

Water for Fijai

by Mother Maria Assumpta, S.H.C.J.

Have you ever been thirsty with a blazing sun pouring down on you — and discovered that you were miles from any water?

Have you ever had to walk long distances to secure water for cooking or washing?

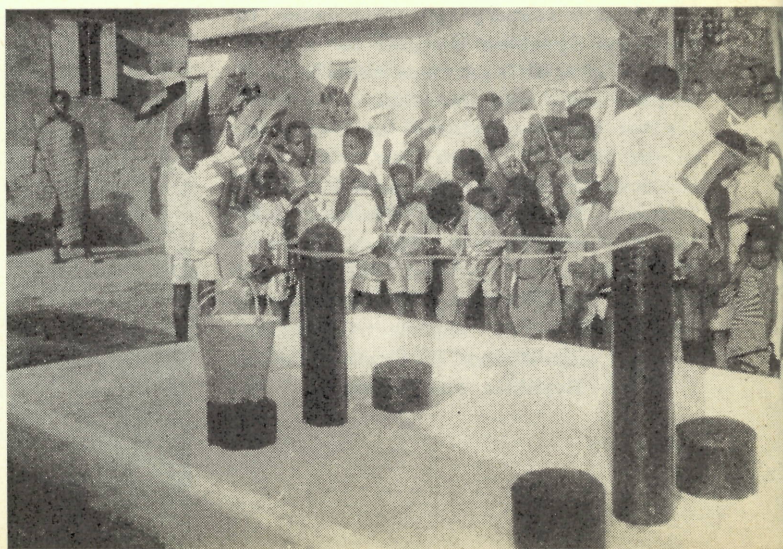
Most of us simply turn on the tap! But suppose you lived in an African village which was three miles away from the nearest stream — and that during the dry season the stream was barely a trickle. Trying to drink such water naturally brings on suffering from many kinds of diseases. You can imagine how grateful you would be to those who made it possible for you to get good water right in your own village.

That is how grateful the people

of Fijai are to all who helped to make their village pump a reality.

Up here at Holy Child College on the hill above Fijai we have been trying for the last couple of years to figure out a way to get this water for our friends and neighbours. One day we went to see the Regional Engineer in Takoradi. He is new here and turned out to be a Catholic and a Legionary. He was touched to think how interested our College was in the project. Things started moving! The very next day the Water Works superintendent arrived and promised us all the help he could give. He not only sent supervisors to direct the laying of the pipe from the mainline behind our Administration block but also supplied the necessary

The red-letter day for Fijai... Children march in parade for the grand 'opening' of the new water pump.



It works !!

M. M. Assumpta draws the first water.



stop-cocks, etc. The charges were only £9. The pipes themselves we managed to get at a discount and they came to around £140.

The village people were more than eager to do their part. They cleared away the brush, dug the mile-long trench and helped to lay the pipes.

Then came the "grand opening." The children paraded and waved flags, and the tape around the village pump was "officially" cut. A great "Ah-h-h-" went up as we drew the first water which was used to sprinkle the flowers at Our Lady's shrine. (See *The Pylon*,

Spring 1964). Never have I seen people so happy. How we rejoiced as we watched them fill their buckets for the first time with clear running water right from their own village pump.

Would some of our friends and young mission helpers in our schools like to contribute towards the cost of our pipe-line to Fijai? It amounts to about £160 or \$480. Funds may be sent to:

Mother Mary Berchmans
Convent of the Holy Child,
1341 Montgomery Ave.,
Rosemont, Pa.



**At last! The happy villagers
can fill their pails with
clean water right from
their own pump.**