

Maria Legionis



LEGION OF MARY
FOUNDED 7 SEPTEMBER 1921

Centenary



Maria Legionis

The Voice of the Legion of Mary

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Front Cover: *Our Lady* altarpiece by Domenico Bartolini in Chapel of the Miraculous Madonna, Basilica di Sant Andrea delle Fratte, Rome, Italy



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Magazine enquiries - e-mail: marialegonis263@gmail.com

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Centenary Message



On behalf of Concilium Legionis Mariae I wish to congratulate the legionaries of the world on their membership during this Centenary Year of the Legion of Mary.

Looking to the past we salute those enterprising members who in 1921 set out on an unknown path, placing themselves at the disposal of Our Blessed Lady. One of the founding members was Br. Frank Duff who was far-sighted and who encouraged the laity to play its part and to put into action what is called for in our Baptismal Vows.

Over the past hundred years many thousands of legionaries – Active and Auxiliary – have served in the ranks of the Legion. Through their prayers and action they have passed on to us an organisation which espouses everything for which the Legion Stands, and sets us standards at which to aim. We owe them a great debt of gratitude and special remembrance at this time.

As currently serving members it is incumbent on us to pass on a true and authentic Legion of Mary to

those who will serve as members in the future. Legion membership, we can all agree, enriches and enhances our own lives. It affords us an opportunity to get to know better God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and enables us to put our varied talents to work. We should increase our efforts to offer that same enrichment to others.

The most important unit of the Legion of Mary is the praesidium at work either in the parish or in other places of need. If it is a vibrant and dedicated group, it will be the source of a flourishing Legion in the higher councils.

As the current serving President, it is my privilege to express our gratitude to every member of the Legion for your service to Our Blessed Lady who draws us closer to her Son. We wish you many blessings for the years ahead.

Mary Murphy

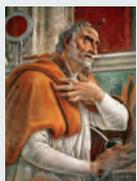
President

FORMULA FOR CONQUEST

By Frank Duff



Many aspects of the Legion go beyond mere nature. But we are so seasoned to them that we take them as a matter of course.



I think it is St. Augustine who has pointed out that we are overwhelmed by the miraculous multiplication

of the loaves and fishes in the desert but do not reflect that God is doing the same all the time through His multiplication of the seeds which produce the crops of the world. Similarly it is not perceived as a wonder that good legionary memberships persevere through the years; or that the crosses which bow down others are beneficial to legionaries; and that they keep their youth better than others; that Legion marriages are universally successful.

Likewise we take it for granted that our gatherings will be unsegregated, fraternal, and happy.

We do not realise that this is a grace; for in worldly assemblies those agreeable aspects are not common. It is argued that alcohol is a necessary social ingredient because without it people are mournful in each other's company. Definitely that does not hold in legionary circumstances where good humour flows without such stimulation.

Similarly we let our eyes pass unobservantly over the expansion of the spiritual in every legionary. This is accompanied by a growth in personality and in the natural qualities. Entrust the ordinary legionaries with tasks which are beyond the ordinary



capacity and it will be found that they are carried through with competence. We see nothing unusual in all that. Is not Mary the perfect mother?

The legionaries have given themselves to her and she has been magnificently responsive to them.

That much is encouraging. Now we have to think about the world at which is not consoling to look. Its spiritual state is little removed from chaos. It looks as if the Legion is among the few on whom the Church can count. So we must stiffen up our souls to what that entails. We must think in terms of higher standards, giving more and courageous venturing.

Divine Power at Our Disposal.

In the Handbook the rather explosive idea is placed before us of the praesidium being a Presence of Mary. Of course the same would apply to any body of legionaries working together on a particular task. The claim is made that through that group Mary can be stationed in a place or a problem and as a consequence her all-powerful operation is set in motion. Something has to happen, not necessarily at once or in the manner that we ought to expect but at the right time and in greater measure than that for which we could hope, because the divine bounty must always surpass the human expectation.

This prospect of being able to mobilise omnipotence is vastly intriguing and stimulating. But is it true? It sounds fantastic!



No. It is a simple re-statement of the Gospel insistence that the divine power is at the disposal of those who ask for it in the proper way: that is in strong faith and in the fullness of action. Remember some of the strange utterances of Scripture on this subject. For example: Our Lord's promise to remove a physical mountain at the bidding of unshaking faith, and His statement that His disciples would reproduce His own miracles. The fulfilment of those promises is proved by history. St. Gregory Thaumaturgus directed his firm faith against a mountain and it yielded to him. Other saints, and to a particular degree, St. Vincent Ferrer, paralleled all the miracles worked by Our Lord during His earthly career: including the raising of the dead.

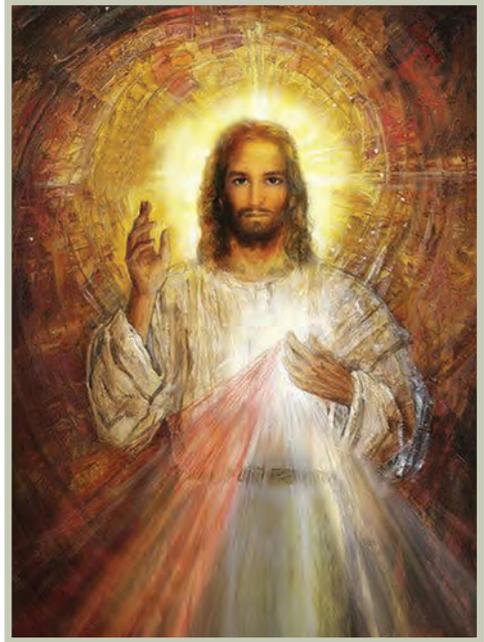
The Mystical Body is a continuation of Our Lord's earthly life. Of that new Body Our Lord is the Head and Mary is the Heart. Its power is no less than that of Jesus' actual Body, so that with the same confidence that Martha and Mary sent word to Jesus that Lazarus was grievously ill, may we plead today: "Lord, this place which Thou lovest is sick (John XI-3). By our faith every place of need in the world can be



summoned and even the dead raised to life. Or into a Cana where recourse can be had to Mary our Mother with the result that common cold water can be turned into glowing wine.

Faith Must Not Waver

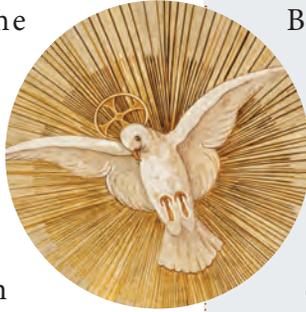
"The dearest child of faith is a miracle" says Goethe. But when invoking Our Lord's promise that faith will bring forth a miracle, we must not overlook His imperative proviso: our faith must be unwavering. This faith points to a faith of rich quality, surpassing the common faith which does not move mountains and which hardly moves ourselves. So the decisive condition is that the faith shall be unwavering, unshaking. But in order that we may not seem to make it unattainable, let us content ourselves with saying that it must be heroic.



Moreover it must not be thought that even heroic faith suffices by itself. The queenly virtue of faith must always be attended by a retinue of other qualities. If we challenge the impossible, we must marshal every asset we possess. It is not enough to push ahead resolutely. We must also think along the way because it is the highest natural contribution we can make. And surely everyone can bestow industry, patience, care. It is the business of the praesidium to make sure that they are added in.

Now let us inspect more closely that Presence of Mary formula. It has extreme value as reducing to practical politics all that I have been saying. It contains the fullness of the supernatural principle and it secures the sort of action which applies that principle to the objective.

It overcomes the doubting which so often neutralises good intention. It prevents us from standing helplessly where we cannot see a way. It enforces action even though it may have to begin as a symbolic gesture. Above all else, it turns procedure into an exercise of Mary's motherhood which lifts what we do into another order.



Victory through Mary

All this is compressed into the simple formula which says: Confront the seeming impossibility with a praesidium. Certainly that remedy is short and sweet, but is it sensible? Justification is required, so I proceed to supply it.

Our Blessed Lady, that woman of history, that all-purpose person whose many roles are set out in her Litanies, is above all else the Mother, made for that by the Holy Trinity. St. Augustine terms her the fruit of the eternal deliberation. She is necessarily the infinitely perfect Mother, first of Jesus and then of all men; even of those who do not know her, as declared by the Council. They have all been given to her as Mother. Her will to do that very thing is no less than her will to mother Jesus: the one is a prolongation of the other, as the tree is to the root.



But there is this difference. In receiving and mothering the Lord her action was unfettered. It was completely attuned to her faith and her will. So far as we can see, it did not depend on any other elements. She said "Fiat" and the work was done: God was made flesh in her. Her upbringing of her Child was not less in quality. We could not by any stretch of the imagination conceive her as falling short in any particular. She gave to her beloved son all that even He, the Divine One, could hope to receive, because the Holy Spirit co-operated in her mothering, and He continues to do so with the same infinitude in that new phase of her mothering which concerns all mankind.



THE HEAD AND THE BODY DEPEND ON EACH OTHER



CHRISTUS REX SOCIETY

By Frank Duff

(This is an extract from the Inaugural Talk by Frank Duff to the 1966 Annual General Meeting of the Christus Rex Society for Priests).

We stand at a period which is undoubtedly a crossroads in history. An era is passing away. We confront a new one in regard to which we can make guesses but no more than that. It is a future which is going to be dominated by Asia and Africa. Since about A.D. 300 our Western World has been animated more or less by Christian ideas. These have largely leaked out into the total circulation, so that today all men are living out of inspiration derived from the sweet Lord Jesus, even though they do not realise that fact.

But as to the future: There is so little room for the exercise of optimism that one is thrown back entirely on faith, and it is in terms of the latter that I approach my subject. The political menace is such as to make all those old bitter enemies, the European nations, think of coming together again in an up-to-date version of the Roman

Empire. The materialistic menace is so rampant that it may be said to have poked at least an icy finger into every man's heart. It has of late produced such monstrosities as The Bishop Robinson and "God is Dead" movements.

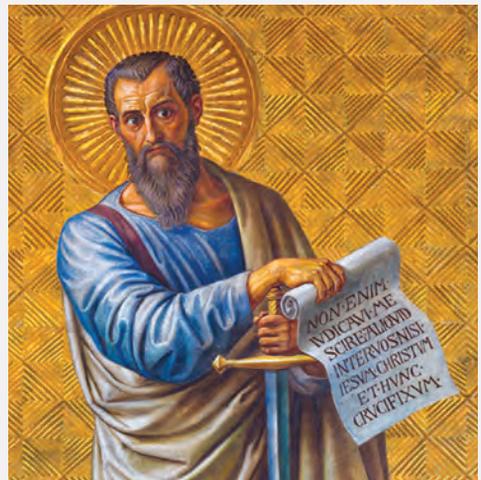
Dogmatic religion has come to the stage of having retired inside the frontiers of the Catholic Church, and these frontiers have been steadily contracting. Catholicism has been a diminishing percentage of the world population. It is now 17 per cent. If the graph which has prevailed continues, we will have fallen to 5 per cent at the end of this century – a span so short that the life of Our Lord on earth could cover it. In that case we would not have the right to call ourselves the Catholic Church, which means universal. So for mere survival there has to be renewal.

Desperate people clutch even at straws, and there is the temptation to repose our hopes on the Council – not that the Council is a straw! But we must not let them rest there as if the Council, left to itself, solves the future. It delivers only a programme. It is only in the measure that it throws the Church into battle array that it means anything; and that is the purpose of the Council.

Examine its legislation. Every item, even those which do not look like it, is directed towards the marshalling of the laity. For the higher orders in the Church exist only for the sake of the body of which they form part. Contrariwise, we must beware of regarding the Lay Apostolate as something separate from the Priestly Apostolate - as if the two were distinct things. They can be, but this would be equivalent to the organising of an army as two separate bodies, officers and rank and file, each waging its own independent warfare. Such an army, if it did fight at all, would end in a collapse. And so that army must be one. Officers and ranks must denote only a difference of function, each existing to help the other in its common purpose. Identically the same must apply to priest and laity in the spiritual warfare. All I say is based on that idea, so that for the purpose of my paper the terms 'priestly' and 'lay' are almost interchangeable.

Merely as a practical matter, that is in relation to the task of approaching directly and affecting three-thousand million of people, the notion of the priest working on his own is fantastic. But there is a far more peremptory idea of which to be taken account.

The Pauline analogy of the human body necessarily falls short of the unity, diversity, and interdependence of the Church. Still as an image it is the best available, and it is supremely helpful. I touch on that note of interdependence. If the natural body functions only in part, it will be at the price of partial, or perhaps total, failure. The same must apply to the Mystical Body in a superior degree. The role of the priest is analogous to that of the human head, and thus to the Mystical Head. He is, so to speak, Christ on the spot. He has headship functions which it is not necessary to draw down into detail. But he exists for the body, not for himself alone. Many priests interest themselves little in the apostolate of the body.





It has even been formally taught that provided the priest works hard on his own, or for his own sanctification alone, he does all that is required

of him. No, in failing to give apostleship to the body, the priest would be establishing it in a state of underdevelopment, of half-living according to Pius XI. This insufficiency would frustrate the Church's mission.

That would be bad enough but there is more. Apply again the analogy of the human body, as we are supposed to do. That half-living of the half-dead body then fails in its function of supplying life to the head. It communicates its own condition to the head. As an inevitable consequence, the head will be reduced to the spiritual indigence of the body. I stop at this, but emphasise the vital importance of the theory.

The Council tells us for the first time that the apostolate is a necessary part of the life of the lay person. It is a corollary and a novel idea that the lay apostolate should be equally necessary to the life of the priest. You are a Priests' Society. This aspect is primary for you.

There are further and limitless perspectives. A partial functioning of the mystical Body will not cope with the problems of the New Age; will not present the true face of Christianity;

will not even regard the converting of the world as practicable. It will get no further than documentation, empty calls to arms, and futile formulae of co-existence.

I venture to propound some principles relevant to these headship functions:

- (a) You must gather around you a group of lay people in apostleship;
- (b) You must seek to impart to them everything that you have yourself (including your priesthood by inspiring vocations in them or in their families). You must pass out to them as much of your apostolic mission as is compatible with the lay state. If you impart to them less than you can, you fail as the mystical head. And this brings us back to the remorseless cycle that as you fail to give, so you fail to receive.

Your more intimate connection with the general body of the laity will be through that apostolic group. This is my reason of a principle to which I would give the name of Spirited Nucleus. More simply Our Lord called it the leaven. Pius X once ranked this as the most



important element in the health of a community, over and above vocations, Catholic schools, Catholic press, building churches. We are tempted to regard this as exaggeration.

But let us reason it out. If you have not got those Spirited Nuclei in your places, the people will be left at the mercy of other spiritual nuclei representative of evil movements.

As a consequence there would soon enough be none to fill the churches and schools, to read the Catholic papers, and to supply vocations. The Spirited Nucleus is your buffer against attack; your bridge against isolation; your interpreting medium; your Archimedean lever in your individual powerlessness.

The Mystical Body must not only function as a whole, it must be absolutely orthodox. Here I refer particularly to the doctrine of the Blessed Virgin which seems the one most controverted in certain quarters.

These, in their ardour for reunion with those outside the Church, diminish her role and in the process do not hesitate to challenge the magisterium. The consequences of that policy, where they have become visible, are intimidating. They are actual fallings away from common doctrine, from practice, from faith. The Blessed Virgin is the neck or the heart of the Mystical Body.

The Council teaches that her place in apostleship is primal; an extension of her motherhood of the actual Body of Christ. Therefore those who essay apostleship must do it in her company. This applies particularly to the priest. He is the closest to her function in grace. The priest as the mystical head has no effective communication with the body except through her.



Furthermore, in the measure that he is in understanding union with her, does his contact with the body become closer and more influential.

The decrees on Ecumenism and on the Church in the Modern World invite us to enter into grips with all the religious and secular problems of the world. Association with all groups is to be sought. Catholics must lend their aid to them in every form. This summons is addressed to the laity and to the clergy - not to the latter alone. It creates an extraordinary and delicate position. For the fact has to be faced that the ordinary body of the laity are not up to that standard. To be witnesses of the Word to all classes of men, to be safe in the midst of all problems, and to seek to turn all those contacts into openings to convert - is beyond the capacity of the casual Catholic. He will end only by attuning himself to those circumstances and in the end perishing in them. If a compass-needle is not magnetised, it alters its bearing with every movement of its container. A casual Catholic is an un-magnetised needle. He has never been initiated into his apostolic function. This must be done. He must be given effective direction and inspiration. This will proceed only through adequate organisation.

Granted the right type of organisation, those decrees open to the priest a fascinating field, more ingenious and absorbing than chess, as exciting as warfare.

What more celestial occupation than to imitate the Lord by gathering around one an apostolic band to plan and to penetrate into all those uncompromising milieu for the ultimate purpose of catholicising them.

Here let me urge that the foundation idea must be the wish to convert. If that be absent, absent also would be the element of grace with the result that the work will be of little avail to those whom we approach, and will be a danger to ourselves. Anything without motive power will be taken hold of by the current. Mere belief is vulnerable to unbelief. A modern menace is that of a mere humanism or humanitarianism, which seems to be on the uptake. It is being purveyed as a sort of Gospel.



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Frank Duff



Saint Maria Terese of St. Joseph

(June 1855 – September 1938)

By Michael Walsh

Anna Maria Tauscher van den Bosch was born on June 19, 1855, in Sandow, East Prussia (now in Poland), to Hermann Traugott Tauscher, and Pauline van den Bosch.

Her mother was known as “the mother of all the poor.” Anna Maria often accompanied her mother on her charitable visits and the plight of the poor aroused in her a deep sympathy. Maria was a quiet and shy child. From an early age she made sacrifices for Jesus, detested vanity in herself and resolved to depend on God alone to direct her spiritual life.



After Maria’s family moved to Berlin in 1870, she was sent to a boarding school. The school took it for granted that she was a Lutheran but when asked, she responded: “No, not a Lutheran.” Maria’s parents often spoke about the persecution of Catholics in Prussia, called the *Kulturkampf*, and as a result she had great sympathy for the imprisoned and exiled bishops, priests and religious.

Anna Maria was very upset when her grandfather tried to arrange a marriage for her and was relieved when her mother told her to decide the issue for herself. Inspired by the self-sacrifice of the sisters who cared for her in the boarding school, she decided to become a sister.

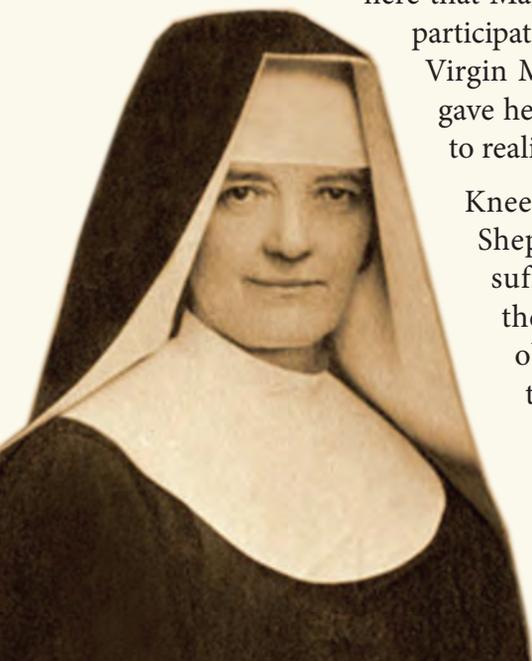
The death of her mother in 1874 brought her nearer to God and taught her the value of suffering. As the eldest in the family, she took over the responsibilities of her father's home and her mother's charitable activities. She also raised funds for missionaries who would seek out children who needed to be baptised, and people in civil marriages who desired a Church wedding.

Anna Maria had the belief that God would call her into His service, and to support this aim she asked for crosses and sufferings for her whole life. On a stay with a friend in the Rhine country, admiring the Catholic shrines and walking into the Cathedral of Cologne, a new life entered her soul. "All this," she said, "gave me the first insight into a life which I had so far experienced only in a dim manner."

In 1886, she applied for the position as head nurse in a home for the mentally ill in Berlin. The residents and workers were Catholic but because the director was Lutheran her father gave his consent. Her first encounters with the dying and the patients left her "stiff with horror." With a little rest and time, she was able to thank God for bringing her to the poorest of the poor. Her devotion to her charges brought about so dramatic a change that the "visiting doctors remarked that this was not institutional life, but real family life."

Maria did not want to be paid, declaring that this did not match her idea of sacrifice; but finally she accepted a salary to give treats to the patients. It was here that Maria was immersed in real Catholic culture, participating in the celebrations honouring the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Sacred Heart. When a priest gave her a Catholic catechism, she was astonished to realise that this was "my own religion."

Kneeling in a chapel dedicated to the Good Shepherd, Maria realised that her love for suffering humanity had led her home to the Catholic Church. But there were grave obstacles to her conversion. The Director threatened to fire her and she trembled with fear to face her father. When he demanded a promise that she would never become Catholic, she replied, in front of her family: "No, I cannot promise that." Thus, as she said in her memoirs: "I left home forever!"



In 1888, Anna Maria was received into the Catholic Church. When the Director learned of the step she had taken, she was fired and subsequently given bad references. Unable to find a job, she found a home in an Augustinian convent where she did menial labour. The humiliation of her situation led her nearer to Saint Joseph in whom she placed her great trust. This was a formation period where she was schooled in painful poverty and austere penances. Embracing these sufferings with gratitude, they were “turned into an indescribable sweetness.” Her greatest joy was to be so near the Blessed Sacrament where “she felt penetrated by the warmth of God’s love.” This ardent love for Our Lord present in the tabernacle was to become a hallmark of her spirituality.

One day, the reality dawned on her that she should not enter an order but found one herself. She then asked a rather strange question of Our Lady: “What kind of garb shall we wear?” Immediately, an image came to her of a Sister in a brown habit with large stripes under a brown veil. In 1889, Maria became a companion to a woman in Berlin. Without money, family or home of her own, she was deprived of all earthly consolations “because God wanted to be my all.” She developed the burning hunger not only for personal sanctification but also to make atonement for the sins of the world and “to gain souls for the Sacred Heart.” One day, as she read St. Teresa of Avila’s autobiography, she realised Carmel was her real vocation. Was she meant to enter a Carmelite cloister? It was



St. Teresa of Avila

later discerned with the help of her confessor that her vocation was to bring the “contemplative spirit of Carmel into the active service of the apostolate.”

In July 1891, she visualised herself standing on a hill with a “vast host of sisters in our habit.” God showed her a large cross of gold and silver and she knew what it meant: “If you found this Order for Me, if you take these sufferings upon yourself signified by this large cross, then My Son will be your everlasting reward.” Soon afterward she founded the first Saint Joseph’s home in an old house in Berlin with fifteen children under its roof. Now the work could begin to “dry the tears, to heal the spiritual wounds and to lead innocent children to the Heart of Jesus.”



Anna Maria had an ardent longing to suffer for the love of God and for the salvation of souls while on this earth, for “to suffer for God is the only joy which heaven does not have.” With a second home and over seventy children now in her care, the lack of funds reduced them to dire poverty. Maria also had a confessor who “caused her an ocean of sorrows.” Postulants were told by him: “This will never be a religious community.”

With 200 children, six homes and fifty sisters under her care, she was forced to look elsewhere for a Bishop who would welcome a motherhouse and novitiate.

Finally, the Bishop of Frascati in Italy gave her permission to establish a motherhouse in Rocca di Papa (Rock of Peter). Amazingly the view from the top of the garden was the view she had seen in her vision in 1891. In 1905, the Carmel of the Divine Heart of Jesus “became a ship by itself, but chained to the Giant Ship, the old Venerable Order of the Carmel”... Mother Maria moved to the Netherlands in 1899 to expand her congregation and to continue her work; the order was later aggregated to the Discalced Carmelites on 25 October 1904. Pope Pius XI granted papal approval to the order on 12 May 1930.

Her writings included the book: ‘The Servant of God’.

After a long life of tireless service, despite sufferings and persecutions, Mother Maria Teresa died on September 20, 1938, aged 83 years at the Motherhouse of the Carmel DCJ, in Sittard, Holland.



Her Feast Day falls on 30th October.



On December 20, 2002, Pope John Paul II declared Mother Maria Teresa of St. Joseph venerable. In December 2005, Pope Benedict XVI approved the miracle necessary for her beatification. She was beatified on May 13, 2006, in Roermond, Netherlands. Today, her remains lie in a side-chapel off the main chapel at the Motherhouse of the Carmel in Sittard, Holland.

Saint Maria Teresa left a lasting legacy to the various branches of her Order: By 2005 there were 454 religious in 53 houses in various countries worldwide, including Iceland and Nicaragua.

JOHN MURRAY

By Jack Fearon

Legionaries who have given faithful and sterling service to the Legion apostolate will be remembered during this centenary.

In this issue we remember Br. John Murray - Envoy to the United States, Canada and Mexico, Concilium President, and faithful legionary for some sixty years.



John Murray, as a very young man, joined the St. Patrick's Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Myra House, Francis St. Dublin. Frank Duff was its president. The Legion of Mary was in its infancy, composed of women, and carrying out a heroic apostolate in the 'Red-Light' district of Dublin. Myra House was a hive of activity with both the Vincent de Paul brothers and the Legion sisters, all engaged in heroic works for the most deprived members of the community, being based there.

Some of the brothers decided to try to do something for the homeless men of the city and the Morning Star Hostel was established in 1927. The group running the hostel was soon incorporated as the first men's praesidium of the Legion of Mary. They

were short of staff to run the hostel and issued an appeal for volunteer indoor brothers. John Murray, age 21 years, answered their appeal, and resigned from his position in the civil service. Rapid expansion of the Legion followed the holding of the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin in 1932. John Murray was appointed Envoy to the USA, Canada,



Mary Duffy



Una O'Byrne

and Mexico in 1936 and joined up with Mary Duffy and Una O'Byrne, already there. Between them they criss-crossed the North American Continent with the Legion being founded in Canada by Mary Duffy and in Mexico by John Murray.

Due to the outbreak of World War II the Envoyship was extended. In 1946, after the war ended, Mary Duffy returned to Ireland and John Murray, completing his mission to Mexico, sailed across the Pacific Ocean to visit the Legion in the Philippines and India before returning to Dublin in 1947. He was elected Concilium President in 1948; he subsequently served in various Concilium offices, and as Concilium Counsellor and Concilium Correspondent.

He corresponded with many councils in Spain and Latin America and headed a group of correspondents dealing with Spanish-speaking councils, helping and encouraging newcomers in their correspondence and in learning Spanish. When the Spanish navy training sailing ship,



Juan Sabastian de Elcano, arrived in Dublin after a voyage round the world, he organised a weeklong series of functions for the ordinary sailors. This was very much appreciated.

One of the sailors remarked: “We have sailed all around the world and, while the officers were feted everywhere, Dublin is the only place that did anything for the ordinary sailors.” Functions were also held for the crews of following visiting ships. His praesidium, Our Lady of the Pilar visited the Spanish community and commenced a Spanish Evening Mass for them. They also visited Spanish

Au-Pairs and helped those unhappy in their positions to find alternative families. His work was recognised by the Spanish Government, who awarded him with a decoration. His apostolate included visiting circus folk in their winter encampments. Before they embarked on their new season travels, Mass was celebrated in their encampment and they and their animals blessed. There were many returns to the sacraments and marriages regularised.

In his later years John worked in the Concilium office where his wide knowledge of Legion Government was available to correspondents and visitors. He died on 21st January 1989, the feast of St. Agnes, aged 80 years, after a brief illness. This, coincidentally, was also the 30th anniversary of the death of Alfie Lambe who died on 21st January 1959.

John Murray had worked in the Concilium office the previous day as usual. His funeral Mass was attended by many legionaries and a representative of the Spanish Embassy. He lived a life of complete dedication to Our Blessed Lady and to the Legion of Mary. He was capable, well organised, friendly, approachable, humble, thoughtful, considerate, generous, and hard-working. His life was an inspiration and an example to all who knew him. May his gentle, kindly, and faithful soul be greatly rewarded in Mary’s reassembling Legion in the Kingdom of God’s love and glory.



MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST

By Immaculate Heart of Mary Praesidium Limavaddy

As the centenary of the Legion of Mary has arrived, we ponder the words of our founder, Frank Duff that the Legion would “suffice for the terrible happenings of the twenty-first century.” If Frank Duff were alive today he would know that the message for mankind which is so needed is one of truth. We must as legionaries be co-workers of the truth. What is truth, or who is Truth? The truth is Jesus Christ himself. Jesus promotes truth independent of time and culture, binding every place and every person.



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI asks: “How many winds of doctrine have we known in recent decades? How many ideological currents? How many modes of thought? The ship of thought of many Christians

has often been agitated by these many wolves-tossed from one extreme to the other. To have a clear faith according to the creed of the church is so often styled as fundamentalism. Meanwhile relativism, meaning allowing oneself to be carried here and there by any wind of doctrine, appears to be the only attitude suited to modern times.” Legionaries today have a great battle with the heresy of modernism.

In our concluding prayer, which legionaries recite at the end of our Legion meetings, we pray:

‘O Lord grant us a lively faith animated by charity which will enable us to perform all our actions from the motive of pure love of you, and ever to see you and serve you in our neighbour, a faith firm and immovable as a rock, through which we will rest tranquil and steadfast amid the crosses, toils and disappointments of life, a courageous faith which will inspire us to undertake and carry out without hesitation great things for your glory and for the salvation of souls, a faith which will be our Legion’s pillar of fire, to lead us forth united, to

kindle everywhere the fires of divine love, to enlighten those who are in darkness and in the shadow of death, to inflame those who are lukewarm, to bring back those who are dead in sin.'

There we have it: Frank Duff's words that only a supernatural faith will suffice for the crisis which we are experiencing today. The Lord is in charge; may the Legion grow so that we build up the Mystical Body of Christ. How wise it was to depend on Mary, the Woman of Genesis of whom God the Father said in the Garden of Eden: "I will set enmities between thee and the woman, between thy seed and her seed; she shall crush thy head." Those words were addressed to Satan by God after the fall of man and they foretold future redemption.



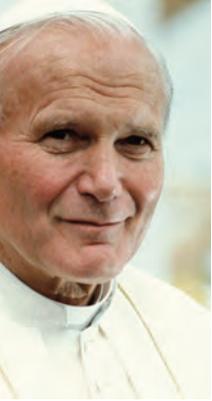
This reversal of the fall was to be accomplished by a woman and her Child who would crush the head of the serpent. This text is placed in the border of the Tessera and stressed in various ways in the contents of the Handbook, taken from 'The Woman of Genesis' by Frank Duff.

We read in the second letter of St. Peter, Chapter 1:3-6: 'By his divine power he has given us all the things we need for

life and for true devotion, bringing us to know God himself who has called us by his own glory and goodness. In making these gifts, he has given us the guarantee of something great and wonderful to come. Through them you will be able to share the divine nature and to escape corruption in a world that is sunk in vice, but to attain this you will have to do your utmost yourselves, adding goodness to the faith that you have.'

Verses 16-18 refers to the transfiguration: "It is not any cleverly invented myths that we are repeating when we brought you the knowledge of the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we have seen it for ourselves. He was honoured and glorified by God the Father, when the sublime glory spoke to Him and said: "This is my Son, the Beloved; He enjoys my favour. We heard this ourselves spoken from heaven when we were with Him on the Holy mountain." Legionaries should be dedicated to the fourth mystery of Light - The Transfiguration.

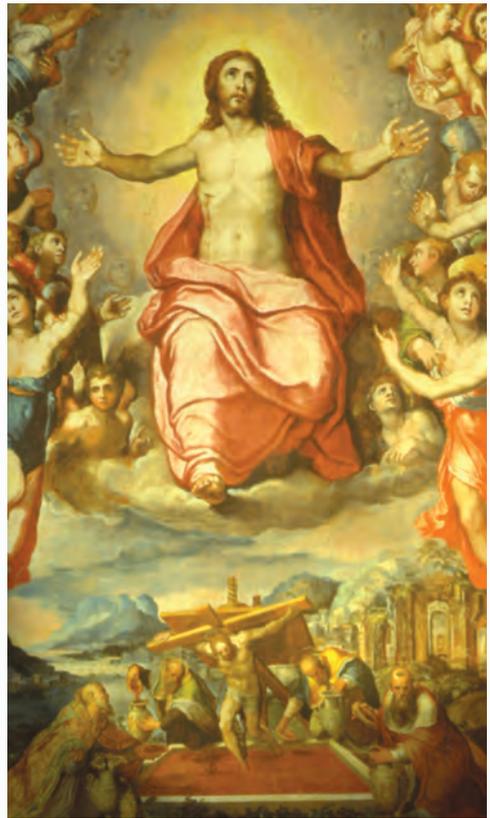




On pages 5 and 6 of the Handbook, we read **Pope John Paul II's** words to Italian legionaries in 1982: "Today I receive the Italian pilgrimage. I would like to emphasise these aspects, which constitute the substance of your spirituality within the church. You, two years from the death of its founder, Frank Duff, must grow in personal sanctity. It is without doubt a lofty and difficult ideal. Today the church through the Second Vatican Council calls Christians of the Catholic Laity inviting them to share in the kingly priesthood of Christ with the witness to a holy life with mortification and charitable works, to be in the world with splendour of faith, hope and charity.



In *Lumen Gentium*, the Second Vatican Council invites all the laity to accept the call to be united ever more intimately to the Lord, considering as one's own everything that is His, to share in the same salvific mission of the church to be its living instruments. Yours is an eminently Marian spirituality, not only because the Legion gloried in carrying Mary's name as its banner, but above all because it bases its spirituality and apostolate on the dynamic principle of union with Mary, on the truth of the intimate participation of the Virgin in the plan of salvation. If the one and only mediator is the man, Jesus Christ, as the Council states, Mary's motherly role in no way diminishes this unique mediation of Christ. On the contrary, it demonstrates its efficacy" (LG60).



The Legion is a wonderful organisation; may our numbers grow so that we can look forward to September 7th with joyful spirituality that will generate the fruits of Vatican II and so build up the Mystical Body of Christ.

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, LIMAVADY - OUR LADY OF ZION CURIA

THE LADIES OF THE LEGION

By Mary Sand

Prison can be a place of conversion. Captive and reflective, the prisoner often turns to the Lord in a concentrated way, moving more quickly in his spiritual progress than he would have 'on the outside'. The Ladies of the Legion are committed partners on this journey.

'Blessed is the stalwart one who takes refuge in Him.'

- Psalms 34:9

The Ladies of the Legion drive up the long dusty driveway to the Duluth prison camp in their serviceable sedan. Pulling into a spot close to the entrance, they pile out of the car and pop the trunk. Seeing the boxes they intend to unload, a willing prisoner comes toward them to help. One of the ladies - elderly, cheerful and industrious - thanks the young man but tells him about the prison rule that forbids his help, adding that she doesn't want the young man "to get into any trouble". The prisoner retreats, stepping backwards until he is a safe distance from the car.



Prisoners are not allowed to assist the ladies in carrying their religious materials. They are not allowed to go near the car. There are so many rules that it is impossible to anticipate all of the possible violations.

The ladies swiftly haul their materials – box by box – to the inside of the building. They know how to work within the rules as they diligently carry out their mission of evangelization. They are wise, both individually and as a unit, and they are adept at maneuvering through the regulatory obstacles at the camp.

Their boxes are filled with Christmas cards for the inmates. As the Christmas season approaches, one of the ladies, Mary, had decided that the inmates who attended weekly Legion meetings should receive Christmas cards from the Legion so that the prisoners, in turn, can send them to their families - nice Christmas cards filled with messages of hope and love.

As they began to plan the project weeks earlier, the first step was to get approval from camp authorities. “No” was the immediate and predictable answer. When they carefully and pleasantly persisted, they were told that they could not provide the greeting cards for any certain group. If they were to distribute cards, they would have to be available to all 800-plus prisoners. “Thank you,” said Mary when confronted with this limitation,

“we can do that!” Immediately Mary and the other ladies set out to meet the requirement, securing the aid of a local merchant who agreed to provide the entire supply of cards – enough for all of the inmates at the prison.



As I slowly examined my Christmas card, I imagined the ladies of the Legion meeting ‘offsite’ industriously packing the cards into neatly-filled boxes. They would have worked diligently and quickly, loading the boxes into their car trunk and driving joyfully to the camp for delivery. Another challenge met and overcome!

As my time at the Duluth camp neared its completion, I was reminded by the Ladies that I must continue the daily prayer practices that I had embraced through their efforts. I promised them that I would, and I have kept my promise. Each time I conclude these daily prayers I envision the ladies and I am happy.

NEW WORLD OF MARY CONFERENCE - *JOY TO THE WORLD*

By Maria Fogarty

Gaudete Sunday, 13 December 2020, the Deus et Patria Committee facilitated through Zoom one of the most engaging conferences of the year. These Sunday evening online conferences became a regular feature of what was to become one of the most unexpected years in the Legion of Mary's history. During 2020 the Dublin-based Deus et Patria committee continued to organise and deliver conferences through Zoom, reaching legionaries and the faithful across the world, from Nigeria to Malta, Baltimore to Germany and Columbia to the UK. The Joy to the World conference was no exception; at its peak attendance numbers reached 440+.

Legionary Speakers

The evening opened with the angelic harmonies of the Holy Family Mission Choir: a perfect start to a Christmas conference preparing us to receive the Babe of Bethlehem. My praesidium sister, Maria Keaveney, gave an account of her Legion work, and in particular PPC (Peregrinatio Pro Christo) evangelisation projects. Maria regaled us with her experiences

in Birmingham, UK, and reminded us of Frank Duff's love of PPC and how this work is central to the Legion's mission, summed up by Br. Duff as: "sweetness and kindness to be lavished on precious and priceless souls."

Br. Emmanuel Bourke followed with a short exegesis on Patrick Kavanagh's poem: 'Advent.' Emmanuel informed us that Patrick Kavanagh described himself as a peasant poet, coming from a humble and devout background.

These lines from his timeless poem certainly attest to the poet's ordinary beginnings:

*But here in the
Advent-darkened room*

*Where the dry black bread
and the sugarless tea*

*Of penance will charm back the luxury
Of a child's soul...*



Another wonderful legionary, Br. Jeremy Ashton, acquainted us with Frank Duff's Story of Christmas, which is found in the book 'Mary Shall Reign.'



Frank loved to enlighten his readers with a detailed portrayal of the struggles and events, both joyful and extraordinary, that led to the birth of our Saviour.

Christmas is not a Fairy Tale

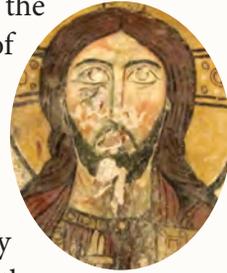
Our long-time friend and Limerick native, Fr. John Harris O.P., gently reminded us of his county's triumph earlier that Sunday afternoon: Limerick won their 9th All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship! With due applause and congratulatory messages out of the way, Fr. Harris preached on the Nativity Story in St. Luke's Gospel, reminding us that Christmas is not a fairy tale. Why has God entered our world and become man? St. Thomas Aquinas points to the Creed for our answer: "for us men and for our salvation He came down from Heaven." This is at the heart of the Christmas story says Fr. Harris – we are saved by allowing God into our souls.

Happiness is the fruit of receiving Jesus and His salvation through the sacraments of the Catholic Church. Fr. Harris emphasised the importance of humility and how we must strive to receive Jesus with the same openness as his mother, Mary; thus peace on earth will reign and goodwill to all men. The life of a Priest is to facilitate communion between God and man,

which is fully achieved through reception and adoration of the Holy Eucharist.

Religious Art: An Aid to Deep Prayer

A fascinating conference talk was provided by Síle Denis on 'Religious Art: an Aid to Deep Prayer.' I personally found this to be a very inspiring presentation. Catholic art has played a leading role in the history and development of western art since at least the 4th Century A.D. An obvious example is the painted frescos on the catacomb walls by early Christians persecuted by the Roman Empire. Throughout the early centuries of Christendom, art was a valuable method to relay the story of Christ and to help believers to pray and meditate on the mysteries of salvation.



Under the patronage of the Church, incredible artistry was commissioned. Accessible to the public, the artworks provided a visual course on the teachings of the Church. For many unable to read or access education, art aided their faith education and catechesis. Iconography such as sculpture and architecture became expressions of devotion to the faith.

A treasury of artwork is attributed to the Church, from which we today can continue to draw inspiration.

We can pray with our eyes by silently focusing on the artwork before us, often portraying the contemplative face of Mary or the compassionate gaze of Jesus.



To illustrate the 'Joy to the World' theme, Síle chose the Adoration of the Shepherds painted by Gerard van Honthorst in 1622. This painting is a beautiful example of baroque mastery. Síle's insightful talk finished with the apt words of Sr. Wendy Beckett: "appreciating and understanding art is a profound form of prayer."

The Joy of Christmas

The final speaker of the evening was Fr. Brendan Walsh, who certainly let his light shine with a reassuring reflection on the Joy of Christmas - Our Lord continually imparts His joy even through our current trials; however woe to those who impose oppressive and unjust laws on the weak.

Fr. Walsh identifies a parallel between the people of Israel in biblical stories and the trials we are currently encountering in 2020/21. When the people of Israel strayed from the faith,

their Temple was locked, and worship was denied. In 2020 Catholics in Ireland have been stripped of the key source of our joy - the Holy Mass. Jesus can certainly touch our hearts through the medium of the web as nothing is impossible to God; however online Mass is not a substitute for Church Mass.

"This is the Legion of Mary's time", proclaims Fr. Walsh. It is vital that we continue to share the peace and joy of our Catholic Faith in a despairing world. What is my purpose; what's my response to the unfolding situation around us? Fr. Walsh advocates that we witness to Christ as a follower of Christ. "Anyone who is baptised has a call to mission," said St. Vincent Pallotti. By the power of scripture and reading our bibles, the Holy Spirit will move through our humanity and overcome our fear and trepidation.

Fr. Walsh jovially describes Legion members as 'good craic'. Here, Father acknowledges a legionary's joy in the Lord, because when you give you receive in abundance.

The Christmas 2020 conference finished firstly with a sincere thank you to all speakers and participants from Fr. Colm Mannion O.P., and secondly with a heavenly rendition of the hymn 'Joy to the World', by the Holy Family Mission Choir. Uplifting is the word to sum up the 'Joy to the World' online event. An unforgettable conference to end an unforgettable year!

The Birthday of the Legion of Mary 7 September 1921



*From
Fr. Bede McGregor's
Allocutio:*

“The 7th Sept. 1921 marked the Birthday of the Legion of Mary.”

Frank Duff never tired of recalling the first meeting of the Legion of Mary then named, ‘The Association of Our Lady of Mercy’

The story of that first night is placed as the first chapter of the Legion Handbook. Why? I think because it puts at the beginning the spirit and the pattern of every future meeting of the Legion no matter where its takes place in the world and no matter what language in which it is conducted.

Frank Duff quotes: “But not the least wonderful thing was that the very first meeting showed us the Legion of Mary as it is today.”

In Fr. Bede’s allocutio in October of 2011 ‘Reflections on the First Allocutio in Legion History,’ he says: “There would [probably have been no first meeting and no Legion if the ‘first-nighters’ had not been exposed beforehand to de Montfort by the talk

By Annette Mulrooney

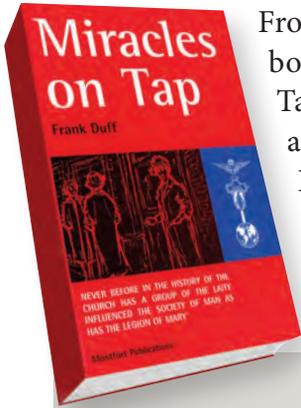
and explanation given by our Founder Frank Duff. The spirit and teaching of de Montfort has been branded on the very soul of the Legion.

There was of course no Handbook from which to pick spiritual reading at that time. Fr. Michael Toher, the local curate, read the 25th chapter of St. Matthew’s Gospel



and then commented on it by way of an allocutio; then the whole little group discussed it at length. They fastened on the key words: “Whatever you did to the least of my brethren you did to Me.” these words provided the motive and method of every Legion apostolate.

“From its very first meeting it resolved to live the great doctrine of the Church, especially the teaching on the Mystical Body of Christ and the Motherhood of Mary; it specialised in heroic forms of the apostolate and was willing to undertake what humanly speaking seemed to be impossible.”



From the wonderful book ‘Miracles on Tap’, a wonderful and inspiring read, I would like to quote the Editors Postscript, first paragraph:

“Dear Friend, the grace of God has brought you to and through the reading of this book; and even greater graces now await you here at the end of it.

Will you open your heart to receive them? Or will you like the poor rich young man in the Gospel, sigh your regrets and go away sad, too attached to this world to respond to His Call?”

Quote in paragraph four: “Will you go away” having seen their marvels of grace? May God forbid. Souls are at stake. Pray and listen, alert for the Master’s gentle call. You must not be content to look on as a spectator to a drama in which you are destined perhaps to play a leading part. Without you and the other members of His Mystical Body, Jesus has no hands or feet with which to work in the world, no eyes or ears, no minds and hearts, no voice to speak his message of salvation to all men.”



Mary Duffy, the first Envoy of the Legion recalls: “I came into the Legion on the crest of an enormous wave of grace – the closing down of ‘Bentley Place’ which had been described as an area enveloped in evil.” (The story is told in Frank Duff’s book *Miracles on Tap*).

The first edition of *Maria Legionis* in 1937, featured some of the following articles: ‘In the Beginning’ told by Frank Duff and included some old photos, one in the room in Myra House in which the first Legion meeting was held; another of Francis St., showing Myra House, The Book Barrow, The Acies, its significance for legionaries and ‘The Logbook of a Journey’, (Edel Quinn, the latest of the Legion envoys, describes her long sea journey to Mombasa, Kenya). A few of the articles in that first edition.

Maria Legionis no. 3 of 1971: ‘The Concilium Looks to the Future’. First paragraph from that article: “We think that now it can be said that the Legion of Mary has arrived. The process has taken 50 years. Those who have performed some of the pilgrimages to Lough Derg and Croagh Patrick on the Atlantic seaboard, which entail an all-night vigil, have had the experience, sometimes remarkable, of witnessing the sunrise.



Bentley Place



First Legion Altar

After the night come the signs of dawn slowly accomplishing itself. Then, in a rush, the daylight-and soon the whole firmament is ablaze! After a fashion, so it has been with the Legion. In its first year it gained four branches and in five years it counted only nine. It took six years to give a second diocese; seven to give a second country; eight to give the first men's praesidium; and ten for the first branch in the New World.

That was the dawning; and even then, the sun seemed painfully slow in coming. Indeed, legionary growing has always been deliberate, almost mathematical. An apparent rapidity has been realised by the operation of the geometric ratio. The Legion has not presented the feature of a mushroom growth."

"In the unfolding of the Legion -from the beginning, when it took

nine months to produce the second branch, to the present day, when one is not audacious in measuring up that opposing battle array which encircles the world-we seem to be witnessing a display of Mary's motherhood. She is, according to the Popes, the Mother of all men. She reaches out yearning to them through an agency attuned to her, and she operates her maternal miracles. She works in those united to her, and then through them."



EXPLANATION OF BACK COVER

The Editor



The picture on the back cover is the painting ‘the Madonna and Child with Symbols’ by the Austrian-born Marianne Preindlesberger, better known as Marianne Stokes –wife of the English painter Adrien Scott Stokes. The painting was completed in 1908 and is now in private collection.

The painting is a gentle portrait of Mary cradling her Infant Jesus with a certain naturalness which suggests her admiration for the Pre-Raphaelite Movement in art. Mary is simply dressed in her traditional blue, with auburn hair drawn gently back and falling on her lower neck. The Infant is clothed in swaddling clothes as mentioned in the Gospel of Luke. At Mary’s side there is a table, beside which there is a stalk of lilies which symbolise her virginity. On the table there is an apple which symbolises the fall of Eve in the Garden of Eden. The apple and the lily are in symbolic contrast: Mary is the New Eve who has become the Virgin Mother of the Infant Saviour who will redeem a fallen world.



Fr. Michael O'Carroll C.S.Sp.

Champion of Marian Devotion,
June 1855 – September 1938

By Michael Walsh



Michael O'Carroll C.S.Sp., was born in Newcastlewest, Co Limerick, on June 11th 1911 to Hannah and Michael Carroll, (the 'O' being added later). Both his parents were daily Mass-goers. Michael entered the junior scholasticate at Blackrock College, Dublin, where he received his secondary education, after which he attended the Spiritan Novitiate, Kimmage and had his first profession on 1 September 1929. He studied for a BA in philosophy at UCD, and then served as a prefect at Rockwell College, Co. Tipperary (1932–3), and St Mary's, Rathmines (1933–4). In 1934 he received the H.Dip.Ed. He then studied theology at the Dominican university in Fribourg (Switzerland), graduating DD (Doctor of Divinity) with a thesis on 'Venerable Francis Libermann and spiritual direction.' (Libermann, a convert from Judaism, was the second founder of the Spiritans; O'Carroll published a short life of him in 1952.)

Michael O'Carroll was ordained priest on 25 June 1937. On 23 July 1939 he made his Consecration

to the Apostolate at Fribourg, and volunteered for the overseas missions, but was directed instead to teach French, Latin, English, History and Religion in Blackrock College. He became an inspirational teacher, and was a regular contributor and editor of the Blackrock College Annual.

He wrote several books: Theotokos (Mother of God) being one of his best-known works.

The foundation of the Legion of Mary by the Blackrock graduate Frank Duff, its rapid growth and extensive involvement in apostolic work, was a source of joy to Fr. O'Carroll. Louis de Montfort (1673–1716), whose 'True devotion to Mary' (published 1842) was inspirational for the Legion of Mary, had predicted that the world's last centuries would be a millennial 'Age of Mary,' with universal peace and justice reinforced by fervent faith. Legionary activists (including Fr. O'Carroll) believed that the nineteenth century revival of Marian devotion prefigured de Montfort's Age of Mary.

'that the Angel Gabriel was the first heavenly messenger of the royal office of Mary.'

Fr. O'Carroll was Spiritual Director to several Legion of Mary praesidia: the first to be established in Blackrock College. He became close to Frank Duff through his many Legion of Mary activities. In the early 1940s an initiative whereby Legion of Mary members took Protestant potential converts on Retreat in Blackrock College, became the germ of the Mercier Society (a Catholic-Protestant discussion group). At the same time the Joy of Israel praesidium (founded to evangelise Jews, with Fr. Michael as chaplain) produced a Catholic-Jewish discussion group named The 'Pillar of Fire Society'. This Society included leading medical figures from the Jewish community such as Bethel Solomons and Leonard Abrahamson, lawyers Herman Good and Bernard Shillman, and Laurence Elyan, an actor/director from the Gate Theatre, Dublin. Fr. O'Carroll and Leon O'Broin met members of the Jewish group, but eventually could offer them only sympathy after the Pillar of Fire Society (and the Mercier Society) were suppressed due to episcopal decree. In 'A Priest in Changing Times' Fr. Peyton commented: "The suppression of the Mercier and Pillar of Fire Societies, was a heavy blow to Frank Duff"

Regarding Mary's role and the function of angels, and Mary's role in

God's plan, Fr. O'Carroll wrote: (1) The scriptures show us one of the highest of heaven's nobility sent in vision form to announce to Mary the mystery of the Incarnation. Mary was asked to become the Mother of God by an angel because by her divine motherhood she would hold sovereignty, power and dominion over the angels. 'It can be said,' writes Pope Pius XII, 'that the Angel Gabriel was the first heavenly messenger of the royal office of Mary.' (*Ad. Coeli Reginam*).

Gabriel is honoured as patron of those who undertake important missions, who bear important news for God. He bore God's message to Mary. In that moment she took the place of all mankind and he was representative of all the angels. Their dialogue, which will inspire men to the end of time, made a treaty on which will arise 'new heavens and a new earth.' How wonderful then, was he who spoke to Mary; how wrong it is to reduce his role to one of mere passive recitation.





He had been fully enlightened and gave evidence of the widest possible resource. Reverent to Mary, he met fully every enquiry she made, for he was God's spokesman and trustee. From the meeting between Gabriel and Our Lady came the renewal of creation. The new Eve reversed the ruin wrought by the first Eve. The new Adam, as head of the Mystical Body which includes the angels, restored not only mankind but also the honour of the angels tarnished by the false angel." (2) Our Lady's queenship of the angels must not be taken only as a term of honour. Her royal office is a participation in that of Christ and He has absolute universal dominion over creation. Theologians have not yet explained all the modes of Our Lady's joint role with Christ the King. But it is clear that her royalty is a principle of action and that the effects of this action reach out to the confines of the

visible and invisible universe. She rules the good spirits and controls the bad. Through her is made that indissoluble alliance of human and angelic society by which all creation will be led to its true end: the glory of the Trinity. Her queen-ship is our shield, for our mother and protectress has the power to command angels to help us. For her it means active partnership with her son in the loosening and destruction of satan's empire over man.

As a writer for the Catholic Standard newspaper, Fr. O'Carroll wrote every editorial for 14 years, and during the Second Vatican Council, commented on the debates and decisions of the Council for the newspaper. His defence of Pope Pius XII's war-time record involved him in a lengthy debate in the letters page of *The Irish Times*, and he became the first Catholic priest to speak at a public meeting in Trinity College Dublin.

Fr. O'Carroll ceased to teach secular subjects after reaching pensionable age in 1976, but taught religious knowledge for another decade. In 1995 he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Pontifical University, Maynooth, for services to theology. Through his writings and good example he left a valuable legacy for future generations to admire and follow.

Having lived a long and fruitful life, Fr. Michael O'Carroll, the priest from Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick, died on 12th January 2004 after a long illness, and was buried in a Holy Ghost Community Grave at Shanganagh Cemetery, Dublin.

The Legionary World

The Legion of Mary is an apostolic organisation of lay people in the Catholic Church and has some four million active members. The Legion is represented in almost every country in the world.

Works include: door-to-door evangelisation, parishioner visitation, prison ministry, visitation of the sick or aged, crowd contact, religious education and visiting the newly baptised. Legionaries are under the guidance of a Spiritual Director named by the Parish Priest. The Legion is, in essence, an extension of the heart and hands of the Parish Priest.

Countries are arranged in Zones for reporting purposes; some have additional territories which are too small in size to indicate accurately on the map above. Reports are presented to the Ruling Council of the World, the Concilium Legionis Mariae. Communication is maintained monthly by many means but specifically through a system of Correspondents.



1. CENTRAL AMERICA - Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico (*Guatemala, Cuba*).

2. SOUTH AMERICA (A) - Argentina, Brazil.

3. SOUTH AMERICA (B) - Bolivia, Columbia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela.

4. NORTH AMERICA & WEST INDIES - USA - (*Jamaica, Bahamas, Belize*), Canada, Trinidad & Tobago - (*Antigua-Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Dominica, French Guiana, Grenada, Guyana, Netherlands Antilles, St. Lucia, St. Vincent-Grenadines, Surinam*), Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico - (*Virgin Islands*), Haiti.

5. ASIA (A) - Armenia, Bahrain, India - (*Nepal, Bangladesh*), Holy Land, Kuwait, Lebanon, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates - (*Oman, Qatar*), Vietnam.

6. ASIA (B) - Hong Kong, Macau, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore - (*East Malaysia, Brunei*), Taiwan.



LEGION OF MARY
FOUNDED 7 SEPTEMBER 1921

7. ASIA (C) - Philippines - (*Guam, Marshall Island, Papua New Guinea*), Australia - (*Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Wallis & Futuna, East Timor*), New Zealand - (*American and Western Samoa, Cook Islands, Tonga*).

8. EUROPE (A) - Cyprus, Italy, Malta - (*Syria, Turkey, Albania, Greece*), Portugal, Spain.

9. EUROPE (B) - Belgium, Denmark, France - (*Monaco, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Reunion, Madagascar*), England - (*Sweden, Wales*), Germany - (*Switzerland, Siberia, Luxembourg, Kazakhstan*) Netherlands, Norway, Scotland - (*Finland, Gibraltar*).

10. EUROPE (D) - Austria - (*Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Moldova, Slovakia, Ukraine*), Belarus, Croatia - (*Slovenia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Serbia*), Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia.

11. AFRICA (A) - Angola, Cape Verde, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Egypt, Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa - (*Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland*), Zimbabwe.

12. AFRICA (B) - Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda - (*Ethiopia, Sudan, Southern Sudan*), Gambia, Zambia.

13. AFRICA (C) - Benin - (*Niger, Gabon*), Congo, Burkina Faso, Cameroon - (*Chad*), Guinea, Guinea Equatorial, Ivory Coast - (*Mali*), Togo - (*Senegal*).

14. AFRICA (D) - Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mauritius, Rwanda.

The Legionary World

ROME



USA - NEW MEXICO

The first Legion praesidium in the U.S.A. was established in Raton, New Mexico, on the November 27, 1931

SCOTLAND

Annie McGurnaghan



"A little while ago," Archbishop Donald McIntosh confided, "I was asked by Rome to further my suggestions in regard to Catholic Action. How unfortunate that I didn't have your letter and your ideas before me at the time; I could have done something worthwhile." The interview lasted two hours. The Archbishop gave full permission for the founding of the Legion of Mary in his Diocese.

ARGENTINA



Alfie Lambe 1932 - 1959
with Seamus Grace
and Frank Duff, July 1953

In her book on Alfie Lambe, Hilde Firtel says: "The life of Alphonsus Lambe was like a meteor. It flashes suddenly before us, soaring to giddy heights, but hardly have we admired its splendour, than it is gone. But whereas a meteor leaves no trace, Alfie's work is thriving and flourishing in all the countries where he was active. The flame which consumed the Irishman, and which he knew how to enkindle in all those who surrounded him, has become a wildfire which has seized an entire continent."

BRAZIL



Legion celebrates 50 years in Sao Paulo, Brazil

KENYA



Archbishop Riberi
In far-away Africa, Bishop Heffernan was awaiting a reply to his appeal for a Legion Envoy to be sent to his Diocese. After discussing Edel's situation with his fellow officers and looking at it from every angle, Frank Duff decided to ask her if she would be willing to go as a Legion Envoy to east Africa.



Venerable Edel Quinn
1907 - 1944



NIGERIA



Michael Ekeng

Michael Ekeng, former slave-boy, was chosen by Divine Providence to be the first legionary in Africa. The first praesidium was founded on September 7, 1933.

Fr. Moynagh and Ekeng worked hard to build up and extend the Legion. Bishop McGetterick, of Ogoja, wrote about Ekeng: "Michael Ekeng's capacity for work is amazing. I have known him to start from Calabar at 1:00 a. m. travel by canoe to Oron, a distance of eighteen miles, go from there to a Legion meeting fifty-five miles away, and, after the meeting, cycle another twelve miles to the nearest mission to receive Holy Communion. He fasted during the whole journey."

MADRAS, INDIA



Mrs. McKenzie-Smith
(centre)

Mrs. McKenzie-Smith who succeeded in establishing the first praesidium in India under the spiritual direction of Fr. Laurence Murphy, S.J. of Loyola College, Madras, in 1931.

Papua NEW GUINEA



Curia at Waigani

SHANGHAI



Praesidium Meeting c.1940

AUSTRALIA

Eventually, when Louisa Gavan Duffy arrived in Australia, she was delighted to discover that Archbishop Mannix had already granted permission to Father Bakker a Melbourne priest, to start a praesidium in Ascot Vale parish. He too had been met by Frank Duff when he visited Dublin to attend the Eucharistic Congress.

KOREA

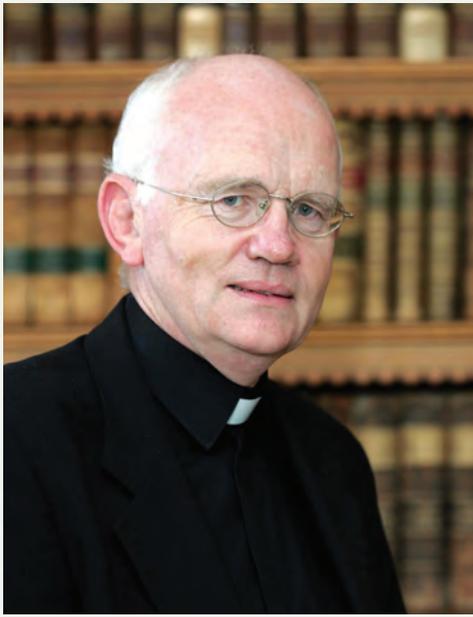
Since January 2005 the Korean Legion of Mary members included the success of the Congress in the intentions of their daily Rosary invoking the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the Church and the Country.

In Korea, almost 7% of the Catholic population are members of the Legion of Mary.

CAMBODIA



Newest Praesidium in
Koh-Norea



Homily at Anniversary Mass for Frank Duff

7 November 2020

Bishop Eamonn Walsh

The last few times I preached on the occasion of Frank Duff's Anniversary, I addressed the history of his mission, his inspiration, sacrificing a career in the Civil Service to promote the mission, the apostolate of the laity. How the holding of the Eucharistic Congress in Ireland in 1932 allowed all the foreign delegates to bring home the fledgling Legion of Mary as a little bit of Ireland. For all this we pray in thanksgiving.

The mission of Frank Duff was the mission of Jesus: only the time and context differed.

Jesus came in the name of the Father to reveal the Father to the world: "I and the Father are oneno one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Frank Duff focussed on the mission of a Christian from the moment of Baptism. Of its nature the mission

will be a challenge to individuals, to society. In a way the missionary is an outsider; an outsider in the way he challenges the status quo of the time. So often society accommodates a Church insofar as the Church does not challenge, allowing society remain in its comfort zone. Usually when the Church and State are hand in glove the Church is not being true to itself.

Jesus challenged the self-righteousness and self-serving of the religious leaders of the time. He challenged the Romans who had exalted the role of Caesar to that of a God.

Jesus came to reveal the Father as the source of Life and of the Universe; the all-powerful who loves us immensely respecting the dignity of all. Everything Church or State leaders are or have, are gifted them by God. Recognising that fact is to be poor in Spirit. The Father is a shepherd to all, a father, a mother, who would die for us. Jesus' mission was to reveal the Father to us in person, in word and in action. To do that he was not afraid to be the outsider.

Frank Duff woke up the sleeping giant of the laity. He awakened within all baptised persons their call to be missionaries: to get to know the Father and to introduce the Father to all. It was not just the responsibility of the clergy and religious. It was the call of all the baptised.



Frank Duff called out to people in the market place, reached out to the most vulnerable, never afraid to wear his faith on his sleeve. While he was not in peoples' face, they were aware of his presence.

Imagine how creative he would be today in our new way of living with the restrictions of Covid-19. He would find new ways of knocking on doors; of quenching people's thirst for God; especially those who do not realise that it is God for whom they are looking.

That is our mission: to bring the Father to all God's people, God's Sons and Daughters. That was the mission of Jesus, the Son of God. That was the mission of Mary in saying 'yes' to being the Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church. That was the mission of all the saints whom we celebrated this week.

To equip his followers with the love of God, the Holy Spirit has been poured into our hearts. We have the Word of God to show us the way; to let out that love; to live the truth; to grow God's life within us.

The Book of the Gospels is with us; The Book of the Holy Spirit is being written as we speak. The listening ear is often used to represent the listening of Frank Duff - listening in prayer and listening to the people and hearing the cry of the poor in a world starved of God's presence. A presence that is often seen as surplus to requirements. Rather than whinge that the worship of God is not seen as an essential service, make it central to our lives and share the richness of our experience in a way that we become magnets drawing people to know and love God our Father. That is the mission of our Baptism that is at the heart of what legionaries are called to be.



LEGIONARIES VISITING GRAVE OF FRANK DUFF



LIAM HAYDEN

- AN APPRECIATION -

By Mary Murphy



The Legion World was truly saddened by the untimely death of Liam Hayden on Holy Saturday 3rd April 2021.

Liam was a dedicated and life-long member of the legion of Mary, and his untimely passing will be greatly missed by legionaries in Dublin, in Ireland, and in many other parts of the Legion World with which he had contact.

Liam joined the Legion in Presentata Curia in the early sixties and continued as an active member ever since. He served as President of Presentata Curia for six years and was Concilium correspondent with Vienna Senatus, Padua, Papua New Guinea and Philippines. He served as Assistant Secretary of Concilium for two terms of six years with responsibility for Dublin, Ireland and Europe. He visited the legion in Papua New Guinea and the Philippines and many councils in Ireland. He was a member of many extension teams

in Ireland, organised the Legion of Mary Stand at the Annual National Ploughing Championship and was a regular at the Legion Stand in the RDS for the Annual Divine Mercy Conference.

In the late nineties Liam became very involved in recruiting and training young people between the ages 18 -40 who were sorely missing from the legion at that time. Liam was a dedicated participant in organising the annual Young Adults Conference, social gatherings for young people, etc., and always with the idea of encouraging them in their faith.

Liam had a great Marian devotion, was an ardent devotee of St. Joseph and a firm promoter of the Cause of Frank Duff. He was a talented musician and gave freely of his time to entertain at social gatherings; he was a great lover of sport and particularly of the Dubs.

Ever generous with his vast knowledge of Legion work and history, ever willing to offer advice and encouragement to any legionary facing difficulties, and ever willing to contribute to the Maria Legionis when called upon, Liam Hayden was truly an Icon of the Legion of Mary.

Liam was admitted to hospital after falling on Morning Star Avenue making his way to the Morning Star Hostel to complete his legion assignment. After contracting covid-19, he died on Holy Saturday with his family at his bedside in the aptly named Mater Hospital.

No doubt when Liam's gentle soul left this mortal realm and sped onwards to God, Mother Mary and her Son Jesus were waiting to greet him with loving words: "Well done thou good and faithful servant -Welcome Home."

Four priests and his family attended his funeral Mass on Thursday 8th April in St. Saviour's Church, Dominick Street. A large gathering of legionaries and friends assembled outside the church - due to Covid restrictions.

He is buried in
Dardistown Cemetery,
Co. Dublin.

*Ar dheis Dé
go raibh a anam*



100 Years of Heroism

By Pat Byrne

Frank Duff had his bicycle ready in the hallway for his weekend winter jaunt the very day he died. He never owned a car and never ventured, for the most part, further than a short cycling distance of his home just north of the inner city of Dublin. He was very fond of this mode of transport and was in the habit, over the last 30 years of his life, of taking to the roads around Ireland with a group of friends known as 'The Sprockets' on annual cycling holidays. He was an avid photographer capturing many of the beauty sports en route and used to savour very much the Kodak slideshow 'Sprocket Reunion' that would later accompany the completion of another excursion. In our current pandemic climate, like Frank we have to take to the country roads again and use our bicycles or walk for our daily exercise.





It was a First Friday on 7th November 1980, when the Lord called Frank, the last surviving member of his immediate family, to his reward. Likewise, it was on a First Friday on the day he was born, the 7th June 1889. His death-bed, which can still be visited today, is overlooked by a large portrait of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, just as the turn of the stairs in his home also commands a similar image in the form of a statue. If ever there was a soul who emulated and bore the heart of Christ! Bearing the emblem of the Sacred Heart as part of his life-long Pioneer membership, those many laborious years were filled with a tremendous compassion towards the poor – but especially the spiritually impoverished.

In contrast to his relatively salubrious upbringing – a maid was employed in the family home – the Dublin of Frank Duff's younger days was rife with poverty. The ill-effects of the mid 19th Century famine hung over the Ireland of his day. A volatile political and economic situation led to much in the way of unemployment and desperate living conditions.



The son of two Civil Servants, he received a substantial education through the Jesuit run Belvedere College for his primary schooling, followed by an equally considered grounding with the Holy Ghost Fathers in Blackrock College. Frank received several 'Exhibition' scholarship awards during his teenage years and excelled in the Irish language in his Leaving Certificate. He also had a tremendous command of French and Latin. He likewise had good numerical skills which stood to him in his career in the Department of Finance and in the Land Commission.

Though eminently capable, Frank Duff never embarked on formal third level education. His attempt to enrol as a student in 1910 was frustrated by his having to become the family breadwinner on account of his father's grave illness.

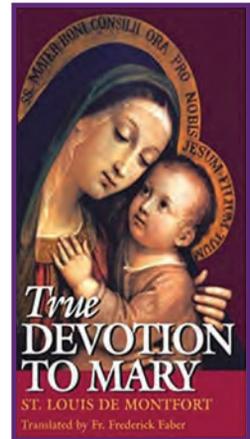
This may also in part explain why he never followed a vocation to the priesthood or to marriage. His care and devotion for his mother and his family ran deep. He entered the civil service and succeeded in an accomplished career, playing his part in the establishment of the new Irish State as it struggled in the years following independence. Though deprived of a higher education, among the accolades awarded Frank Duff in his later years was that of an honorary doctorate by the NUI. In the course of his 91 year life-span – as his personal library will attest – he read a great deal.

It was not until the age of 24 that Frank began to encounter first hand the tenement squalor of the inner city. A work colleague had persuaded him to become a member of the SVP Society. This was certainly the catalyst that saw him spending the rest of his life seeing and serving Christ in the poor. The founding of the Legion of Mary would follow not long afterwards on 7th September 1921. Frank Duff himself tells with relish and with characteristic humour, the self-deprecating story of the ‘uproarious laughter’ which met his prophecy at an early meeting that this organisation was destined to span the world.

The Legion was founded against the background of the impoverishment

of his fellow Irishmen and women, an impoverishment both material and spiritual, but also in the light of Frank’s growing understanding of the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the life and mission of the Church. As his faith deepened, he read all he could acquire in English, Latin and French on Our Lady. His copy of St. Louis Marie de Montfort’s *Treatise on the True devotion to Mary*, the Fr. Faber translation, is retained among his effects and contains a vast number of hand-written quotations drawn from a plethora of sources. This book, which

he had rebound and expanded, incorporates nearly 700 pages of closely spaced hand-written notes, from which he read and to which he added with



great frequency, perhaps even daily, right to the end. His discovery of De Montfort in 1917, he tells us, was a pivotal moment which planted the seed for the birth of the Legion of Mary and which gives it its distinctive Marian spirituality of consecration to Jesus through Mary.



A compelling account of his heroism and that of the early Legion members, all young women, is to be found in Frank's book, 'Miracles on Tap' – a gripping-read. This story details the transformation from 1922 to 1925 of the former red-light district in the city of Dublin, known locally as 'Monto.' The fact that Frank was at this time, a civil servant of note, embroiled in the establishment of the Free State and by now, a recognised stalwart of the St. Vincent De Paul Society in an impoverished and post-war state, adds to the extraordinary and dramatic telling of this tale.

The setting-up by the Legion of three hostels to care for these victims of human trade and for the homeless, surely measures up to the prophetic words of our saviour to Nathanael: "you shall see greater things than these." Two of these hostels, The Morning Star and Regina Coeli are today in full operation and stand as monuments to this fearless faith. Countless thousands of souls have been and continue to be ministered to by the heroic volunteers who serve in them.

It was no small step when Frank Duff, aged 45, took early retirement, settling for a modest pension in order to focus his energies on the by now multi-national and accelerating growth of the Legion of Mary.

On a personal level, Frank was a man of deep and assiduous prayer. He prayed the full Latin Divine Office daily from 1917 until his death. Devotion to daily attendance at Holy Mass and, of course, the recitation of the Rosary were also his staples. In his work for the Church he suffered no little opposition from within and without. His irascible nature, a common characteristic of passionate souls, was something over which he exercised great restraint, but which clearly animated his religious zeal, yielding as it did such prolific spiritual results. Adversaries towards the Legion, not excluding those in the clerical state, were met with due deference but not without determination to defend, what, by its prodigious fruits, was clearly the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Legion of Mary Handbook, entirely Frank's work, and arguably the most translated such work of any Irishman, was worked and re-worked by him through at least seven revised editions from 1928 to his death in 1980. It is a masterpiece of spiritual, organisational and apostolic counsel. Two copies of every available translation were requested for the deliberations of the Vatican Council Fathers leading up to the publication

of the documents on the Church and on the Laity. The standing ovation Frank Duff received from the two-and-a-half thousand Bishops gathered for the Council during his attendance there as a lay auditor in late 1965, was testimony to the great contribution being made by the Legion of Mary and an appreciation of his evangelical genius.

Fifty-nine years of Legion membership is borne out in a volume of correspondence that compares favourably with that of St. John Henry Newman. Frank authored 33,000 letters, mostly by dictaphone and therefore often lengthy, addressed to all levels of hierarchy, religious and lay Legion members the world over. It is a formidable body of thought on every conceivable topic. Notable are the long series of letters to individuals over a period of decades, sometimes running to 500 in number, to kindred souls deeply immersed in the work of the Legion. Very moving are those more personal letters accompanying souls struggling with mental affliction or moral addiction – again, often protracted over years.

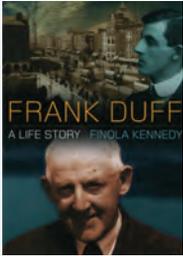
His deep understanding of the Doctrine of the Mystical Body of Christ shines brilliantly through the 200 articles he published as well



as his thousands of unpublished scripts. Frank Duff took with great seriousness the seeing and serving of Christ in others – based on the judgement manifesto: ‘insofar as you did this to one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it to me.’ Who knows how many souls have been so touched and transformed by the work of millions of Legion members in the past century of its existence?

To Brother Duff, as he came to be affectionately known, unapostolic Catholicism is an anomaly. All, by virtue of their baptism, are called to share in the work of preaching the Gospel to the ends of the earth. “The ordinary person” he would say, “is capable of apostleship.” This for him is ‘normal Catholicism.’

In Legion of Mary membership, he sees the solution to the so-called ‘vocations crisis.’ A 1946 letter of his makes the bold claim that the Legion was contributing up to 1,000 vocations to the priesthood and religious life every year – a statement that could well be true to this day. Many of the more recently professed and ordained in Ireland, would give full credit to the value of such membership on the vocational path. Likewise, marriage and the single life are equally served by a healthy measure of the apostolic and prayer life which the Legion offers.



Recommended Book:
Frank Duff, A Life Story
 Finola Kennedy,
 Bloomsbury, 2011.



Recommended Video:
Glorious Lives, Frank Duff
 Shalom World TV,
 2019.

Frank Duff's cause was opened in 1996 and given the length of his life, the Legion and its vast mission, his voluminous writings, published and unpublished, it has proved to be a weighty and extensive investigation. At the time of writing, the Diocesan Enquiry is continuing with the work of the Historical Commission, while other elements of the Cause have been concluded and are ready in

preparation for the final submission to the Congregation of Causes in Rome. In his earliest published work, Frank Duff asks: 'Can We Be Saints?' He does not leave the question unanswered. His immensely fruitful life, lived through decades of economic, social, political and theological upheaval provides ample evidence in the affirmative.



Women's Praesidium Legion of Mary Templebraden
 Photo Oct. 2019



Celebrating Michael Breen's dedication and service
 to the local Legion of Mary Photo Oct. 2015

(The local Legion of Mary praesidium in Pallasgreen/ Templebraden is very grateful to Fr. Eamonn McCarthy, for supplying us with above details on the life of Frank Duff).

Fr. McCarthy has been instrumental in compiling Frank Duff's 30,000 letters for his Cause and has been helped by one of our own local Legionaries Brigid O'Driscoll.



Frank Duff Single Banner Up Display

The artwork is available for download to print locally and display at various legion events (especially centenary events)



<https://www.legionofmary.ie/publications/details/frank-duff-pull-up-banner-x-1>

The Servant of God FRANK DUFF

1889 - 1980

His Early Life



Frank Duff was born on 7th June 1889 in Dublin, Ireland, the eldest of seven children born to civil servants John Duff and his wife Susan (Nee Freehill). He was educated at Belvedere College and subsequently, when the family moved to Dun Laoghaire in 1899, he attended Blackrock College. It was here that he showed considerable ability at running, cycling, tennis and cricket.



As A Young Man

Serious illness forced Frank's father to retire from the Civil Service in 1909, leading Frank to step into the role of family breadwinner by joining the Civil Service, thereby sacrificing a third level education and marriage.



Frank's spiritual life developed when in 1913, he joined the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and undertook the daily recitation of the Rosary; soon after he began the lifelong practice of attending daily Mass. He published his first pamphlet "Can we be Saints?" in 1916, in which he expressed the conviction that all people are called to be saints.



The Legion of Mary

Frank's involvement with the St Vincent de Paul Society in 100 Francis Street, Dublin, led him to become acquainted with some ladies who wanted to help but were barred from joining the all-male society. Following a discussion one Sunday evening about the Treatise on the True Devotion to Mary by St. Louis Marie de Montfort, a meeting was arranged for the following Wednesday 7th September 1921, to see how they might put the devotion into practice. Gathered around a little altar of the Immaculate Conception, Fr Michael Toher, Frank and fifteen ladies held what was to be the first meeting of the 'Legion of Mary'. Their first apostolate was the visitation of patients in the South Dublin Union Hospital. An encounter with street girls led to the setting up of a 'safe house' the Sancta Maria Hostel in 1922 and the herculean task of tackling the Red-Light district colloquially known as 'Monto', leading to its closure in 1925.



The Hostels and Early Retirement

In 1926 the new Irish government set up a Commission on poverty and Frank was invited to give evidence. This led to the setting up of the Morning Star Hostel in 1927. The Regina Coeli Hostel for homeless women was opened in 1930 and later unmarried mothers were allowed to rear their children there, something unprecedented at that time.



The Legion continued to expand. New groups, known as 'praesidia' opened in other countries. The Legion continued to spread to the 170 countries in which it is present today.

Frank retired from the Civil Service in 1934 to give the Legion his full attention. Many unique and pioneering initiatives followed, including the ecumenical Mercier Society, the Pillar of Fire Society for Catholic-Jewish dialogue and 'True Devotion to the Nation' whereby legionaries set about improving all aspects of life within a locality.

Second Vatican Council

In 1965 Frank was invited to the Second Vatican Council as a lay observer. Cardinal Heenan of London held the floor as Frank entered; when the Cardinal made reference to Frank, it prompted the more than 2500 bishops present to give him a standing ovation, a suitable recognition of his standing in the universal Church and of his contribution to promoting the lay apostolate, one of the prevailing topics of the Council documents.



PORT PAUL VI AND FRANK AT THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL

Final Days

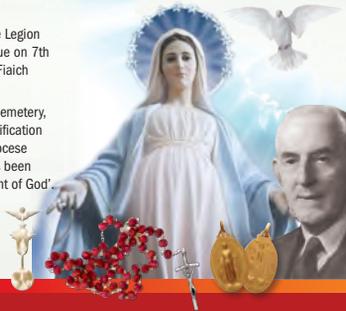
Frank continued to devote himself tirelessly to the Legion until his death at his home on Morning Star Avenue on 7th November 1980. At his funeral mass, Cardinal O'Fiaich described him as the "Irishman of the Century".



GLASNEVIN CEMETERY

Frank is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin. The cause for his beatification was introduced by the Archdiocese of Dublin in 1996 and he has been bestowed with the title 'Servant of God'.

Favours attributed to his intercession should be reported to: Conclium Legionis Mariae, Morning Star Avenue, Brunswick Street, Dublin 7.



Return to Myra House

By Frank Duff

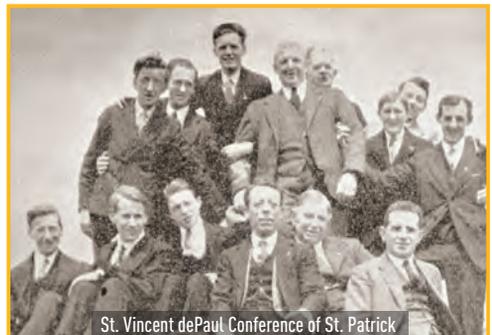
Transcript of tape recording of conducted tour of Myra House, Francis Street, given by Frank Duff on the occasion of the return of the Legion of Mary to Myra House in 1965.

ENTRANCE HALL AND FOYER

We will proceed much as we proceeded originally. Now you have come into the entrance hall and I had better therefore tell you what was the history of this place before the pioneers of all these things came into it. This house was the property of a well-known bacon firm in Ireland called Keogh-Donnelly, and it was taken over by the Iveagh Trust which is another work for Guinness's – the charitable side of Guinness's operations – and they built this hall at the back as a play-centre for the children of the district (1909), and that it remained until they built (1915) their new elaborate premises down in that direction about a quarter of a mile from here [in Bull Alley]. They then vacated this hall which lay idle for some time, with the exception of two things: the local CYMS occupied a room at the far end of the hall, and a committee ran a Free Breakfast for children on Sunday morning as a counterblast against the proselytisers.

Now Mrs. Keogh knew Frank Sweeney very well, who was the President of the St. Vincent de Paul Society here in the parish, St. Nicholas of Myra, and she gave him a present of this house. We

had been meeting in the presbytery on the other side of the road until then and we moved into this house in the year prior to the date on that card. We came here in 1917 and I don't think it is without significance that it was the same year as two other tremendously important events which, I think in the designs of providence, are all linked together. One was the apparition of Fatima, and the other was the Russian Revolution which initiated the Soviet and atheistic materialism on a properly organised scale. Now we came over and entered this house in 1917 and we moved firstly into the room into which we will next go, which is over this. Then immediately afterwards the Conference of St. Patrick was started, and I myself was the first President of that Conference and Br. Murray was the Second President.



Now I was also appointed President of the Ladies' Committee that was running the free breakfasts and, believe it or not, that was the first contact I ever had with women at all [laughter]. I was extremely afraid of them [laughter], and I kept the breadth of half the city between myself and them. Now that I was put in that way with them, I found out that they were human beings, and the free breakfast work provided a tremendous occupation every Sunday morning because, after the breakfast was over, we took the children over to Mass at St. Nicholas of Myra Church and superintended them; and then out of these general operations with the ladies grew the magnificent catechism classes that we ran on Sunday in the Church. Then we began to develop all sorts of works for women and girls and brought more and more women in to run these. Among these was the first President, the person who was subsequently the first President of the Legion, Mrs. Kirwan.

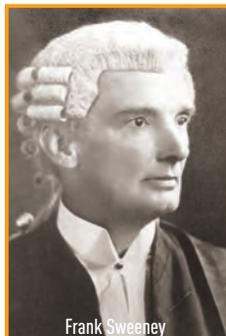
So the need was felt very quickly for a regulatory meeting for these many activities and we started one which



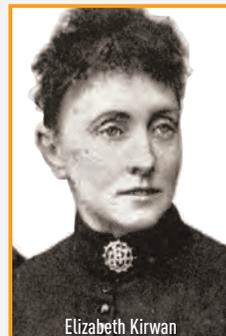
met monthly in the room overhead; this meeting started with practically the identical prayers which are used in the Legion ever since: the prayer and invocation of the Holy Ghost, followed by five decades of the Rosary, followed by the Vincent de Paul ejaculations – Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Joseph, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Patrick. You see the little differences which have taken place. The meeting ran for two hours and heard reports from all the different activities that it was undertaking, and I might mention to you that the moment St. Patrick's Conference started in

that room, it adopted the practice of putting a large statue of St. Patrick on the mantelpiece flanked by the two brass candlesticks which are now in the showcase over at Headquarters: they became the first Legion candlesticks.

Now before we depart from here, I had better mention that this statue [a large statue of the Sacred Heart] was purchased at an early stage and I understand the Vincent de Paul Society are going to leave it here for us to keep.



Frank Sweeney



Elizabeth Kirwan



Matt Murray



Now it was our custom whenever anybody entered the House or left the House – I don't know if it is a custom which has persevered since our time – but we always knelt down and said a little prayer and perhaps all of you had better do the same thing now before we move into the momentous room which is overhead.

THE BOARD ROOM

Now this was always called by the Vincent de Paul Society, the Board Room, and it is the one room in the house which has any mild pretensions to what you might call decency. Now in this room the Conference of St. Nicholas of Myra began. Out from it came St. Patrick's Conference. And there is the mantelpiece on which the statue of St. Patrick and the two brass candlesticks were based. You will realise that in that idea – the candles were always kept lighting during the meeting – lay the germ of the Legion altar. The dolours of which two are here just at the moment – the rest are down below but we understand the Vincent de Paul Society is also leaving them to us – these are the celebrated pictures by Janssens which adorn the walls of Antwerp Cathedral; and I gave a present of these to this house forty years ago, and it is rather interesting that they who don't even know the origin of the pictures have decided to give them to us.

Now in the chair which you so nobly occupy, or rather in the place which you occupy, was a magnificent carved bog-oak chair and we'll just have a look at it – we should have taken it on our way up. We'll have a look at it because it was made for the first Vincent de Paul Conference in Dublin which was the second in all Ireland, and it had its insignia cut upon it; and in that chair sat all the presidential figures of different ratings and it was always taken over to the Church at the other side of the road for the Confirmations for the Bishop to sit in. I cannot say whether the fact that the chair is still on the premises means that we are going to get it or not. We don't want to raise a thorny issue [laughter].

Now that window behind me was a window, and they shut it up to put the concrete statue of the Sacred Heart outside, and it has spoiled this room; and one of the things that we will do as soon as the house comes into our possession – as you will understand that at the present moment we are technically trespassers – but the moment it comes into our hands we will take away, we will open up that, and make some other arrangement for the statue.

Now in this room was held that monthly meeting to regulate all those women's and girls' works, and out of that sprang the Legion of Mary. The meeting took place once a month at 4 o'clock on a Sunday afternoon and

one of its customs was that, when the Angelus rang out at 6 o'clock across the road, everyone stood up and said the Angelus and the meeting automatically terminated. There you will see the germ of the Legion's automatic closure. Now after that it was the practice that the ladies bustled off to make tea and we all had tea together in this room. It was also in this room as a special item that a meeting was held on the True Devotion, about which a good deal of curiosity existed, and it was held a fortnight before the ordinary meeting of the group – that is to say, it was held in the latter days of August. Following that, the normal meeting of the group took place and during that particular meeting a rather wonderful report of his activities that day was given by one of our members, Matt Murray: he described his visitation of the Dublin Union Hospital that morning. It was the most eloquent and touching thing to which I ever listened. And others felt the same because, at the end of the meeting, when some were bustling off to get tea, two of the girls came up to Fr. Toher and myself and asked would it not be possible to organise them to undertake the same work. The answer was yes. Could they count on support? They moved off and in a few minutes they came back to say that already they were six. Well that's alright, that's a good number to begin. What evening would suit? And it was agreed that the following Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock in the room at the end of the hall – because this room would be in

use for the Vincent de Paul meetings – that the meeting of those interested in this new idea would take place. So at this stage we will now go down to that room but we will have to come back here again for another important thing – there is a temptation to cover it now but it's better to take it in its due sequence.

THE ROOM IN WHICH THE LEGION BEGAN

Now this is the room in which the Legion of Mary began. And the table was just about nearer perhaps to this end than to the far end: it wasn't quite in the middle of the room. Now when they assembled at 8 o'clock there were altogether 15 people present of whom there were two men, Fr. Toher and myself. Before us on the table, completely transforming the atmosphere, was the little Legion altar that you know so well – with the exception of the Vexillum which did not exist. The statue was the statue which is now in the showcase over at Headquarters. That itself had a unique history which would take a tale for itself. The two candlesticks were the two brass candlesticks and the two vases were made of glass. These perished in the course of honourable service and therefore they could not be put into the case. But the Waterford Glass Company which as you see from the inscription were there, hearing of the deficiency in the case, made us a

present of those two beautiful articles.

Now I am not going to try to cover the story of that evening: you will get it in *Miracles on Tap*. At the second meeting there were 21 present and extra work was taken on. And in those first few meetings the broad rules of the Legion took shape. One very interesting rule was that they did not aspire to be a women's organisation. It was going to be an organisation of Catholics, both women and men. The time was not opportune for bringing in men and I only entered in in a somewhat peculiar category, a sort of hanger-on! Because I had been working with them, I couldn't be kept out and a title then had to be produced for me and for those who were destined to follow me: 'Tribune.' Now you might say: why didn't the men come in from the beginning? Answer: these were Vincent de Paul premises and the taking in of men would have represented the setting up of a rival organisation, and therefore there was no question of taking in men then, nor for a fair time afterwards.

The second interesting rule is that one against our giving of material relief – also dated from the first meeting. There was a slightly different motive from the one we would ascribe to it now, because the vision on that thing was just a little narrower at that moment, because again we must not enter into rivalry with the Vincent de Paul Society.

They were in charge of all that work of giving relief and were competent for it and, to tell you the truth, in my own mind I did not believe that the sweet gentle crowd of girls who were assembled here that night were capable of undertaking that work – because they were days of dire poverty in Dublin and they would be besieged, and you needed to have a certain amount of, well let's call it, the prudence of the serpent. [laughter]



Now I cannot tell you offhand how many meetings were held here but there would have been very few. I wouldn't be surprised if there were only two or three meetings held in this room. After that we moved down to the room behind the boardroom and you'll see it when we go back down there. Now into this room came, at a later stage, the Praesidium of Our Lady of Refuge, which visited the low-down women's lodging houses of the city. It was the fourth presidium started. Its president was Colette Gill, a very able person. Later on when she found herself unable to



continue, she sent word over regarding her resignation, and the praesidium asked for a competent substitute – expecting of course that somebody out of their own ranks would be appointed. Instead a person known to history as Edel Quinn arrived on the scene looking even more girlish than her years; there was simple consternation in this room and they held a little meeting after the ordinary meeting, with her absent, and they sent their Spiritual Director over to us to protest that we had sent a child to lead them. So, he got no satisfaction and when he came back the following week he announced to them briefly that he had “cut no ice.” [laughter]



THE ROOM ADJOINING THE BOARD ROOM

And now we will go down again to the two rooms at the end of the Hall... Now this room was the habitation of Our Lady of Mercy from either its third or its fourth meeting, and that praesidium swelled to immense dimensions. There were actually at one time 70 members in it, packed into this room. It had become evident of course at an early stage that they should split, but there was regard even in that early time for that intangible thing called spirit; and if you made a division in something you don't know what effect that is going to have; accordingly there was a reluctance to divide, and actually the second praesidium did not come from a division of the first.

In the beginning of July 1922 a slightly different group began the second praesidium and they called it Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, and those two doughty figures – Miss Plunkett and Miss Scratton – were members of it; and at its second meeting the incredible events which were taking place down in Chancery Lane, a quarter of a mile



Fr. Michael Creedon

or a little more from here, were announced to them: thirty street-girls declaring they wanted to lead a good life. So Fr. Creedon came

in and announced this and after this particular meeting of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, a number of them – not all – came in to the other room and held the meeting that was destined to launch Sancta Maria. Again a tale in itself which I won't cover. Now that particular praesidium – Our Lady of the Sacred Heart/Sancta Maria – opened within a week of that date and naturally the praesidium moved over there and has operated there ever since and, at a certain stage in its history, dropped the title Our Lady of the Sacred Heart to take on that of Sancta Maria, the name of the Hostel.

Now the third praesidium to start also started in this room. It was the Immaculate Conception, and that started by a pure division of the first into two praesidia and a great girl, called Agatha Cox, became the president.

The fourth praesidium was the one which I told you of a few minutes ago, Our Lady of Refuge, down at the far end of the Hall. Now that completed the childbearing of Myra House in regard to praesidia of the Legion. Four!

Now the fifth praesidium started as a split again of Our Lady of Mercy and now down in Westland Row – called Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, a title which it subsequently interchanged with another praesidium which thought it had a better right to it [laughter].

The sixth praesidium was over in our own territory in Church Street, attached to the Capuchin Church, St. Mary of the Angels, and that has come home to roost in the Regina Coeli in the last few weeks, having lost its premises: they are being harboured in the Hostel.

The next one was in St. Saviour's, Dominick Street – Our Lady of Truth. The next one was Our Lady of Consolation in the St. Vincent de Paul Society house – Ozanam House, Mountjoy Square. And the next one was Our Lady Help of Christians meeting in Barry's Hotel, and that was the praesidium Edel Quinn joined.

Now to give you the picture, Mrs Kirwan always sat there at the middle and facing that way. And I was permitted to sit beside her [laughter]. She was – it would take too long to describe her – but she was Heaven's own gift to the infant Legion of Mary, because she was an extraordinary combination of gentleness and firmness; and you'd never know what would have happened in those early days but for her, because you will realise that there was nothing written and the Legion constitution was not put down on paper until 1928 when a beginning of it was made. Up to that time it was usage. They did what the first praesidium had done and the person who saw that this was accurately adhered to was Sister Kirwan. I could no more have managed to keep that

lively crowd in order. I couldn't have managed it, but she did. And I always remember one time in one of those early meetings, two of the members had just brought off one of the most thrilling exploits, a deed of bravery and ingenuity, and they held us spellbound during their recital which was no brief one; and of course they could sense the thrill that was going through their auditors; and they finally came to a standstill and they waited for words of commendation. Instead an icy-cold sentence proceeded from the Chair: "You broke a rule and there was no merit in the entire transaction." Consternation! They had infringed [laughter]. Now we will adjourn to the room next door.



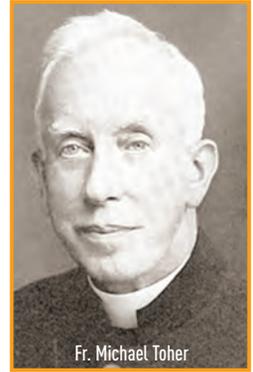
Sancta Maria Hostel

THE BOARDROOM AGAIN

Now this was a room in which I cannot recall any praesidium meeting ever having being held here. I expect that such must have happened by reason of emergency situation, but I DON'T RECALL SUCH AN EVENT. It was hallowed territory so far as the girls were concerned and Mrs. Kirwan was most determined that they were "to keep away from the men" as she said [laughter]. It wasn't just a reason of stiffness or prudery or anything of that kind. We were never quite sure how the supreme authorities of the St. Vincent de Paul Society would look upon this mass invasion of the premises by girls – because it was a French society and at that time they forbade their brothers to enter into works with women. So it was that which Mrs. Kirwan had in mind. She didn't want to have any tongues wagging at all. But, in any case, into this room came the Concilium when it was founded. It was founded in this room. And it was founded when there were five praesidia in existence. And strange to say, the little Legion at that time had a very different idea of a governing body from that which ordinarily was held: it aimed at numbers in order to intensify contact with the individual bodies and, accordingly, not only did it bring in as representatives of each praesidium the spiritual director, president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer,

but an extra member elected by each praesidium. Now that only applied to those five and not to their successors. So that meant that sixty 'fives' – thirty persons – assembled round this table to form the Concilium.

Just as there was only one thinkable person for the presidency of the first praesidium, so there was only one for the presidency of the Concilium – and that was Mrs. Kirwan. She had proved herself. The Spiritual Director of the Concilium was, strange to say, Fr. Creedon, and not Fr. Toher. Fr. Toher was the priest who was there at the beginning. He was Spiritual Director of the first praesidium. He was not Spiritual Director of the Concilium or rather it came into existence as the Curia of Dublin, transforming itself without exterior violence into the Concilium the moment praesidia started outside Dublin.



Now the reason why Fr. Toher did not automatically take on that duty was that he had gone out to Mexico to try his vocation in what they call the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit. And while he was away, the Concilium started and Fr. Creedon became its Spiritual Director and held it ever afterwards until his death.

Now the President sat at the top of the table in that magnificent chair at which you must take a look as we leave the premises.

Now all the early great decisions were taken in this room. Many of them were only what you would call ratifying decisions: that is, agreeing to what was being done and what was regarded as unwritten law. The name of the Legion was chosen in this room and all the Latin terminology came into existence around the table: the members took the greatest possible amusement out of this performance of inventing names. And they took it in their stride until one celebrated word was proposed, and that was too much for them. And they laughed for full five minutes before we could get down to business again, and then they agreed to the word. It was the *Acies* [laughter]. They thought it was the funniest word they had ever heard. And one rather peculiar little thing just to [note] – then, of course, now and, of course, always – there was a tremendous spirit of gaiety in the Legion. And when this name-making was taking place somebody suggested that we were using a desperately prosaic word for the President of the Concilium. Now surely when we had all Latin at our command we could get a better word than President! And I was supposed to be more or less the Latinist of the assembly, and I was deputed to look up a suitable word for the President of the Curia – it was in the stage when it was only the Curia.

So I delved into Roman history and I found what I wanted. The Curia of Ancient Rome had a special name for its President, its Chairman. So ‘saying nothing to nobody’ as the phrase puts it, I came back and I bided my time. And in due course the item was reached and I was asked had I done my homework [laughter], and I said I had – meticulously. With what result? A highly satisfactory result! Well then, tell us what it is: what was the name of the President of the Curia? A Curio! [laughter]. There was another orgy of laughter and, as soon as Mrs Kirwan could make herself heard amid the clamour, she sternly said: “Over my dead body” (laughter), and that most appropriate word, on account of having an unfortunate association in other directions, was not able to be used.

Now I cannot tell you exactly, because it would mean going through the records, I cannot tell you how long the Concilium persisted in this room. It was obvious it wouldn’t stay here too long because – not that the room was required, because we met on Sunday afternoon but – the numbers began to pour in on us. And finally another regretful decision had to be taken, because you know the way you put down your roots and every little item of this room was delightful to us. But finally we had to pluck up our roots and proceed thither. And now you will all proceed thither [laughs].

THE MYRA HALL

Down into this Hall came the Concilium, and if you go back to one of the earlier numbers of *Maria Legionis* – I think it's about 1939, possibly 1940, but in any case about then – you will see a photograph of the Hall showing the Concilium in session. It did not fill the whole Hall at that time. Here it met until the Legion came into great trouble. The Parish Priest of this parish was not favourable to it and finally some very short time after that date I mentioned to you when the photograph was taken, it was asked to leave. And one great joker in the St. Vincent de Paul Society – a man who bore the most inappropriate name of Bernard Graves, because he wasn't grave – gave a very comic rendering of our departure. One word of truth of course it did not contain but he painted a picture of a procession – a sad procession headed by Fr. Toher – and Fr. Toher was carrying the statue of Our Lady and behind him came the mournful cortege. This was really Our Lady of Mercy that was being spoken of and it hadn't got to go very far for another home and it was a home of a strange character.

It was to the Transport Union Hall just around the corner at the top of the street. The head of that Union was at the time the celebrated James Larkin, and James Larkin if he wasn't a Communist was at least indistinguishable from it, and his son James Larkin the Younger

openly proclaimed himself to be a Communist – and that was a pretty awful label in Dublin at the time. But James Larkin opened his arms and took in the orphan of the storm. As likewise he did to praesidia over there in the Marlboro Street area: he put his headquarters, Unity Hall at the time, at the disposal of the praesidia and he used be very assiduous at coming in to see if they were quite comfortable. Now that huge building down beside the bridge, that thin lofty one, that is the modern Unity Hall. The Legion of Mary met in the premises of that body. Now, Our Lady of Mercy went there and the other praesidia found other habitations.

The Concilium moved to the Carmelite Hall down in Whitefriar Street and it met there for some time, and then it moved around exactly like the Israelites in the desert. Perhaps before we finish it will have been the same 40 years. In that time the Concilium met in the University; in the Catholic University School in Leeson Street; in the Sacred Heart Convent in Leeson Street; in the Regina Coeli premises for several years and it was in those premises that Edel Quinn was commissioned as Envoy; in the Mansion House for a long period; in the Dominican Convent in Eccles Street, occasionally; and in the St. Louis Convent in Rathmines, occasionally; and in more recent years in the Praedicanda Hall, Rathmines, where you were present at the meeting on Sunday.

When is it going to come back again to Myra House? No doubt we will have to have a meeting here of the Concilium and it will be then for that meeting to decide whether it will make it its home or not. It is not so convenient, from the point of view of transport, as the present meeting place.

Now I think that my tale is told and that you now know if not all that I know about Myra House, at least your knowledge is distinctly in advance of what it was when you entered the place.

I should have mentioned one important thing, and that is that we have already made a great beckoning towards this house. We were working off what is called the Whit Conference this year. It's a very big event in our way of thinking. And, for the last few times, it was held in the Loreto Hall in North Great Georges Street; and we had come to regard ourselves as having an option on that place. So we did not apply as quickly as we should. And when we went over, alas! It had been given to some other purpose. Then the big question, the big query mark, was: where? What about Myra House? Oh never! The place is in a state of wreckage. Besides, it wouldn't hold the gathering. Brother Dunleavy was appointed to do some measurements. He reported the dimensions were exactly the same in square feet as the Praedicanda Hall and larger than the Loreto Hall. So that was no objection. Then with only four weeks separating



us from the Whit, how could we get this shambles into decency? The brother of one of our members was a contractor and within three weeks he had the place reduced to order, involving plenty of structural things – in here for instance. And we had a brilliant Whit Conference.

As to the use we will make of the House, already two Curiae have taken it on and they will fill it with their activities very quickly. I suppose it will become a sort of pilgrimage place for the Legion in time, and we would want to make some little bow towards that need. For instance: photographs, curios [laughter] and so forth – so that the person coming in could really sense the past and touch the roots.

Now this occasion is unique inasmuch as it is positively my first appearance in the capacity of giving this sort of travelogue of Myra House, and accordingly you are positively the first victims, God help you!

And now I think we will pack up, ascend.... Oh no! We have to submit to a photograph.... Well now! We are at your disposal.



TOM DOYLE

1905-1992

- AN ICON OF THE LEGION

By Raymond Mulrooney

TOM DOYLE, WAS ONE OF THE EARLIEST MEN TO JOIN THE LEGION OF MARY AND LATER, THE LONGEST-SERVING MANAGER OF THE MORNING STAR HOSTEL, DUBLIN.

In this year of the Centenary of the Legion of Mary, it is right and proper to remember the many stalwart members who forged the way that led to the solid foundation of the future Legion of which we are proud to belong.

One such unsung hero was Tom Doyle. Over the years I had the honour of meeting Tom on occasions of events associated with the beautiful hostel oratory. From my few encounters with him, I found him a quiet and shy type of person, but ever so helpful. The recently deceased Liam Hayden, on the other hand, knew him quite well, having offered up a year of his early life as an in-door brother. Liam was devoted to his memory and spoke many times lovingly about the impression he made on him and on his comrades in the hostel.

Tom, born in Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow, to a family of six, four boys and two girls. Sadly, both parents died young from T.B. causing the children being separated and to be reared by uncles and aunts; in Tom's case, going to an uncle on a family farm in Rathvilly, Co. Carlow. Later going to school in Tullow nearby.

In his early twenties he moved to Dublin for work, becoming an apprentice in the grocery trade. He was introduced to the St. Vincent de Paul Society by a mutual friend in Myra House, their local HQ. It was there he met Frank Duff, then a president of a VDP conference.





Morning Star Brothers c.1930

In 1927, responding to a great need to shelter hundreds of homeless men, displaced by the destruction of the Irish civil war, Frank Duff sought the help of volunteer brothers to man a shelter that the government facilitated, by providing the premises and some financial aid. This was the beginning of men coming into the Legion, which up to now, was completely made up of women. On the 25 March 1927, the shelter/hostel was opened, then catering for over 200 men, almost overnight solving the then chronic crisis of homelessness.

In 1929, Tom joined the brothers in this venture in the Morning Star Hostel for men, as it is now known, and in January 1931 he gave up his external employment to become an indoor brother in which he devoted the rest of his long life. In 1931, there were two elderly indoor brothers to cater for security overnight, so much of the burden of the day-to-day running of the hostel fell on Frank Duff, while holding down his employment in the civil service.

From here, I have drawn extensively from an article written by Paddy Tynan in 1992 in the *Maria Legionis*, the year of Tom's death. He relates

about Tom's first job the running of the "Stick Yard" where residents of the hostel could earn enough by bundling sticks for sale to defray their keep. (Frank Duff believed that for the men's self-respect, they should make a small contribution towards their keep).

"Tom rose each day at 5.30 a.m. and served 6 a.m. Mass in the Capuchin Church of Our Lady of the Angels, Church Street. Then he attended to the residents' breakfasts and the dormitories and was on duty until the afternoon. After provision of the residents' tea, the rest of the evening was given to personal attention to the men.

"There is a danger" he once said, "that we may fall short in our service by not giving full personal attention to each man. We should get to know them intimately, share their interests and, as friends, show an interest in their hopes and desires."

"Frequently, Tom did not avail himself of the day-and-a-half off per week allowed to indoor staff. Instead, he might cycle to Carlow to a Curia meeting. He did extension work in various parts of Ireland and went on PPC projects to Scotland, England and Sweden. He was for many years Concilium Correspondent with Legion Councils in India. He helped also in the organisation of the Legion pilgrimages to St. Patrick's Purgatory in Lough Derg (a three-day penitential exercise) and he recruited many of the pilgrims as legionaries.

Always good humoured, the experience of those who knew him for fifty years or more was that he was never glum or angry. He had cause to be angry, as when a resident whom he had nursed through an illness struck him, or when he had his leg broken while trying to separate fighting residents, or when the horse and cart used in connection with the distribution for sale of the firewood were themselves sold by a resident for his own profit!

Many sought the benefit of Tom's prayers. One legionary was directed by him to a seminary where he was ordained. He was President of the Morning Star Praesidium from 1950-1956 and from 1960-1966. His deep spirituality was revealed in his allocutio's, in particular his devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady. He often emphasised the gifts received through membership of the Legion: The Mystical Body Doctrine, True Devotion to Mary and appreciation of the Breviary. He was an avid student of the Legion Handbook.

Tom always retained his simplicity and told a friend he liked nothing better

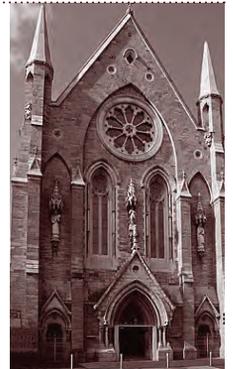
than to sit round the big log fire in the common room at the end of the day in the company of the residents. But at first, he found duty as an indoor brother very difficult until he grew fond of the men. One friendship is worth recalling: it was with a resident, formally a military officer and university graduate, who had a drink problem. This man went from the hostel to England for the conferring ceremony of a cadetship on his son. But tragically, the son was killed on his way to the ceremony. Later the man settled in England but returned to the hostel to express his thanks and to inform Tom that he and his wife had entered the Catholic Church.

Efforts by state departments and other bodies to reward him for his services were graciously declined by Tom.

At the age of 80, he went to a nursing home run by the Little Sisters of the Poor, who were very kind to him and where he was universally popular. He attended two Masses each day and also the local praesidium meeting. To the last, he daily recited his Breviary. Tom died on Friday, 30 October, 1992.

Twelve priests concelebrated Tom's funeral Mass in the Capuchin Church and he was laid to rest (according to his own request), in the Morning Star Residents' Burial plot in Glasnevin Cemetery, there to await Gabriel's call in the company of his beloved poor.

The morning of the funeral was wild and stormy, but after recitation of the Legion prayers and the singing of the Salve Regina, the sun broke through as if to let us know that the kindly soul of Tom Doyle was at home with Mary, the Beauteous Morning Star."





Legion world news

AFRICA

 **Angola:** The **Luanda Senatus** held a meeting in January 2021, its first since March 2020, due to Covid-19. A new Curia was set up in February 2020. News was received of the death of a very long serving legionary, Francisco Félix José Maria on 9th August 2020, who made a great contribution to the development of the Legion in Angola. R.I.P. The **Benguela Senatus** was able to hold most of its meetings. Three new Curiae were established.

 **Burundi: Senatus of Burundi:** Legionaries have been able to continue with their meetings and apostolate at all levels. St. Louis Marie de Montfort's True Devotion to Mary and Consecration to Jesus through Mary is constantly promoted among legionaries and in their Legion contact work.

 **Cameroon:** Legionaries from **Douala Senatus** visited the Legion in Chad. Limbe Comitium, despite being hampered by the war situation, is trying to keep the Legion going. The October, November and December Senatus meetings were held.

 **Cape Verde:** A recent report indicates that many praesidia and councils on the island have resumed meetings. Legionaries with health issues and older members were advised not to attend meetings.

 **Central African Republic: Senatus of Bangui:** In a dangerous, war-torn country, where a quarter of a million people have been displaced in fear of their lives, Legion activity has re-commenced to a more or less normal degree. After months of confinement, the Senatus is meeting regularly again. They report on abortions avoided, and families reconciled owing to prayer and Legion counselling, for which people are most grateful.

 **Democratic Republic of Congo:** The Senatus

of Lubumbashi meetings resumed in September, The apostolic work has taken shape again and involved mainly visiting the parishioners in preparation for Advent and Christmas. The **Senatus of Butembo** is holding meetings. Reports from the Diocese of Butembo Beni show a great programme of works including visitation of sick and elderly and others. There were many returns to Sunday Mass. There were many converts to Catholicism from the Protestant religion. Marriages were regulated and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was organised. **Senatus of Bukavu:** Work has resumed in many councils. Works include counselling of young addicts against drugs and alcohol, and encouragement of each other in prayer, Rosary, etc. **Senatus of Kinshasa:** After three months of severe lockdown, the Legion members have returned to normal activities. There is full attendance at meetings of the **Senatus of Kisangani**. 205 Officers underwent a training course regarding pandemic rules as laid down by the Diocese in order to pass them on to their members. 46 families were reconciled. Prisoners and hospitals were visited. In January, 24 Legionaries were tragically drowned in a boating accident on the river Congo, while returning from a Comitium meeting. Four of the drowned were officers of the Comitium of Lokuta. May their souls rest in peace.

 **Chad:** In March legionaries from Douala Senatus, Cameroon, visited the extreme north of Chad, where they found a Curia working away.

 **Egypt:** The **Senatus of Egypt** held meetings online during the lock-down. The Senatus had resumed meetings in September, unfortunately early in December the virus started spreading vigorously again and they resumed lockdown for all spiritual and Church activities - with the exception of Holy Mass.

 **Ghana:** Latest reports showed the **Senatus of Accra** was gradually resuming meetings, and meetings were being held in some parishes. **Kumasi Regia** has been holding virtual meetings.

 **Ivory Coast:** The **Abidjan Senatus** President says that COVID-19 is now under control in Ivory Coast and Mali. He makes no mention of their holding any meetings. He sends his greetings to Concilium and asks for prayers for peace in both countries.

 **Kenya:** The **Nairobi Senatus** reported that the annual Frank Duff Mass was well attended and the monthly prayers at Venerable Edel Quinn's grave continue. In his Allocutio at the November meeting Fr. Boniface Spiritual Director urged the legionaries to find new ways of doing their apostolate in a pandemic, reminding legionaries that our search for souls must continue in all circumstances.

 **Lesotho:** The **Senatus of Lesotho** meetings resumed in July. Sympathy was expressed at the death of a legionary, Mary Mulpeter of Donegal, Ireland, who lived in Lesotho for a while when her husband worked there. She gave them much advice and assisted in procuring many Vexilla for the Senatus. R.I.P. The Senatus normally has a three-day conference in December. Due to Covid it could not be held in 2020. Instead a similar one-day event took place on Radio Maria Lesotho commencing at 8 a.m. and concluding with Mass at 5p.m. The day included talks and discussion. The main contributor was Fr. Sekoati who unfortunately has since died. The Senatus Spiritual Director, Fr. Tiaba was to be the main celebrant at the funeral and sadly he died on his way to it. May their souls rest in peace. Due to a second lockdown, Legion meetings haven't been held since Christmas.

 **Malawi:** The **Maula Senatus** meeting was held in November and the councils are visiting their lower councils to ascertain the impact of Covid-19 and strengthen them.

 **Mauritius: Rodrigues Regia:** The Covid pandemic provided an opportunity for the members to reflect and pray on ways to further the Legion of Mary in the country in this, their 80th year, with particular emphasis on the young. Many Praesidia continued to meet weekly for discussions and virtual retreats, with great help from the Regia Spiritual Director, Pere Robert Dalais. In an article published in La Vie Catholique, junior legionaries gave witness to the joy of membership and to the difference it makes in their lives.

 **Mozambique: Maputo Regia** reported meetings of the praesidia remain suspended due to the pandemic. The 99th Anniversary of the Legion of Mary was celebrated. The ceremony was presided over by Archbishop Francisco Chimoio. The Beira Comitium reported that the Archbishop of Beira, Dom Cláudio Dalla Zuanna, presided at Holy Mass in commemoration of the 99th Anniversary, thus celebrating the opening of the Centenary year.

 **Nigeria: Enugu Senatus** did not hold meetings from April to September 2020, however all the reports submitted during this time show great apostolic work being undertaken. **Nsukka Regia** reported many returns to the Church and many conversions. **Jos Regia** reported Council and praesidia meetings resumed in October. **Ikot Ekpene Regia:** Legionaries are holding meetings and undertaking some apostolic work. In **Onitsha Regia** the Curia at St Charles Borromeo Parish has twenty praesidia, three of these are in the Blessed Tansi Seminary and another two are in All Hallows Minor Seminary. Nine members of the Curia were ordained Priests. **Abuja Senatus** resumed meetings in September and since early December Legion activities are picking up with more praesidia and councils resuming meetings. Two Comitium reported very good results in their apostolate with many returns to the sacraments and many conversions. **Benin Regia**, attached to **Ibadan Senatus**, reported many conversions.

 **South Africa:** There has been no meeting of the **Cape Town Senatus** since March, 2020. The Officers of Senatus keep in touch with the Spiritual Director and legionaries pray together via Whatsapp. Some Legionaries tuned into the Mary Conference in October in Dublin through Zoom. Meetings have not yet resumed in the **Johannesburg Senatus**. Meetings of the Matatiele Comitium resumed in February. A praesidium reported two adults and twenty children were baptised and prepared for First Communion. They set up two new junior praesidia. They translated the Frank Duff prayer into Seseotho. Esgodini Comitium resumed Comitium meetings in October.

 **Tanzania:** **Dar-es-Salaam Regia** is continuing to meet and to keep in touch with its attached councils. The Regia Officers have also visited the Legion in other dioceses in Tanzania on behalf of the Concilium. Hai Moshi Comitium reported works include home and hospital visitation. A new praesidium was started in KCMC University and a student on field work in another area helped start the Legion in a secondary school. Covid-19 has disrupted the holding of praesidia meetings, etc.

 **Togo:** Reports presented to the **Lomé Senatus** in the November and December 2020 meetings show works carried out pre-Covid included: home and hospital visitation as well as catechism classes. Avepozo Curia held their 3rd Congress with 105 legionaries attending. Amoutive Curia has a praesidium in the police barracks.

 **Uganda:** **Uganda Senatus** reported the Lockdown was relaxed on the 18th October. They are allowed a shorter time for meetings and only two members from each praesidium and council can attend. There are still many changes in the country due to Covid-19 including a 9 PM curfew.

 **Zambia:** The **Lusaka Regia** held its first meeting in October since the outbreak of Covid-19.

Praesidia meetings resumed in June and July. Some Curiae and Comitia started to meet in October. **Lusaka Regia** Officers visited **Kasama Regia** in November to discuss the situation of the Legion in Zambia, collaboration between the two councils, and preparation for the Centenary in September 2021. Many items were discussed including the translation of the handbook into local languages.

ASIA

 **Holy Land:** No meetings have been permitted since 17 March 2020. The members continue to say the Catena daily and to coincide with their weekly meetings the full Legion prayers are recited. Before the lockdown home and hospital visitation was carried out.

 **Hong Kong:** Last Minutes received were for June 2020. Church gatherings and meetings resumed in October, much to the delight of legionaries, but since then infections have increased so restrictions may return.

 **India:** **Chennai Regia**, after a break of nine months, held a meeting in January. They paid tribute to three Spiritual Directors, including a former Regia Spiritual Director and five legionaries who died as a result of Covid-19. R.I.P. **Kerala Senatus** have not had a meeting since January 2020. They set up a WhatsApp group as a means of keeping in touch with councils and members. Zoom has been used by some attached councils. The Rosary has been widely promoted. **Mumbai Senatus:** Works of visitation of the sick and housebound, families, and institutions for the marginalised were reported.

 **Indonesia:** Monthly meetings of **Jakarta Senatus** take place on Zoom. This Senatus is very active in preparations for the Centenary with Zoom talks and quizzes. **Malang Senatus** meetings are taking place with limited numbers. Most praesidia are meeting with limited works. Jayapura Curia reported a new praesidium was established in Indonesian Papua. **Kaupang**

Senatus monthly meetings are held on line.

 **Japan:** A Curia in Ikuno attached to the Osaka Senatus has five Korean and one Japanese - speaking praesidia. One praesidium reported bringing Holy Communion to the sick and sending a Catholic pamphlet to non-Catholics.

 **Korea: Seoul Senatus** meetings have restarted. Four Regiae reported with a total of 28,593 active, 813 juniors and 26,523 auxiliary members. During 2019, in the pre-Covid period, they reported 40,057 contacts were made with a view to recruiting for catechism classes and over 200,000 contacts were made with the sick, both Catholic and of other faiths. During the Covid-19 many praesidia continued to meet online. **Gwangju Senatus** meetings have been taking place most months. Pre-Covid reports showed many people were invited to become catechumens and there were many baptisms.

 **Malaysia:** A new English - speaking Curia of two praesidia was formed in Miri, East Malaysia, by Singapore Senatus.

 **Philippines: Cebu Senatus:** Some virtual meetings take place. **Western Visayas Senatus:** No meetings taking place. The Legion in the Archdiocese of Jaro celebrated its 75th Anniversary Mass online on September 7th 2020. **Manila Senatus:** Zoom meetings take place in the Senatus with 100 participating.

 **Singapore:** Minutes were received for Singapore Senatus meetings held in January, September, October and November 2020. A new English-speaking Curia was set up in Miri, East Malaysia.

 **Sri Lanka:** A praesidium teaches catechism at Sunday school, and instruct pupils for the Sacraments. Pre-lockdown the sick were visited, statue and home visitation was carried out.

 **Taiwan:** The Senatus and the attached Councils are meeting in accordance with local restrictions and are engaged mainly in a prayer

apostolate, including participating in the forty-days Rosary Novena.

 **Vietnam:** Meetings have resumed. Reports from two Regiae, two Comitia, two Curiae and one praesidium show a total of 12,882 active members, of whom 2,640 are Praetorians, and 26,952 Auxiliary members of whom 1,506 are Adjutorian members. Works mentioned in reports include preparation of adults and children for the Sacraments, encouraging couples to receive the Sacrament of Marriage, seeking to discourage abortions and bringing people back to practice of the Faith, the numbers of which are very impressive. There are about 100 junior praesidia

CENTRAL AMERICA

 **Costa Rica: Senatus:** The Spiritual Director Rev. Marciel Bonilla Morales died 30 December 2020. May he rest in peace. In September the Spiritual Director suggested the celebration of Holy Mass and the Rosary on the 7th of each month in preparation for the Legion Centenary. Some praesidia and councils are meeting in person and some virtually, depending on Government guidelines.

 **El Salvador:** A few praesidia and Curiae in the **Senatus of San Salvador** have commenced to meet in person again.

 **Honduras:** The **Tegucigalpa Senatus** held the VIII National Legion Encounter in Cucuyagua de Copán by virtual method with a large attendance of 250 legionaries from different areas of Honduras, many young and active. It was a three-day event of formation, prayer and activity with the help of several priests, in particular the parish priest of Cucuyagua de Copán who spent the three days with the legionaries. As well as Holy Mass, talks, prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament they went out into the streets to pray and to evangelise, which was a great experience.

 **Nicaragua:** In November 2020 the **Managua**

Regia returned to meeting in person. An attached praesidium with eleven members visit the sick and take part in other parish activities. Prayer, particularly the Rosary and Holy Mass, are promoted and encouraged virtually.



Panama: The **Panama Regia** continues to meet monthly by WhatsApp but some of the praesidia have returned to meeting in person. An attached Comitium organises a perpetual Rosary so that there is prayer throughout the day. The 33 days of preparation for the Total Consecration to Our Blessed Lady by Saint Louis Marie de Montfort is explained and encouraged.

SOUTH AMERICA



Argentina: **Buenos Aires Senatus** reported that a ten-day Peregrinatio Pro Christo project on Zoom was carried out by legionaries from Argentina, Colombia and Mexico. Home visitation was the main apostolate done by the pairs of legionaries. A weeklong parish mission was also done on Zoom with a priest, a nun and ten legionaries. Families in Colombia and Mexico were visited. **Cordoba Senatus:** The 99th Anniversary Mass was celebrated and broadcast online. However there was no Senatus meeting due to a second wave of Covid 19. **Salta Senatus:** Junior and young adult legionaries are very active. There are monthly meetings online with their same age groups in different councils all over Argentina. One of the Praesidia reported they give religion classes to the new recruits of the police force. Many different activities were done on Zoom to commemorate Alfie Lambe's anniversary. **Corrientes Regia:** The Regia organised a series of four virtual meetings in October. For the feast of the Miraculous Medal, the Regia normally organises a conference. This year they had a nine-day novena preceding the Feast.



Bolivia: Each month the attendance at the virtual meeting of the **La Paz Senatus** has improved. The Spiritual Director never misses

a meeting. Legionaries are able to do street contact offering and explaining the Sunday-Mass leaflet to contacts. The Comitium in Cochabamba did a novena for the anniversary of Alfie Lambe.



Brazil: The **São Paulo Senatus** is holding its meetings online. A Retreat for Junior legionaries was planned for one day in February. Reports are presented of some works being done during the pandemic, such as contact by phone or online with the sick, including some suffering from the coronavirus, and the elderly.



Chile: The **Santiago Senatus** meeting is held online each month. Virtual Legion retreats are a great success. Many auxiliary members have been recruited online. A praesidium report was given on the apostolate to migrants who have arrived in big numbers in recent times.



Colombia: No meetings of the **Senatus of Bogota**, were held between April and October. They met physically in November and December but restrictions meant virtual meetings again in January and February. Councils report organising online conferences, radio programs, Days of Prayer, 24 hour rosaries and retreats. A Junior Curia organised online activities including biblical quizzes. Many councils are back meeting physically by now. The **Senatus of Medellin** meetings are virtual and the Spiritual Director, Fr. Carlos Fernando, joins to give his Allocutio. The Senatus Officers have maintained virtual and telephone contact with the councils, as well as with directly attached praesidia..



Ecuador: All councils attached to the **Senatus of Quito** are using social media to hold virtual meetings; no physical meetings are being held. Many Legion members have died, R.I.P., and many more are affected, but they are praying very hard.



Paraguay: Senatus of Asuncion: Since September 2020 almost all councils have been holding physical meetings, observing public

health protocols. A maximum of 100 people is allowed to attend the Senatus meeting. Centenary celebrations have already begun; the centenary coincides with the 75th anniversary of the Legion in Paraguay. Sixteen seminarians in the National Seminary took the Legion Promise. On 7th Sept 2020 the Senatus Spiritual Director celebrated a Mass in the national seminary. On 21st January a Mass was celebrated in the national seminary again, this time to celebrate Alfie Lambe's anniversary. A special plaque was unveiled to commemorate the place where Alfie attended daily mass during his time in Paraguay from 30th October 1956 to 21st February 1957.

 **Peru: Senatus of Lima:** Since November 2020 three praesidia, ten curiae and five comitia have reported. The praesidia meet physically but most of the councils virtually. A novena was organised for the success of the Centenary. A three - day online Art and Spirituality workshop in honour of Frank Duff was organised by the Senatus.

 **Uruguay: Senatus of Montevideo:** The Senatus meeting is held virtually each month. Praesidia and council meetings have also been virtual for the most part but recently physical meetings are starting again, even though works are limited. An exception has been the visitation of a prison by two legionaries; the inmates were very appreciative. On 7th September Cardinal Sturles concelebrated an Anniversary Mass with the Senatus Spiritual Director and another Spiritual Director. In some parishes the priests have asked the Legion to bring Holy Communion to the sick.

 **Venezuela:** The **Senatus of Caracas** held a physical meeting in January with a limited attendance to comply with restrictions. Most attached councils and praesidia are either holding virtual meetings or stay in contact by phone or social media. The Senatus is keeping in touch with attached councils via Zoom. There is a problem that some legionaries particularly the elderly are unable to use the technology or don't have it in their homes

but with the help of younger legionaries they are managing. This has brought about a great spirit of cooperation among the legionaries.

NORTH AMERICA

 **Canada:** The **Senatus of Toronto** held in-person meetings in October and November. In September, there was a joyful wedding of two very active officers from the Junior Curia. New Brunswick Curia celebrated its history, going back to 1934! Durham Curia led faith formation with online retreats on True Devotion to Mary. Meetings of **Montreal Senatus** were held in person from July to September. After 65 years of devoted service, their Spiritual Director Fr. Senez, retired on health grounds. Fr. Paradis was appointed as his successor by Archbishop Lepine. Covid works included phone contact, several online prayer events and stewarding in church. They have printed "Can we be Saints" in French. **Vancouver Comitium:** At the August meeting each Curia and praesidium gave an update. Most of the members continued to pray the Legion prayers and Rosary. They contacted their active and auxiliary members by phone or virtually and helped in the church as lectors and also performed sanitising duties.

 **Mexico:** The **Mexico City Senatus** continues to hold meetings online. The Spiritual Director also broadcasts a weekly online formation session for all. An attached Comitium reports that the Eucharist was brought to various parts of the town and people received on their doorstep. One attached Comitium organised 80 people to undertake the 33 day True Devotion to Mary preparation concluding with consecration to Our Lady. **Merida Senatus:** There were representatives from fifteen councils and various praesidia at a virtual meeting. Legionary contacts are made by telephone or WhatsApp with auxiliaries, special cases, sick parishioners or elderly. In July the **Monterrey Regia** commenced meetings by zoom to encourage prayer, spiritual reading and to keep the spirit of the Legion alive. **Regia of Guadalajara:**

Since September 2020 the Regia is conducting the meetings by videoconference. The **Durango Regia** is unable to meet due to Covid but they encourage each other via WhatsApp or phone, encouraging the study of the handbook and prayer with auxiliaries. **Hermosillo Regia:** Since April they are in lockdown but very active in so far as they can with virtual meetings and phone calls. In February a retreat in preparation for the Centenary with an attendance of 90% was organised.



U.S.A.: **Boston Senatus** met last in February but reports are compiled into a quarterly Senatus Bulletin which is then circulated. Hartford Comitium has a total of five prison praesidia in its attached Norwich Curia. **New York Senatus** met last in March 2020. Korean Comitium: Pre-Covid work included over 3,000 door – to – door calls; 21 baptised, nine new members. 423 were contacted at funeral homes and prayers at burial sites. Lower Manhattan Curia evangelised over 500 contacts through crowd and book barrow contact. 2000 Miraculous Medals were distributed. **Philadelphia Senatus** safely continued their monthly meetings. Harrisburg Comitium: The Spanish Curia in Metuchen has eleven praesidia. They still lead bible study and a youth group. **Pittsburgh Regia** organised sanitising of churches and phone-calls to the housebound. **Chicago Senatus:** Pre-Covid work included their 41st Exploratio Dominicalis doing a crowd contact project in Jefferson Park. Rockford Curia held meetings in September and October. They planned a virtual Congress for November and organised a 24-hour. Rosary. Sioux Falls Curia continue with a Men's bible study and RE classes conducted on Zoom. The Hispanic Comitium is still doing street evangelising, mindful of restrictions. 191 persons were contacted. **St. Louis Senatus:** Pre-Covid extension work showed seven new senior praesidia and five junior praesidia were set up. The **Arlington Regia** held a Mass for the promotion of the Cause of Frank Duff recently with 100 people present. Washington Comitium held a virtual retreat for 45

attendees. Potomac Comitium does both auxiliary visits and prayers in nursing home virtually. Raleigh Comitium had their 1000th meeting on Zoom and invited all their past 47 members to it. Twenty came, including a former Spiritual Director. **Cincinnati Senatus:** had monthly meetings in person during last quarter. Knoxville Curia: their retreat was both "in person" and online. **Houston Senatus** resumed meetings in September and October with a limited number of legionaries attending. The majority of praesidia have been unable to meet but are in contact by telephone and virtual means. The Vietnamese Curia in Houston reported that 400 members viewed the Acies online. In McAllen Curia, a praesidium initiated praying the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet for funerals and patients in hospitals, in the parking lot. In Dallas, a Chinese praesidium, conduct virtual classes for RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) candidates. **Los Angeles Senatus** and all the attached councils are now meeting up virtually. **San Francisco Senatus** held virtual meetings since April. A new praesidium of six active and 45 auxiliary members in Novata resulted from a Peregrinatio Pro Christo in 2018. Under the spiritual direction of former legionary Fr. Felix Lim, new recruits visited 350 homes (pre-covid) which yielded three conversions. During the pandemic, most praesidia have phoned both active and auxiliary members, and used virtual means to do catechesis, Handbook study, Patricians, 33-Day True Devotion to Mary preparation, Bible study, and a youth rosary rally. Stockton Comitium had 33 attend a virtual Congress. Oakland Comitium held their retreat and summer function outdoors. Outdoor Rosaries with Consecration of the area to Our Lady also featured. A spiritual enrichment program for migrant men was organised in Santa Rosa Cathedral. **Miami Regia:** Email messages have indicated that some praesidia co-ordinate an apostolate by using zoom.

WEST INDIES

Dominican Republic: The **Senatus of Santo**



Domingo had meetings in person from May to November, except for June (held via Zoom). The Senatus has a weekly WhatsApp youth training programme. Sick and elderly members of Bánica Curia keep in touch by phone. They are encouraging young people to join the Legion. They had a virtual youth retreat, 22 young people participated, including two young men from the USA. **Senatus of Santiago de los Caballeros:** Some members died from the Corona virus. May they rest in peace. Virtual meetings were held in October and November with attached councils giving updates on activities. They plan to meet the Senatus of Santo Domingo to co-ordinate the programme for the centenary celebrations.

 **Trinidad and Tobago:** Minutes received from the **Regia of Trinidad and Tobago** in November showed that at that time they were in a partial lockdown. They held a virtual Regia meeting in September and October. Some of the councils in the Caribbean were not meeting due to the pandemic. A praesidium reported the members phoned the elderly and prayed with them as many were very lonely.

OCEANIA

 **Australia:** Perth Comitium, attached to **Melbourne Senatus**, set up a new praesidium in Broome so the Legion is now in all their dioceses. Dandenong Curia had an extension drive in November and a new praesidium set up. Noumea Comitium in New Caledonia in the Pacific Ocean was only closed for one month. Two officers visited Wallis Island. Five praesidia in a Curia were visited. Legionaries met the Bishop of Wallis and Futuna. **Sydney Senatus:** Meetings take place with reduced numbers. They have a Centenary Statue of Our Lady travelling to each parish, a Marian exhibition, competition of colouring and stories by the juniors and this will be replicated in East Timor and the Solomon Islands. The Senatus has a Vietnamese Curia with twelve praesidia and three Indonesian praesidia presented reports to

the Senatus. **Brisbane Comitium** held their Acies in July, Legion 99th, Anniversary Mass in September, and in October an outdoor function in the Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians. Some praesidia are not yet meeting.

New Zealand: **Auckland Senatus** reported Zoom meetings were held during Covid-19 lockdown. The Senatus meetings have been resumed with reduced numbers attending. Legionaries telephone elderly parishioners to keep them informed about the parish news during lockdown.

EUROPE

Austria: The last meeting of the **Senatus of Austria** was held in September 2020. An extension project in Salzburg was carried out in intense heat.

Croatia: Petrinja Comitium: An earthquake to the magnitude of 6.4 hit Croatia on 29 December with its epicentre in Petrinja. Contact was made with one of the officers who said that legionaries had escaped serious injury but that many of their homes were destroyed. Most praesidia meetings have resumed and the legionaries are visiting the homes to offer consolation. Curia and Comitium meetings have not resumed due to Covid restrictions. In **Zagreb Regia** most praesidia resumed their meetings in May and June. The apostolate includes visits to homes, prisons, hospitals and a home for special needs children.

Denmark: The Praesidium in Copenhagen has twelve active and thirty auxiliary members. During the months of May and October the legionaries led the Rosary in Church each day. The Legion has been given responsibility for disinfecting the Church and organising social distancing before Sunday Masses.

England: London: **Brentwood Regia:** No meeting has been held since February 2020. Contact is being made with legionaries. The **Central London Curia** has used Zoom and Internet for some meetings. Reports from praesidia showed works

undertaken before lockdown included home, hospital and nursing homes visitation and visitation with the Fatima Statue, crowd contact including in Red Light area, teaching Catechism, and Prison apostolate. **Liverpool Senatus:** The President and his wife (who is also a legionary) have held meetings at home and have managed to do some social distancing visiting as well as on-line and phone contacting. **Birmingham Senatus:** No meetings have taken place since March 2020. The Senatus Officers are meeting monthly by Zoom. The Acies Ceremony was held in different venues to facilitate social distancing.



Germany: In **Frankfurt Senatus** the renewal of the "33 Day Consecration to Our Lady" is being undertaken as part of the centenary celebrations. All Councils have been encouraged to arrange consecration with the Celebration of Holy Mass. Approximately 8,000 auxiliaries and interested persons are expected to participate in the Consecration. **Munich Regia** reported Street apostolate has continued in Munich throughout the pandemic. Erfurt Comitium has a new praesidium. The writings of St. Louis Marie De Montfort are being studied continually by the Darmstadt Curia. The Korean Curia marked 50 years of existence in September.



Hungary: A significant work of the **Budapest Regia** is a weekly Night Vigil in St Stephen's Basilica. On March 26th 2020, they were forced to cease this Vigil. From May 21st they started live streaming it on YouTube until the second wave of the pandemic reached dangerous proportions. Legionaries in one Curia remarked that during the pandemic there is an increased demand for God.



Lithuania: **Telsai Comitium** reports extension efforts are being made to bring the Legion to new parishes.



Malta: At the August meeting of the **Malta Regia**, it was reported that most praesidia were back in action. One of the Regia's own praesidia

celebrated the 80th anniversary of its foundation and gained three new members. **Gozo Comitium:** A former Legionary and Bishop of Gozo, Monsignor Mario Grech was elevated to the College of Cardinals by Pope Francis, and he celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving for the 99th anniversary of the Legion in Gozo. Talks on the True Devotion to Our Lady commenced on the 24th October.

Poland: **Warsaw Comitium** reported some meetings have resumed. Curiae and Comitia meetings were not held since October.



Romania: Reports from praesidia to **Satu Mare Regia** showed works which had been done included organizing Adoration, promoting family prayer and helping the sick to receive the Sacraments.



Scotland: In the **Senatus of Scotland** no council or praesidium meetings are taking place. The Senatus Officers were shocked by the news of the recent death of Archbishop Philip Tartaglai. The death has also occurred of Margaret Whyte, former President of the Senatus. May their souls rest in peace.



Spain: A directly attached praesidium in **Madrid Senatus** has been meeting on Skype. A praesidium which does work in a red light area has resumed its apostolate. Senatus officers met the Cardinal who was delighted to accept the invitation to celebrate the Legion Centenary Mass in the Cathedral.



Sweden: The Curia and some praesidia have been able to continue their meetings as there has not been a full lockdown. The new praesidium in Jakoburg has three members and is being helped by another praesidium. One of the two Arabic praesidia has been able to hold meetings.



Wales: The praesidium reporting in Wrexham has three members and four auxiliaries and pre-Covid visited hospitals and the housebound and did a variety of parish works.





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International Centre of the Legion of Mary
De Montfort House, Morning Star Avenue, Brunswick Street, Dublin 7, Ireland.
Phone: (353-1) 872 3153 / 872 5093. Website: www.legionofmary.ie
Legion enquiries - e-mail: concilium@legion-of-mary.ie