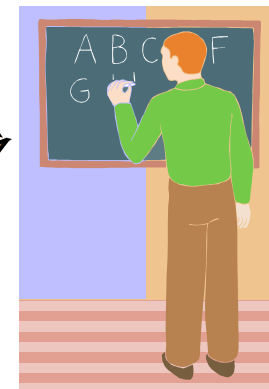
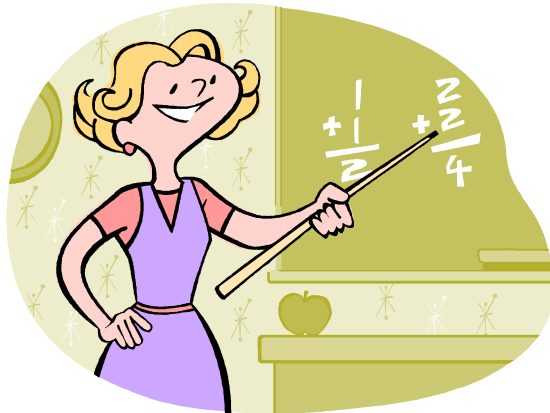


- Once upon a time, a group of very religious and charitable minded people made up of bishops, priests, religious, brothers and sisters, along with very devoted lay people – doctors, teachers, and social workers – formed a society.



- Their aim was to instruct people in the Catholic faith, good morals and upright living, to help suffering and neglected humanity, the children, the orphans, the sick, the aged, the derelicts of our world.

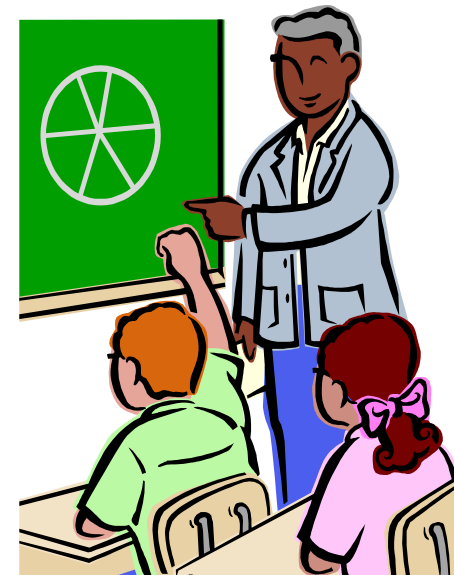
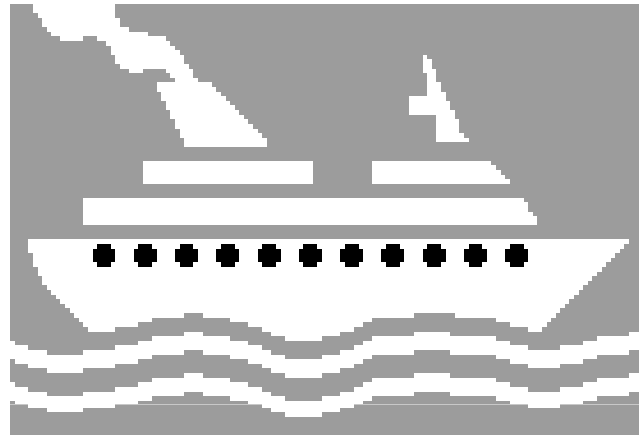


In their great desire to help others and carry out good and relevant services and ministries, they bought a passenger ship.

Part of the ship was formed into a large and beautiful church where People were taught the word of God and where most inspiring religious services were conducted.



Another part of the ship was changed into a very good school where poor children were given good education.



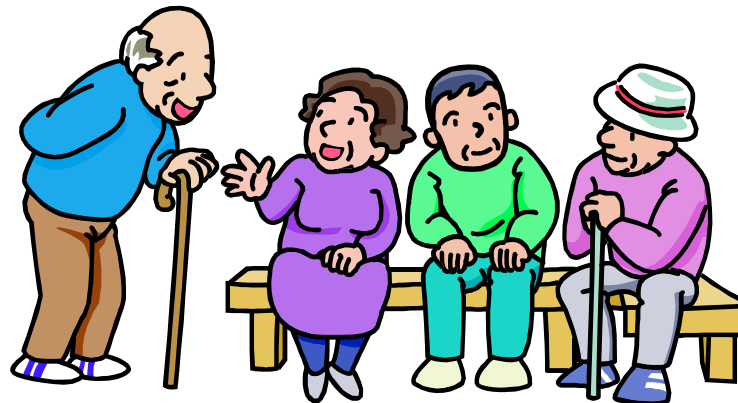
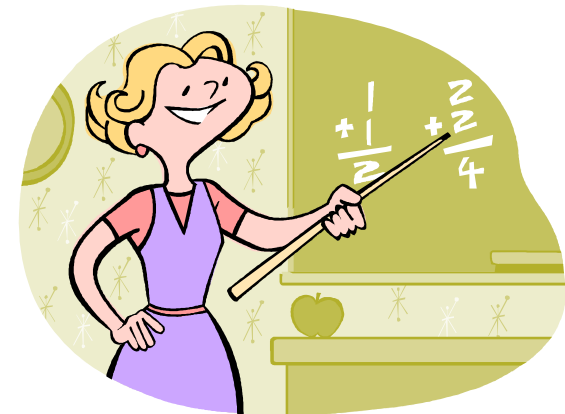
Still another part of the huge liner was reshaped into a modern hospital. There, hundreds of poor patients were lovingly tended.



Elsewhere in the ship they built a well-provided orphanage.



Other parts of the ship were remodeled to serve as a home for the aged, a rehabilitation center for alcoholics and drug addicts and many other charitable, educational and social works.

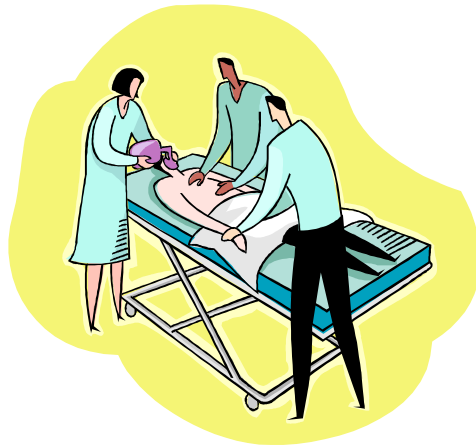


Truly that mighty liner had become a “Floating City of Mercy.” Working in the ship there were large numbers of zealous priests, dedicated sisters and brothers, nurses, teachers and social workers.



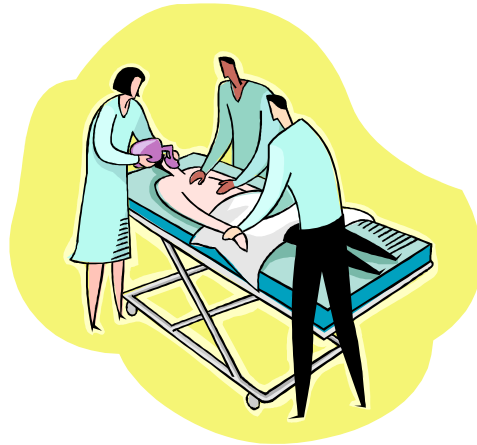
Their dedication and devotedness was most admirable!

- One day, the Floating City of Mercy sprang a leak. The seawater slowly began flooding the hold of the ship.
- A lonely visitor to the ship happened to detect the leak and immediately raised the alarm.





He went to the doctors and sisters and said:  
“Doctors, sisters there is a leak in the ship. Hurry  
up! Do something about it!”



But the doctors and the sisters replied: “We are  
doctors, we are sisters, our duty is to care for the  
patients, not to engage in ship-repairing work.”  
And they went on looking after the sick with  
single-minded dedication.

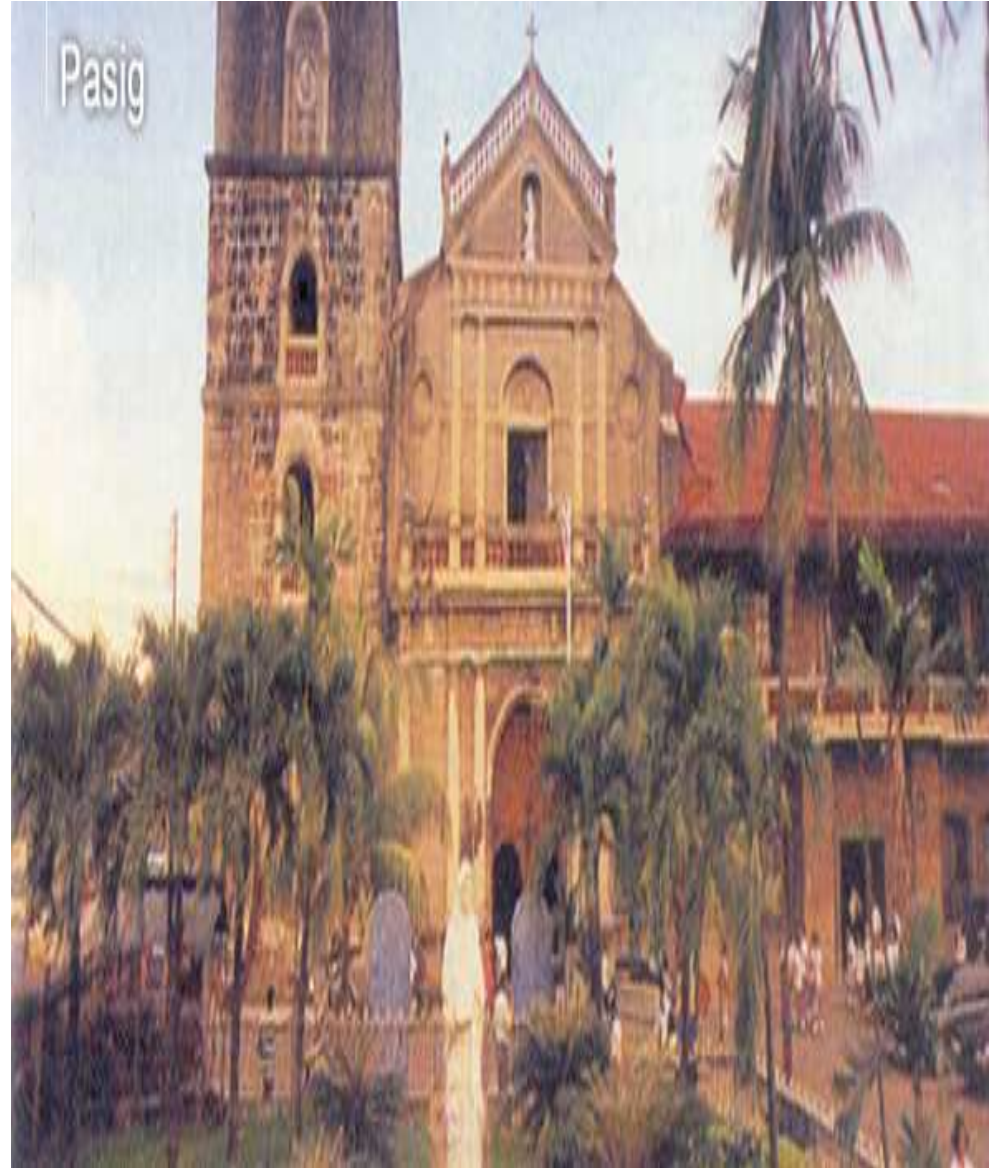
Then, the man ran to the teachers. He said:  
“ teachers, there is a leak in the boat. Please, do something. It’s urgent!” but they raised their eyes and mumbled: “Oh no! Our vocation is to teach poor children and give them the best available education. God never called us to do mechanical work!”

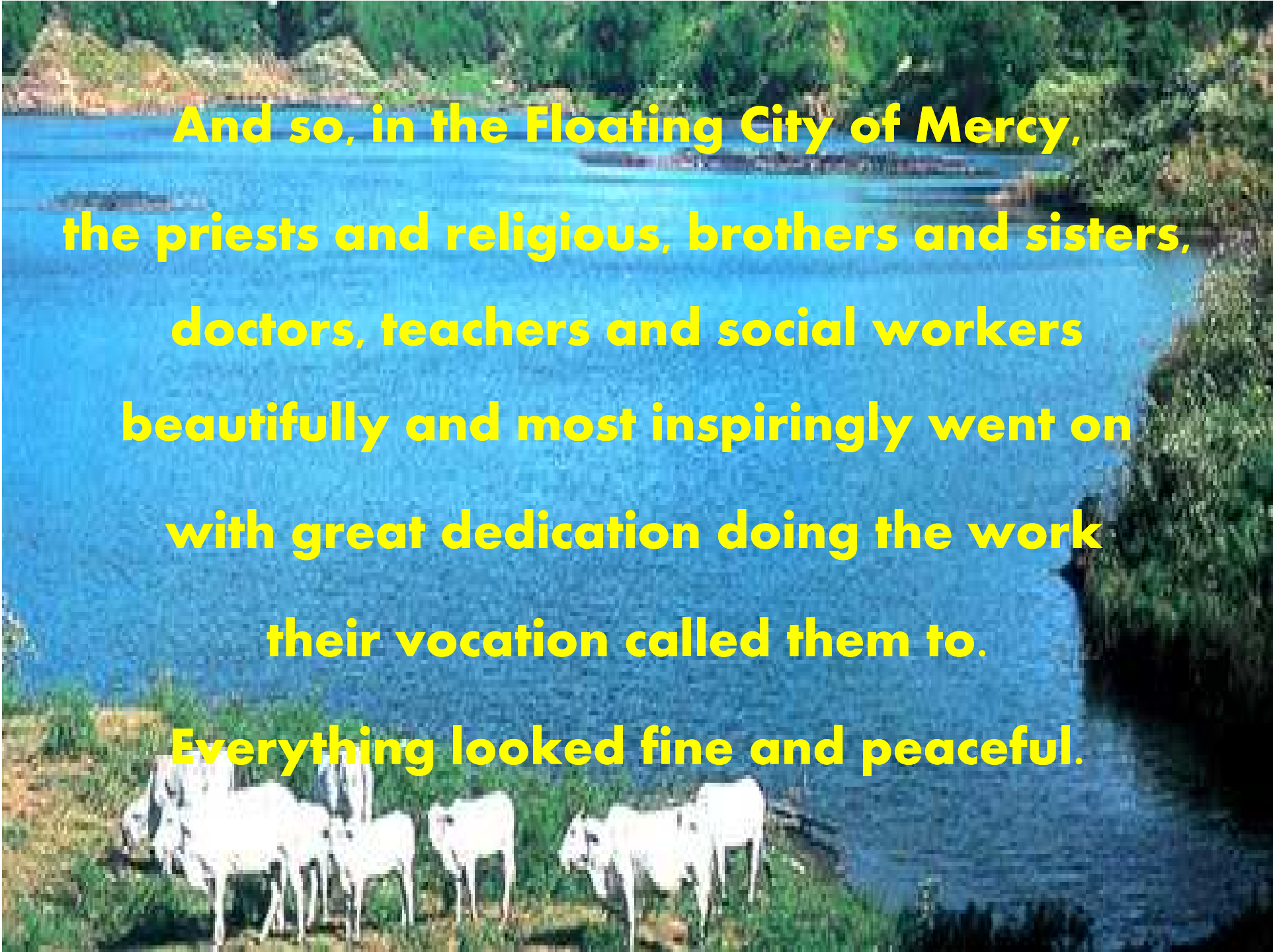


Finally, in despair the man ran to the priests and to the Church authorities. He cried out: “Listen! There is a leak in the ship. We are sinking! Stop all your preaching and ministries! Run to the hold and repair the leak! It’s an emergency! Hurry up!”



**“Not at all!” the Church authorities replied, “Priests are supposed to do the work for which they were ordained. They cannot neglect their priestly ministries and vocation! Let the lay people see to it!”**



A scenic view of a blue lake with a forested background and a grassy foreground with white goats. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, yellow font.

**And so, in the Floating City of Mercy,  
the priests and religious, brothers and sisters,  
doctors, teachers and social workers  
beautifully and most inspiringly went on  
with great dedication doing the work  
their vocation called them to.**

**Everything looked fine and peaceful.**

**Only that a few days later, the ship with all its pupils, patients, orphans, old people sank to the bottom of the sea along with their dedicated band of priests, sisters, brothers, doctors, teachers and other highly motivated helpers.**

