resources, Mr. C. Brown Northern Administrator, on a business trip. To BUFFALO NARROWS: Mrs. Ernest

11.

MacDonald went to spend the Christmas season with her relatives.

Moise Janvier has found work.

MR. MICHAUD RETURNS

After enjoyable holidays at Goodsoil, Mr. Michaud, our former Field Officer came to end some business at the office. He then took over his new post at St. Walbourg's. May his work there be blest and may happiness be his and his family's in their new home.

During the absence of the Field Officer we are grateful to have Mr. Roy Simpson, HBC Manager, take over the radio messages.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Miss M. Crawley, Supervisor for North of the Dept. of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation, made her second visit to our settlement at the beginning of autumn.

She came in aid to many who were in real need of help by distributing clothing.

Very sincere thanks to you, Miss Crawley.



May the peace of the Holy Child and His Mother be yours throughout the New Year.

Sr. B. Webber s.g.m. R.N.
Sr. Antoinette Gaudet s.g.m.
R.N.

HOSPITAL

BIRTHS

Congratulations to the happy parents on the birth of a son or daughter:

Nov. 2. Mr. and Mrs. Tobie Jim Montgrand, Denis Ronald; Mr and Mrs. Albert Sylvestre, Martin Raymond; Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Montgrand, Marius Ernest; Mr. and Mrs. Pascal Janvier, Karl Dominicue; Mr. and Mrs. J. Baptiste Herman, Edna Joyce.

NOTES FROM THE NURSES' DIARY

Since Nov. 1st. Sixty-five persons have been cared for in the hospital.

Doctor M. Hoffman was in on Nov. 2nd and Nov. 28th.

Little Martin Jolibois was taken to Ile a la Crosse on the mail plane of Nov. 8th.

On Nov. 15 at the request of the nurse, Dr. Hoffman came in. He took little Lea Janvier to Ile a la Crosse for treatment. She returned home last week fully recovered.

On Nov. 2nd Baby Clarence Frank

son of J. Baptiste Montgrand was taken to Ile a la Crosse but in spite of all Doctor's good care he went to join the Angel choir.

Nov. 16 Mr. and Mrs. Robby Fontaine went to Ile a la Crosse to be treated for carbuncles.

Nov. 28. Mrs. Joseph Bag and Marcelline Hainault boarded the plane for Ile a la Crosse. Marcelline had a synovitis and Mrs. Bag an endocardites.

Nov. 29. Edouard Janvier was taken to Ile a la Crosse for a sprain of the hip.

Dec. 6th Louise Fontaine was taken to Ile a la Crosse by special plane.

Mr. Alphonse Piche has gone for treatment to the Prince Albert Sanatorium.

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCE

The editors of the "Great Portage" and the Mission Staff wish to extend their sympathy to Rev. Sister B. Webber, R.N., and her family upon the death of her beloved aunt Mrs. M. James of Prince Albert.

In late August, Pierre Montgrand was flown from Garson Lake to Ile a la Crosse, for needed treatment. However his days were numbered and our coparishioner passed away at St. Joseph's Hospital in early December. His wife had the consolation of seeing him a few hours before he died.

Besides his wife, Mr. Montgrand is mourned by Eliza, Edouard, Marie Cecilia, Johnny, Jimmy, Susan and Philip.

---Miss Louise Fontaine also passed away at Ile a la Crosse, where she had been taken a few days earlier, for a severe case of encephalitis.

---One-month old Frank Clarence, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Baptiste Montgrand took his flight to heaven after a short illness.

---During the measles epidemic three other little ones, Johnny son of Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Lemaigre; John son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Herman; and Doris daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ligouri Toulejour also died.

To all these bereaved parents may we offer the expression of our loving condolence.

14.

ALL SAINTS' DAY

Since the Church counts her canonized saints by the thousand it would be impossible for each one to be honored with a special feast day. A special day, therefore, has been set aside to celebrate the triumph of all saints. The feast of All Saints comes on November 1, On this day we all assist at Mass.

It is impossible for us to imagine the joy of the souls that dwell with God. We should be happy for them in their glory and pray that we may some day join them.

ALL SOULS' DAY

After honoring the saints' triumph in heaven, the Catholic Church, as a most tender mother, turns her attention to those souls now suffering in purgatory.

November 2 is All Souls' Day. We have no way of knowing who is in purgatory. Neither can we know how long a soul remains there. But we are sure that the sufferings of the souls are in-

tense. These souls are not able to help themselves, they need the help of our prayers and sacrifices.

On this day each priest is allowed to offer three Masses for the faithful departed. During the day we visit the church frequently to gain indulgences for the dead. We pray especially for our departed parents and friends and for the soldiers who have laid down their lives for our country.

SISTERS' RETREAT

November eighteen, nineteen and twenty were peaceful and quiet days for the Sisters. They were days of recollection in preparation for the renovation of their vows on November twenty-first, feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We are sure that the Sisters prayed for all of us during their retreat and we are very thankful for this generous help.

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A SHORT RULE OF LIFE: Do what you can--with what you have--where you are--today.

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For three years we have been keeping an account of the changes in temperature. The time between December 2nd and 15th has been the coldest we have had in all these years. It certainly was not pleasant to be out with 30 degrees below and Mr. North Wind raging round about every corner waiting to pinch your nose.

But days follow days and bring sudden changes for it rained on Christmas day and the weather was so mild that brown patches of earth could be seen here and there among the snow drifts.

Now as I write the cold has once more taken over his own rights.

FISHING

For a few weeks the fish have been given the hunt and many have lost their lives in the fishermen's net. Everyday a bombardier is seen transporting the fish ready for the plane which comes for it and take it to Meadow Lake.

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We were happy to receive a few school journals during the last months. Among them were the BEAUTIFUL VALLEY ECHO, ISLAND BREEZES and LEGAL HI LIGHTS which were read and enjoyed by all. We are looking forward to your next issues.

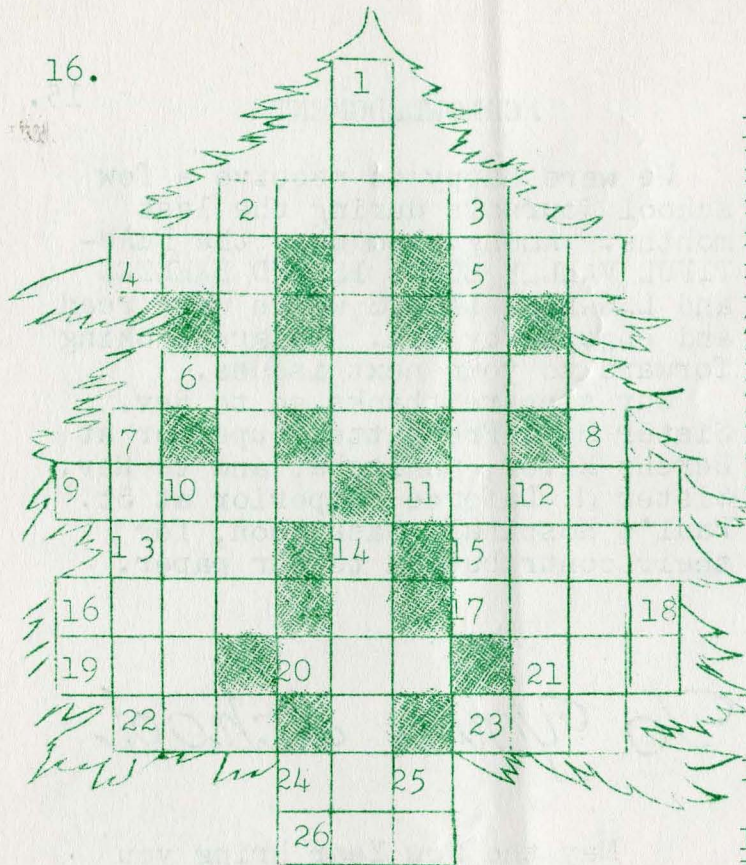
Our sincere thanks go to Rev. Sister M.A. Frechette, Superior at Berens River, Manitoba, and to Rev. Sister M. Laforce, Superior at St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon, for their contribution to our paper.

To Your School

May the New Year bring you joy happiness, peace and deep contentment in your work. May every one of its days be filled with the blessings of Jesus and Mary.

From Our School

16.



ACROSS

2. A girl likes a new one for Christmas.
4. Part of the foot
5. Good to eat any time of the year.
6. First part of the day.

9. A transparent gen.
11. Found under the Christmas tree.
13. It catches fish for fishermen.
15. New.
16. A Scottish word for slope or bank.
17. Clothes.
19. Bag.
20. Used for tea or coffee.
21. Ocean.
22. Lair of wild beasts.
23. It is (contraction)
24. A domestic bird.
26. You have two in your head.

DOWN

1. Don't forget to buy one for Mother.
2. You do this to your Christmas tree.
3. Father does a lot of this.
7. A surname, or a boy's name.
8. These are busy in December.
10. ".....on earth"--a Christmas message.
12. Something we do on Christmas day.
14. A Christmas bird.
16. Bachelor of Science (abbreviation)
18. Bachelor of Arts(abbreviation).
24. A pronoun.
25. A point on the compass.

--G.E. Breary.

(taken from the Junior Red Cross)



Happy New Year!