

# THE APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER CORNER

In League with the Sacred Heart

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National Director

5. **Conferences.** Whenever possible, the National Director goes out to the provinces to hold conferences with parish priests in order to explain to them the organizational aspects of the Apostleship of Prayer and to suggest means to propagate it.

Of late, several conferences have been held with student leaders, specially in lay schools and universities, with very encouraging results, thanks to the apostolic work of some enthusiastic students.

6. A very novel way to spread the Devotion is through decalcomanias, or **decals**, for short, which are suited for car windshields and table glass tops. These decals are getting popular, and the presence of the Image of the Sacred Heart in public and private conveyances should surely remind the passengers and drivers of the duties and obligations that their relation imposes on them.

Pins and scapulars, although they are part of the devotional equipment of a devotee of the Sacred Heart, have in many instances served the good purpose of spreading this admirable Devotion. To cite an example, a young newspaperman went to his office one day wearing the Sac-

red Heart pin. Other office employees began to ask questions about the Apostleship of Prayer, and soon everybody was a member of this wonderful organization.

## Other Activities

The great virtue of this devotion to the Sacred Heart has been expressed in the promises made by Jesus Himself to St. Marguerite of Alacoque: "Fervid souls shall become fervent" and "Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection." Hence,

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*This report on the Apostleship of Prayer in the Philippines was submitted to the Bishops in their annual conference held in Manila last January 24 to January 29.*

*Considering the informative value of this report to the members of the Apostleship of Prayer and to other Catholics who, according to the Holy Father, "should all enlist in this Sacred Militia", we have decided to publish it in full.*

## THE APOSTLESHIP . . .

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It may be safely stated that the Apostleship of Prayer has in many instances been the training ground, where Catholics are prepared to join other religious associations which entail greater work and sacrifice, such as the Adoracion Nocturna, the Legion of Mary, and other similar organizations.

### Holy Year

In consonance, too, with the wishes of the Holy Father, the Apostleship of Prayer is taking an active participation in the Worldwide Catholic Crusade of Prayer and Penance for the year 1950. For this purpose, the 90,000 monthly intentions leaflets are being used to propagate the Crusade. Promoters and members, furthermore, are urged to recruit more members to the Apostleship of Prayer during the Holy Year, as one of the conditions for their active participation, besides those already mentioned by the Holy Father.

### Need to Spread the Devotion.

At first impression, the fact that there are at present 860 Centres with an estimated total of 233,777 members in the Philippines would make us think that nothing remains to be done, for "great is the harvest of the Lord." But what are 233,377 souls compared with 14,000,000 Catholics in the Philippines? Shall we suppose that the Divine Heart Who infinitely yearns for the love of All men

would be so easily satisfied with a scanty harvest of only 233,377 souls out of a possible total of 17 million?

And quoting again the Holy Father, "We, like Our Predecessor of happy memory, Pius XI, have made known and once more most willingly declare that it will make US very happy if all the Faithful without exception enlist in the Sacred Militia to swell the army of Associates, now numbering 35,000,000 in the world.

### Practical Application.

Considering how easy it is to be a member of the Apostleship of Prayer, the only essential requirement being the recitation of the Morning Offering and actual enrollment in the Association, there is really no valid reason why anybody should not be a member of this wonderful army of the Sacred Heart.

### The Apostleship of Prayer as Catholic Action

Quoting again the Holy Father, as he addressed a hundred priest delegates and directors of the Italian branch of the Apostleship of Prayer in September of 1936, "There is something that We strangely recommend to you and it is this: the members of the Apostleship of Prayer must not be held to be external helpers of Catholic Action, because they formally belong to it. Nothing hinders, rather everything tends to their being at least the reserve of Catholic Action. If anything at all, then surely the Apostleship of Prayer does belong to Catholic Action."