

A Light Grows

in the Darkness



"When Our Lord said, 'You are the light of the world; let your light shine before men,' he was using the illustration of the simple oil lamps of Palestine to bring home to His hearers a great truth... We shall have the Light – and give It – in proportion to the purity of our intention and the care with which we keep the oil of love burning brightly in our hearts."

From the Christmas letter of Reverend Mother Mary Amadeus, Superior General, Calabar, 1930.



The First Holy Child Sisters in Africa – 1930.

Seated: Rev. Mother M. Geneviève, Rev. Mother M. Amadeus, Sister Magdalen.

Standing: Mother M. Joachim, Mother M. Laurentia (now Superior General of the Society), Mother M. Edith.

Before and after the first clothing ceremony, April 18, 1937.

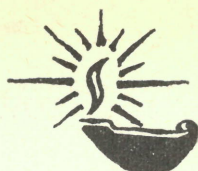
The original group of Handmaids of the Holy Child, an African Congregation, trained by the Society of the Holy Child Jesus to co-operate in its various mission activities.



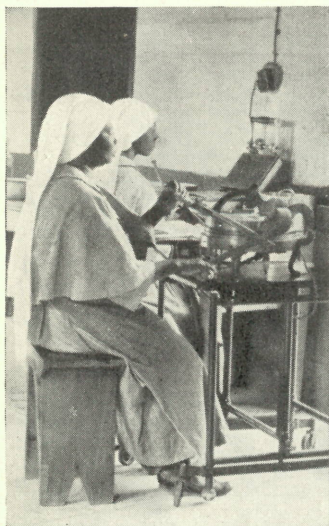


Early days - DRAWING WATER
FROM ONE OF THE TOWN PUMPS.

CALABAR



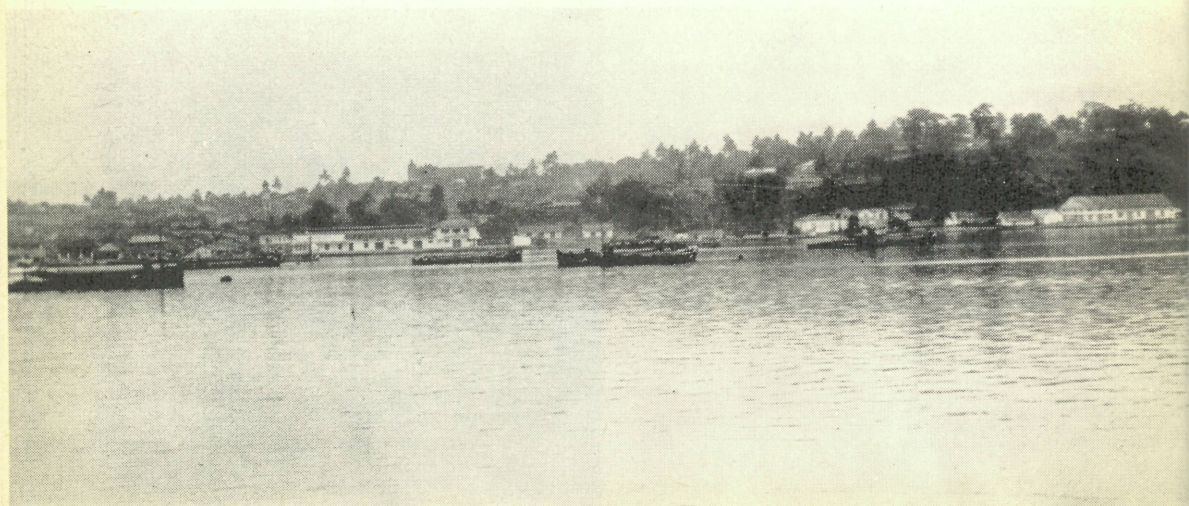
In 1930 Reverend Mother M. Amadeus, S.H.C.J., sixth Superior General, founded the Holy Child West African Mission. It was done at the instigation of Bishop Shanahan, C.S.Sp., and of Sister Magdalen Walker, an old Mayfield girl, who had been working alone in the Convent School in Calabar.



THE HANDMAIDS MAKE ALTAR
BREADS.

Since then, from eight Convent foundations, the *Light* has penetrated into a vast area in Eastern Nigeria and Ghana. It has spread over a network of Bush Schools, and in a Novitiate for African Sisters, Training Colleges for African Teachers, in Marriage Training Centres, and Technical and Vocational Schools as well as Primary and Secondary Schools.

Today - Calabar as seen from the river. The beautiful Cathedral of the Sacred Heart and St. Teresa dominates the scene. The Holy Child compound is to the right and beyond it.





MARIAN HILL STUDENTS MARCH IN A CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION.



IN THE 'THIRTIES THIS WAS A PART OF EVERY TRIP.

MOTHER ST. ALOYSIUS AND SISTER PATRICIA WELCOME BISHOP EKANDEM.



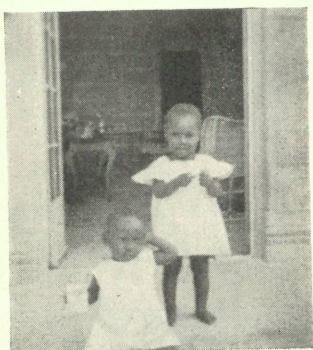


IFUHO

From being a tiny Bush School, Ifuho has expanded into the Vicariate House of the Missions. First and foremost here is the Noviceship for the Handmaids of the Holy Child. In addition, there is a Training College, Technical School, Marriage



REVEREND MOTHER MARY ST. JOHN, SUPERIOR OF THE HANDMAIDS, WITH TWO SMALL FRIENDS.



THEY FOUND A HOME WITH THE HOLY CHILD.

Training Centre, and a small orphanage for unwanted twins, waifs and strays.

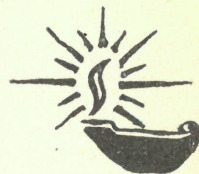
Some seventy Bush Schools stem from this Convent, with an enrollment of about 12,000 children.

REV. MOTHER MARY OSMUND CONDUCTING ONE OF THE INITIAL CLASSES IN THE TRAINING COLLEGE.

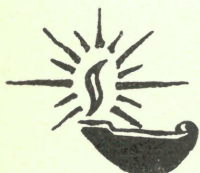




UYO



These are some of the cottages at Cornelia Connelly College, a Secondary School which is the goal of many an African girl. The Sisters of the Holy Child conduct three such secondary Schools in Nigeria.



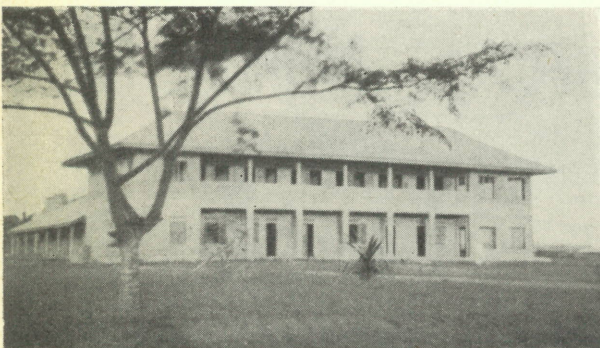
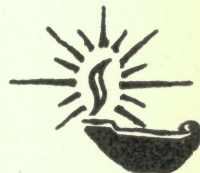
AFIKPO

The Elementary Training College here has sent more than 200 teachers out into the towns and villages of Ogoja Province. These are some of the First Year students with their classmistress, Mother M. Flavia. In time, these "future hopes" of the Church in Africa will carry the Light to forgotten spots in the world's byways.

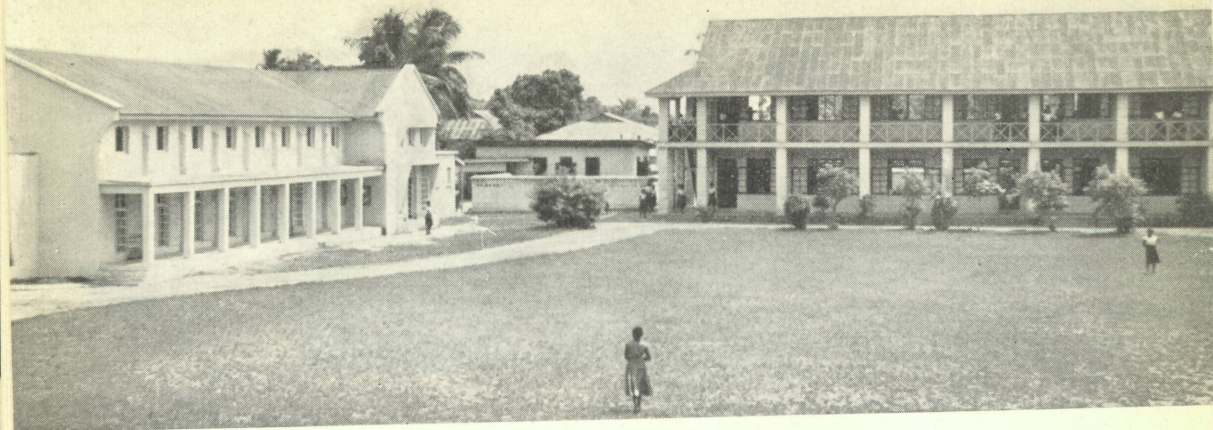


OGOJA

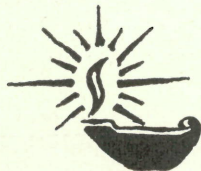
This is an offshoot of Afikpo and officially became a separate house in 1956 under the protection of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. The Handmaids have opened a new convent at Kakwagam, only 14 miles away.



THE PYLON



LAGOS



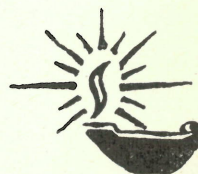
The Holy Child Secondary School is proud of its position in the Federal Capital and of its twelve years of age. But like all S.H.C.J. schools in Africa it had a humble beginning. In 1945 there was only one building - and only one class. Today there are 180 students.



THE CHAPEL, JUST COMPLETED, AT TAKORADI.

TAKORADI

Life moves swiftly in the new country of Ghana and the S.H.C.J. Training College must keep apace with it. New teachers are in constant demand.



CAPE COAST



The Members of the Holy Child School welcome Lord Listowel, the Governor-General, who showed much appreciation of their activities.

