

A VIGNETTE

OF THE HOLY CHILD MISSIONS IN AFRICA

"The Holy Child in His own Person was the first to bring the Good News to Africa", Bishop Shanahan, C. S. Sp. once stated. "And where," continued the great Missionary, "could His Sisters find a better apostolate than in this same Africa"?"

That was in 1930 when the Society of the Holy Child Jesus first took up its work in Nigeria. Three nuns went to Calabar to lay the foundations; they had one central school and two small "bush" schools. Three - in a land that teemed with millions of pagans. But

where there are nuns, no matter how few, there is a Convent Chapel. And where there is the real, living Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, there is "Wisdom above numbers".

At the present time the spiritual daughters of Mother Cornelia Connelly are carrying on the work in nine large centres in Nigeria and Ghana. They conduct the education of some 19,500 girls, in 120 schools, assisted by 630 secular mistresses, mostly African - and themselves Holy Child Old Girls (Alumnae).

**Mother M.
Kenneth,
principal of
Marian Hill
Secondary
School, Calabar**

**pays a visit to
the Twinnery
at Ifuho**





*Ifuho - future teachers
receive practical training
from M. Cabriel Dolores*

The greatest fruit of all has been in the establishment of an African Sisterhood, the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus, which recently celebrated its Silver Jubilee. At Cape Coast in Ghana, at the request of Archbishop Amissah, the nucleus of another religious society has just been formed - the Congregation of the Infant Jesus. African girls are also asking to join the S.H.C.J. even though it means going overseas to the postulanship in England or in the United States.

"Give us more schools... send us more Mothers..." Africa's urgent demand for a higher and higher degree of learning is equalled only by the urgency every Missionary feels to supply that need with a solid Christian education. School facilities are strained to the utmost in spite of new buildings and additional classroom blocks. To cite one instance, there were

sixty places open in the Cornelia Connelly Secondary School at Uyo - and 1376 children sat for the entrance examinations.

The apostolate of a Holy Child nun in Africa has as many variations as the vast continent itself. She labours to form Christ by prayer, sacrifice and work in:

**Teacher Training Colleges
Secondary and Primary Schools
Bush schools
Technical and Vocational Schools
Marriage Training Centres
Infant Welfare
Catechetical Centres**

She may direct a welfare club that provides food and clothing for the poor - and teaches the African "Have's" to share with the "Have-not's". She may go from a class in Shakespeare to aid a stricken woman in prison, or to take members of the Legion of



*Uyo - a class in science
conducted by Mother
Mary Carmel and a
lay teacher from India
(second row left.)*

Mary to give religion lessons in a reform school. But her chief task, no matter where her Mission is located, is to instruct her students how to carry over an integral part of their training to their life later on. They must have a practical knowledge of how to raise the standard of living in their villages and towns, and to be of service

to others, especially children. Home craft, nutrition and needlework are an important part of the curriculum.

One of the crowning joys of all S.H.C.J. on the Missions is that so many of their own children share with them the privilege of spreading the Spirit of the Holy Child among the African people.

Ogoja - M. M. Benignus demonstrates the need of visual aids in teaching



HOW CAN I HELP THE MISSIONS?

1. By the gift of self, if you feel called to a religious vocation dedicated to the Spirit of the Holy Child and a joyous spiritual motherhood.
2. By prayer. In God's great economy of grace, who knows how many conversions may be effected by one hour a day offered for the Missions in union with the Mass?
3. By giving a year or two as a lay apostle if you are a qualified teacher.
4. By financial aid or Gifts in Kind. It is very helpful when people write directly to the Superior to ascertain the specific needs of her Mission. (For Mission addresses, see inside front cover page.)