

ren. The time for preparation for First Communion drew nigh. There were six children eligible—four boys and two girls. These I took daily for instruction. Among the six were two boys great friends, bright little fellows, and very attentive to my teachings. There were not much over ten, and were the youngest of the group ; still innocent, — I could see it in their eyes.

"One day the thought suddenly took possession of me, — suddenly, I say, after I had knelt long in thanksgiving after Mass — that I would ask the prayers of these good children for my particular intention. Our Lord can not resist the entreaties of a pure fervent child. I did so ; they promised to pray with all their hearts. The day after First Communion they came to me.

"Father," said one, "we want to be very good boys after this, and we are going to ask you if we may come every Sunday afternoon and tell you about what we have done during the week, good and bad." "Who put this idea in your head boys?" I asked, in surprise.

"No one replied the spokesman." We just thought it would please Almighty God and make you glad, Father, who have taken such pains with us, if we would keep on trying to be very good, now that we have made our First Communion".

"The permission was gladly given. The boys came regularly. They told their little tales ; and in turn, I gave them further instructions, and related inspiring incidents in the lives of the Saints, which they later repeated to their young companions and in their homes. After a while one of the mothers came to thank me for the care I was taking of her boy and offered to take charge of the altar. The next week the other mother made her appearance, and not to be outdone by her neighbor in good offices, kindly volunteered to sweep the church once a fortnight and wash the altar linens. Soon came other mothers, asking that I take their boys under my wing for special instructions, the good conduct of my little missionaries had so edified them.

It was then that I reorganized the Sunday-school, which had after the First Communion days become a thing of the past. The children did really well, and very soon a proposition was made to introduce the Sisters for