

CANCELLED POSTAGE STAMPS

Saved and Collected in Favor of the Hammonton Missions.

Of what use, those who read this heading may ask, are these little squares of paper called stamps, and of what service can they be to poor Missions?

First of all, let us tell you, dear readers, that the work of collecting them does not date from to-day, nor from yesterday; during the past twenty-five years more than one church in Europe has been built, more than one Catholic charity founded by means of cancelled postage stamps.

There is nothing extraordinary in that. If the penny for the Propagation of the Faith maintains thousands of missionaries, if the penny of the Holy Childhood saves from slavery or death thousands of children, why should not cancelled postage stamps have their use in the designs of a merciful Providence? The "*colligite fragmenta*" (gather up the fragments) of our Lord did not refer alone to the crumbs of bread remaining from the miraculous banquet at which five thousand persons were fed, but also to the crumbs which fall each day from the tables of both rich and poor, and which would inevitably be trodden under foot if the watchful eye of Christian charity did not perceive them in the dust, and hasten to gather them together. We cannot deny that cancelled postage stamps are numbered among these.

These stamps have their worth,* small it is true, but many drops of rain make little brooks, and little brooks make great rivers; so thousand of postage stamps make a few cents and thousands of cents make gold dollars. These dollars aid poor missions which are the most needy as they are the most difficult and neglected.

This appeal is addressed to all; it concerns more especially Catholics, but we gladly receive assistance from our brethren of other denominations. Although in this land all are not united in the faith of Peter's successor, all adore the one true God, and His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ; all know that religion is the guardian of morality, honesty and all civil and patriotic virtues; all know that to make mankind remember Heaven is to keep him from degradation and corruption, but man is so constituted that he has need of man to remind him of God, Christian duty and the future reward; this is our reason for having taken charge of the Hammonton Missions.

Therefore, may assistance be given us for our work, if it is only by collecting postage stamps. Each individual offering may be little, but what of that, since these, when united and multiplied, make a large whole?

To work, then, friend collector. Distribute this little leaflet . . . by thousands. Slip it in each of your letters, lay it on your parlor table, place it in their houses when you visit your friends, distribute it at assemblies, public and private, obtain the assistance of your friends and acquaintances, make among yourselves little committees for the purpose of studying together the best means of spreading this work, not only in your own locality, but in the neighboring ones, and also abroad if you have correspondents there; exert yourself to secure the thousands of stamps that are lost daily in so many offices, banks, stores, etc.; interest the children in this work of propagation, none have hearts more susceptible to apostolic zeal and ardor than those pure and innocent souls; in a word, do not spare a

* In order to satisfy the lawful curiosity of our readers, we will say that the rare and antique stamps are sold at various prices, according to their value, to antiquarians and amateurs of collections, whence they find their way into public and private museums, scrap books and albums, and the common sort of stamps are sold, few cents a thousand, according to quality and variety, and employed to make various kinds of mosaics and pictures for ornamentation of drawing rooms and parlors.

single effort of the industry of Christian charity to collect thousands and millions of these little pieces of paper. We will accept them in the name of St. Joseph, to whom the Church and Missions of Hammonton are dedicated. It is well to give to St. Joseph, who is the great protector of our families, our affairs and our death, the last and more important of our affairs here below, and finally to conclude with the words of our Lord: "Ask and shall receive. Give and it shall be given to you."

Practical Remarks about Cancelled Postage Stamps.

I. *What kind of stamps have to be collected.* All cancelled stamps of every kind and country, national as well as foreign, are gladly accepted; postage stamps of letters, envelopes, postal cards; stamps of Telegraph and Express Companies; stamps of Internal Revenue, checks, deeds and every other kind.

Do not destroy any stamp or anything which resembles a stamp, though partly torn, or in bad condition, or cut contrary to the instructions mentioned beneath. Send them and we will see what use we can make of them.

Please look after your old letters and family papers. Tell your friends to do the same. If you find letters written before 1870, and can spare the envelope, send it with the stamp on. If you cannot spare the envelope, and for all stamps used after 1870, cut the stamp off.

If you have friends who made collections in the past and do not now care for them, as children often do, please secure them.

We also receive with equal gratitude old coins, old jewelry, old bank bills, and every kind of antiquities.

II. *New set of Columbian stamps.* We recommend to all our friends the most special care for collecting Columbian stamps, as they are only to be used the present year, 1893, and to spare no trouble to collect as many as possible. We would be very thankful to them for such service, and for that purpose we ask them—

1. To use on their own letters and packages Columbian stamps, asking their friends to do the same and to save them, especially if they are employed in banks, administration offices or large business stores.

2. When the weight of letters and packages calls for stamps of higher denominations than the one and two-cent stamps, not to use, specially for the letters and packages sent to our address, the stamps of one or two cents, but the stamps of these higher denominations, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 15, 30 or 50. If there are not stamps of the denominations called for by the weight of the package, take by preference the least used and therefore the rarest and most valuable stamps. For seven cents take one of three and one of four; for nine, one of six and one of three, or one of five and one of four; for eleven, one of five and one of six; for twelve, two of six; for thirteen, one of ten and one of three; for fourteen, one of ten and one of four, or also one of six and two of four, etc. . . .

The set of Columbian stamps includes the following denominations: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 15, 30, and 50 cents; \$1, \$2, \$3, \$4, \$5 . . . and finally four different denominations of Columbian stamped envelopes in different sizes, namely: four sizes of one-cent envelopes, eight sizes of two-cent envelopes, six sizes of five-cent envelopes, and three sizes of ten-cent envelopes. *If you can spare the Columbian stamped envelopes send them complete.* If you cannot spare them, cut the stamp off, the same as the other stamped envelopes, leaving a small margin of paper around them. If you have many of these complete Columbian stamped envelopes, send us word and we will give you the address of some depository to which you can send them by express at the cheapest rate. If it is not too much trouble for you, be so kind, when you are writing to us, to use the Columbian stamped envelopes in case, of course, they are sold at your post office, and to use those according to the weight of your letter.

III. *How to cut and wash the stamps.* When cutting the stamp off the envelope or any other paper, be careful *not to spoil the perforated edges of the stamps.*

Cut *square*, if you can, the postage stamps of envelopes and postal cards, leaving a small margin of paper around them.

Do not try to take off the stamp by force, without wetting the stamps. In most cases you will spoil them. Put the stamps in cold water for four or five minutes, just time enough to allow the water to penetrate them. Take the paper off as soon as it comes without effort. Lay the stamps on newspaper, the faces turned to the paper. When dry, sort them, and if you have several hundreds of the same denomination, tie them in packages of one hundred, keeping each denomination and each color separate. If you cannot complete one hundred with the same kind of stamp, count them, tie them and write the number on the back of the bundle.

Do not put the two-cent red stamps with other stamps in the same water, but separately, as they are losing their own color and imparting it to others.

If you have no time for this work, or if you are not sure of doing it well, send the stamps just as they are when you receive them, and we will attend to it here.

IV. *Our promises.* In order to reward the zeal of our friends and collectors, we promise one Rosary (small coco) blessed by Croisier Fathers—

- 1st. For every thousand of Columbian stamps, including one and two cents.
- 2d. For two thousand of any other kind, national or foreign, with the exception of those included in the following number 3d.
- 3d. For every five thousand of the four following stamps, belonging to the common small set, now yet in use: small blue one cent, red two cents, one and two-cent envelope.

V. *Souvenir of Rome.* Any person collecting during this year 1893 at least twenty-five thousand Columbian stamps or fifty thousand stamps belonging to the 2d of the three mentioned series will receive a *handsome Souvenir of Rome*, very precious and dear, we are sure of it beforehand, to the collector himself and his family. Though we do not like to make known just now what is this Souvenir, we can assure our correspondents that not only they will not be disappointed but very glad and proud to give the Souvenir a place of honor in their houses. We ask from them in return two things, one of which is of rigorous obligation, namely, to collect one of both quantities and kinds of stamps mentioned above; the 2d, of favor, to propagate as much as possible, in aid of Hammonton Missions, the Croisier Beads, according to the conditions mentioned beneath.

Every one, no matter who, may compete for the Souvenir of Rome. As we need several months to get it from Rome, it would be well for all persons who are willing to try to deserve it, to send in their names at once and we will supply them with leaflets for distribution.

VI. *Last remarks.* We shall be very thankful for all addresses of persons living in this country or abroad and willing to collect the cancelled postage stamps for our Missions.

In order not to multiply our correspondence, for we answer all communications and envoys, we beg our correspondents not to send less than one or more thousand stamps at a time. We would like those persons who are competing for the Souvenir of Rome to send the stamps, if possible, as soon as they collect five thousand.

The best way to send cancelled postage stamps is in strong pasteboard boxes or envelopes, or better in bags of cotton cloth, mailed as printed matter, which only costs half cent an ounce. Using envelopes, do not seal them as letters, else they will be charged here in Hammonton as letter postage. Hammonton has two express companies, United States and Adams'. Sending your stamps by mail or express do not forget to put your name beneath the address in the usual form: From, etc. It is allowed by the express companies and U. S. mail system.

We have gratuitously at the disposition of our correspondents, as many as they wish, this present leaflet about cancelled postage stamps, and the other leaflets on the Croisier Beads and the Hammonton Missions. Sent on application.

Please address all communications to

REV. P. M. BARRAL, D. D.,
Missionary Rector of St. Joseph's Church,
Hammonton, N. J.

A Word Regarding Hammonton Missions.

The Missions of Hammonton, in the State of New Jersey, include all the stations between Camden and Egg Harbor. They extend over 35 square miles, and embrace many hundred Catholic emigrant families. All difficulties seem to unite to make this at once the poorest mission of the poorest Diocese of the East and one of the most difficult.

The great variety of nationalities and the consequent necessity of speaking and being able to minister in many languages, the scattering of families over this extensive area, the loss of time and the expense occasioned by traveling, the indifference of the great majority of the people, who, deprived of the priest during many years, have become habituated to live without religion and persuade themselves that *what was good in Europe is no longer so in America*, the absence of Catholic schools where the Church could prepare generations of future believers, the active missionary work of dissenting sects in their endeavor to gain people to their belief and particularly to draw the children to their Sunday-schools, the insufficiency of resources for the support of a *single missionary*, when the help of many would seem absolutely indispensable,—all this is a faint picture of the actual situation and of the difficulties to be overcome for the evangelization of these poor Missions. The future does not seem to look brighter, for hundreds of children are growing up in ignorance of all religious truth and in complete indifference. How many generations will be lost to the Church if an efficacious remedy be not soon applied!

Called by Providence to attend these Missions, hitherto completely neglected; powerless to remedy this deplorable state of things with the absolutely insufficient resources furnished at the price of great sacrifice by the small number of practical Catholic families, we believe it to be our duty to make an appeal to the charity of all pious people who have at heart the salvation of souls, the religious education of children, the interests of our Holy Religion and of the Catholic Faith in this great country.

Our Lord has said: *The harvest is great, but the laborers are few.* We can say for our Missions: Yes, the harvest shows that it should be great, but what is lacking is not the laborers, for many are disposed to clear this uncultivated field, but the most indispensable resources are needed, resources to insure the support of these apostolic workers, resources to give them a fitting residence, resources to erect chapels in the principal centres of the Mission and to provide the most necessary articles of worship, resources to found a Catholic school even in the centre of the Mission.

Pious and generous souls, you who can appreciate the inestimable benefits of Catholic Faith and of Christian education, and who, perhaps, in order to sustain them in your respective churches, impose upon yourselves heavy sacrifices, do not forget the poor Hammonton Missions. If God promises an eternal recompense for a glass of water given in His name, what blessings does not the Heart of Jesus reserve for *the mite* which shall aid the missionary to save abandoned souls, for *the grain of sand* that will help to erect the house of God, the house of His ministers and the Catholic school? . . . Give and it shall be given unto you by the God of all goodness!

N. B.—Any offering, no matter how small, will be gratefully accepted.

We beg you to circulate this leaflet among your friends and acquaintances. Any person who shall collect at least ten subscriptions of fifty cents will receive a Souvenir of Hammonton Missions, one Rosary (brown, yellow or natural coco or white bone) for each subscriber and a handsome mother of pearl pair of Beads for himself.

All Rosaries will be blessed by the Croisier Fathers, according to the explanations given in the leaflet, printed on that matter.

REV. P. M. BARRAL, D. D.,
Missionary Rector of St. Joseph's Church,
Hammonton, N. J.

Imprimatur.

→ M. J. O'FARREL,
Epis. Trentonensis.