

## Catechist Marie Bodin

ON Saturday, October 7, the Feast of the Most Holy Rosary, Catechist Marie Bodin died after an illness of three months. The third Catechist to enter our Society, it seemed but fitting that she should be the third Catechist to enter into eternal rest. Fitting too, that Our Lord and Our Blessed Mother should call her on the beautiful Feast of the Most Holy Rosary.

Catechist Bodin was born in Vacherie, Louisiana, November 22, 1891. The family later moved to Sour Lake, Texas, and it was there that Catechist learned from her pastor, the late Reverend Martin F. Collins, about the newly founded Society of Missionary Catechists. Catechist entered the Society in 1922 at the Academy of Our Lady in Chicago where Mother Aquinata and the School Sisters of Notre Dame had kindly given hospitality to our little Community. On May 24, 1923, the Feast of Our Blessed Lady of Victory, Catechist Bodin left for Ocate, New Mexico, where she joined Catechist Julia Doyle and Catechist Mary Benes who had preceded her to the missions. For the next fourteen years she labored among the poor in New Mexico, returning to Victory-Noll two years ago.

The funeral services were held at Victory-Noll October 10, with the Reverend Francis P. Faust, chaplain, officiating. Father Faust was assisted by the Reverend Thomas E. Dillon, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Huntington. There were present also: The Reverend Father Marion, O. M. Cap., Guardian of St. Felix Monastery, Huntington; the Reverend Father Boniface, O. M. Cap., the Reverend Father Felix,



O. M. Cap., and the Reverend Father Kenneth, O. M. Cap., all of the Monastery, and the Reverend Lawrence Fetting, assistant pastor of St. Peter and Paul's Church, Huntington.

Catechist Bodin is survived by her father, Mr. Norbert Bodin of Houston, Texas; three sisters: Mrs. F. Hugger, of Houston; Mrs. F. Breaux, Morgan City, Louisiana, and Mrs. M. M. Collins, Sour Lake, Texas, and four brothers, D. N. Bodin, Beaumont, Texas; Charles Bodin, Monroe City, Texas; Robert Bodin, Morgan City, Louisiana, and A. J. Bodin, Miami, Florida. To Catechist's father, her relatives and friends we extend our sincerest sympathy. May her soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

CATECHIST BODIN'S zeal and her charity for the poor are best exemplified in an account she once wrote of her first Christmas in the missions.

"My first Christmas in the mission field," she wrote, "was spent at our mission-center at Ocate, New Mexico. Ocate has an altitude of 8,500 feet. That winter of 1923 was very cold. The car could not plough its way through the deep snow, and we had to travel by wagon or sled in order to visit our sick poor. Many times even the wagon could not get through, and we had to walk through two or three miles of snow.

"Christmas Eve arrived and the last Christmas party was over, but there was another act of sweet charity to perform. At five o'clock that evening we heard a knock at the door and on opening it, we found a poor man who asked us if we could accommodate his sick wife for the night. He was taking her to the hospital in Las Vegas in a wagon, but traveling through the deep snow was very slow and now they could go no farther until morning. Remembering Our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph who sought shelter on this very night, we were glad to care for the sick woman. Catechist Doyle, our superior, prepared her own room for the patient and then put a cot in my room for herself. We placed a little bell near the poor woman's bed and told her to ring it if she should need anything during the night.

"During the night I awakened, dressed, and went to see if our patient needed anything, but found her comfortably sleeping. I looked at my watch and it was five minutes to twelve. I thought of the Midnight Masses that were about to begin. Christmas Mass for us was impossible. I knelt down in our little oratory and I am sure that the Spiritual Communion I made at that midnight hour was the most fervent I ever made in my life."