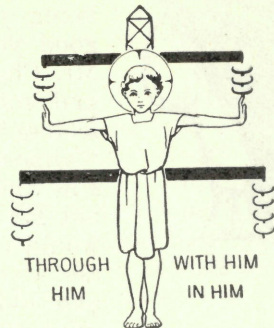


THE SPARK



Dear Electrons,

Several of you have written about a splendid idea: this summer you are going to build a small shrine to Our Lady and the Holy Child right in your own garden. One of you who lives in the country is building *her* shrine at the crossroads in imitation of the wayside shrines that appear so often in the Catholic part of Europe.

This recalls something that happened in Africa not long ago. Martha,

10, lives in a section of Eastern Nigeria where the bush is dotted with another kind of shrine - *ju-ju*. Martha regarded them with a particular dislike because her own father, after losing his Christian faith, had gone back to *ju-ju* worship. But he still allowed his children to attend the Catholic Mission school because it was the only one in the vicinity. Ju-ju, he said, made him more important in the village and he laughed at their prayers and entreaties.



One day Martha decided to make a little shrine to Our Lady in the bush near their compound. The Sister, who taught her class, contributed a small statue of the Madonna. Every day Martha went there to pray for her father. One time he caught her saying the rosary and for a dreadful moment she thought he was going to destroy the shrine. "No, father, no!" she begged. "This is just a little image of God's Mother - and she is our Mother, too. She loves us!" The man stared at his daughter for a very long time, then he stalked away without saying anything. That night a terrible storm swept over the jungle. The next morning Martha ran to see if her Madonna was still safe and as she approached the spot she heard hammering. Peering through

the bush she saw an extraordinary sight that filled her with joy. Her father was re-building the shrine which had been wrecked in the storm - and the little Madonna was quite safe. He turned and saw the child. "Come," he said. "I am going to the Mission with you. I wish to see the Father..."

And Martha knew Our Lady had won.

It is not always possible for us to build a shrine of wood or stones - but we *can* make one in our hearts to the dear Holy Child and His Mother. How? Just by loving Him, by sharing everything with Him - even our play.

May He bless each one of you.

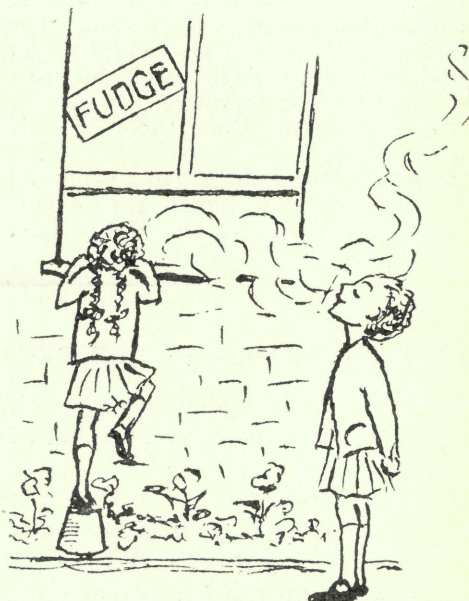
ELECTRA

The Sparks Fly ...

What do you think? *An Electron has received a message from the President of the United States!* She is Marie-Therese Messal, a 3rd Elementary at **Drexel**, and she wrote to Mr. Kennedy, all on her own, saying that she and her brother had wanted to vote for him but they were too young. "But we did pray for you very hard, and I think that was better than voting," she added. The following reply came from **THE WHITE HOUSE**. "Many thanks for your message of congratulations. I am most grateful for your confidence and good will..." And it was signed *John F. Kennedy*.

Those busy mission-helpers at **St. Leonards-on-Sea** have broken a record this year by making £ 25 on their "side shows" alone... to say nothing of the Beetle and Bingo drives which swelled the sum for Africa. And which provided much entertainment on winter evenings. A costume parade (each child had to go as "something in daily use" and the results were hilarious!), and the sale of fudge and peppermint creams added to the sum total - and to the fun!

The Annual Jumble Sale at **Cavendish Square** was a wonderful success; two dolls were raffled off and one had to have its name guessed. The name was "Felicity Ann" and as no one thought of "Felicity" the winner was chosen from among those who had guessed "Ann"... She





Big Twins enjoy taking care of Little Twins at Ifuho.

was a little 6-year-old... Missionary zeal at "Cav" was fired by a talk given by Mother M. Patrick who was on leave from Africa. As a result, the Electrons have decided to hold two special meetings each term. The little ritual they have adopted for these meetings might well be used by Electrons everywhere:

Hymn to the Holy Child (Standing).

All kneel. The *First Electron* comes up the centre and lights the candle before the statue of the Holy Child.

2nd Electron - "Jesus is the Light of the world but most people in the world do not know Him."

Leader (usually the Nun in charge.) - "Jesus said to His Apostles, 'Go teach all nations and baptize them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.'"

1st Electron - "We can help to spread Our Lord's Kingdom by being united to Jesus, by praying for the Missions and by loyally following Jesus in our daily lives."

Electron Promises

Leader - (asks the entire group) "Do you wish to work for Jesus?"

Electrons - "I do"

Leader - "Then pray often for the Missions and offer up an hour every day for this great work in union with Our Lord's offering of Himself in the Mass, and be ready to make sacrifices to win grace for pagans."

Sometimes a short play on the Missions follows this, and our Mission news is read and discussed.

At **St. Mary's Melrose**, the group of children from the public schools who came for Confirmation class asked to do their bit for Africa - and each has become an Electron. **The Junior School at New Sharon** had a tremendous Mission Drive aided and abetted by cardboard monkeys climbing paper cocoanut trees! Each class had one and what a race there was among those monkeys to reach the top, especially toward the end of the Drive...

HOW TO BECOME AN ELECTRON...

1. Send your name, age and address and the one word "Electron" to Electra, the Convent H.C.J., 10 via Boncompagni, Rome, Italy:

or

Ask your teacher to send your name to Electra along with the names of others in your class who wish to join.

2. *Say every day the Electron prayer you will receive.*
3. Offer up one hour every day for the Missions in union with the Mass.