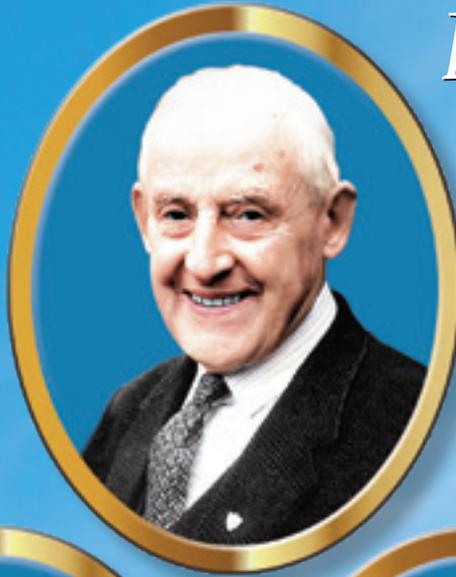


# *Maria Legionis*



LEGION OF MARY  
FOUNDED 7 SEPTEMBER 1921

# *Centenary*

# *Maria Legionis* *The Voice of the Legion of Mary*

Edition 2 of 2021 €1.00

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# Centenary Address

Mary Murphy - President

St. Nicholas of Myra Church, Francis Street, Dublin 8



LEGION OF MARY  
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A special thanks to Archbishop Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin for celebrating Mass for the Legion of Mary on this special occasion and for his inspiring homily. I would also like to thank Fr. Paul Churchill and Fr. Liam O'Cuiv for assisting. A special word of thanks to Fr. Martin Dolan, Parish Priest of St. Nicholas of Myra Church for his warm welcome and great assistance in the preparations.

I would like to thank the other priests who are present here this evening and to thank them for their ongoing support of the Legion. We thank Mary Flynn, our soloist whose singing has enhanced our celebration. Her daughter Siobhan, our harpist added much beauty to the occasion. A special word of

thanks to all the legionaries here in Myra House for their sterling work in preparing for the Centenary.

In a special way tonight I would like to congratulate Our Lady of Mercy praesidium on their 100 birthday next Tuesday. This is the first praesidium from which the Legion grew. It is attached to Benedicta Curia, Dublin.

I wish to thank the cardinals, bishops, priests and religious who have supported and encouraged the Legion throughout the world. Tonight as your president I greet the legionaries in the five continents. Whether you are a member of a large Senatus or a member of a praesidium in a remote island, remember you are very much part of the Legion of Mary family serving Christ through your membership.





Today as we rejoice in celebrating the Centenary of the Legion of Mary, I recall the words of His Holiness Pope Francis to me in St Peter's Square in Rome in 2018: *"You are strong in the Legion of Mary. Stay strong, work hard, pray for me."* Tonight as your president I confirm our loyalty to the Holy Father and the Church.

We give thanks to our Lady for the many graces received during the past 100 years and we look forward with enthusiasm, guided by the Holy Spirit, to carrying out our varied apostolates joyfully in bringing Christ to the world through Mary.

## *Happy Centenary Everyone*

In preparation for the Centenary legionaries throughout the world joined the Dublin legionaries on-line in a 33-day preparation for a collective consecration to Jesus through Mary. On the 7th September as we made the Act of Consecration we sent greetings to all who joined

us on this very special Day from all our us here in Concilium. A special word of thanks to Fr. Colm Mannion OP for guiding us through the 33 Days of Consecration. We also thank Karen, Emer and Br. Martin for their constant presence during the 33 days. We thank all the families who joined. Frank Duff was always very happy to see children part of any gathering so I am sure he was smiling on you all. We thank all the members of the Legion and friends of the Legion who have joined us from all parts of the world. Our knowledge of languages and geography has improved.

We hope that all who have joined us during the past 33 days have absorbed some of the teachings of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort. Those of you who have found it difficult, I encourage you to persevere. You will be reassured to learn that Frank Duff had to make several efforts in studying this devotion.

Tomorrow as we begin the new century there is a huge body of work awaiting generous volunteers. Will we rise to the same challenges as the first legionaries? Tonight we ask Our Lady guided by the Holy Spirit to move us all to do great things for God and the salvation of souls. Let us not be found wanting.

*Mary Murphy*

President

# Solemn Mass for the Opening of the Centenary Celebrations of the Legion of Mary

By Maureen McManus



LEGION OF MARY  
FOUNDED 7 SEPTEMBER 1921

*Solemn Mass for the Opening of the Centenary Celebrations of the Legion of Mary took place on Friday 3rd September in St. Nicholas of Myra Church, Francis Street, Dublin 8. The Mass was celebrated by Most Reverend Dermot Farrell D.D., Archbishop of Dublin, with co-celebrants, Fr. O’Cuiv and Fr. Churchill. Other priests present were Fr’s Mannion, Harris, McCarthy, De Nardo, Forde. ...Mons. O’Carroll..... Indeed it would have been very desirable to welcome many other Spiritual Directors and legionaries but Covid 19 restrictions permitted 50 attendees only.*

The sermon given by the archbishop was most inspiring and showed an admirable knowledge of the Legion, its object, spirit, multitude of works and accomplishments throughout the past 100 years. He described the organisation’s humble beginnings, clerical opposition in the early years, the perseverance and faith of Frank Duff and the overseas expansion, which took place from 1932 onwards: Many of the visiting Bishops to the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin learned about the Legion through visiting Concilium, peaking with Frank Duff, and subsequently promoting the

organisation in their various dioceses worldwide. Legion Envoys, including Edel Quinn and Alfie Lambe were highlighted as examples of the wonders accomplished in places like Africa, South America and multiple countries worldwide; also mentioned was the sacrifices made by legionaries in many countries’ hostile to Christianity and the heroic efforts made in places such as China to establish the Legion with the support of the Papal Nuncio, who had seen the Legion in action first-hand during Edel Quinn’s envoyship in Africa.



The joyful atmosphere throughout the ceremony was complimented by high quality harp-playing and singing by a mother and daughter team. From start to finish the preparations and conducting of the celebration were meticulously carried out, and great credit is due to all concerned.

The closing address by Concilium President, Mary Murphy, was delivered with enthusiasm and precision, reflecting on a fruitful past and expressing confidence for the future of the Legion. She thanked the Archbishop for his wonderful sermon, Fr. O'Cuiv and Fr. Churchill co-celebrants of the Mass, the Parish Priest of St. Nicholas of Myra parish, the harpist and singer, and all who contributed to the success of the opening ceremony, especially the legionaries of Myra house.

Then, to the delight of the Archbishop, the priests and all legionaries present, the Concilium President cut the Centenary Cake which was served with other light refreshments. Sincere thanks to the resident curia, Ancilla Domini, for providing such fine hospitality and ambience on this auspicious occasion. All were happy to have participated in this historic celebration for the opening of the Centenary Year of the Legion of Mary.



After Mass, Archbishop Farrell greeted everyone outside the Church before adjourning to Myra House which is just across the road from the Church. He was given a guided tour of this historic house where the Legion began on 7th September 1921.



Fr. Bernardo De Nardo uses his phone to broadcast the Mass



Legion President Mary Murphy, Finola Kennedy & Paddy Fay



Karen Wynn and Fr. McCarthy



Christine and Gayle Osorio with Fr. Colm Mannion OP



Eileen Carey and Msgn. Ciaran O'Carroll



Patrick Dixon, Fr. Declan Lohan and Rita Kavanagh

# The Servant of God Frank Duff - As I knew him

*By Sile Ni Chochláin,  
Vice President,  
Concilium Legionis Mariae*



*In this article for the Centenary, it is possible only to pick out a couple of short snapshots of Frank. Other legionaries and priests will have a better knowledge of the man himself and have a different set of snapshots to offer.*

The first time I met Frank Duff I was still at school and had not yet jointed as an active member of the Legion of Mary. He was 76 years of age at the time. In appearance he did not immediately stand out as being anyone special. However, when he came over to us I was struck by the interest he took in the person with whom he was conversing. To my father who was with me at that meeting, though they hadn't met for about 20 years previously, without any effort Frank Duff took up the threads and asked about a relative by marriage and other people who were mutual acquaintances.

Some years later I had an opportunity to see Frank Duff more often when attending a variety of meetings at Concilium. The next impression I had of him was of being a man of deep prayer. However interested he was in a human being, he was even more deeply interested in the Lord Himself. In the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and especially during the celebration of the Eucharist, everything else was excluded for the duration. An abiding memory I have is of him kneeling completely absorbed on the right-hand-side of the oratory in the Regina Coeli Hostel.



Another image I have of him was arriving at Mount Sackville Convent for the annual Peregrinatio Pro Christo planning day; he was armed with a small briefcase from which he took out a foolscap sheet of paper for each of us - filled to capacity with headings pertaining to different parts of the world.

The outcome of those planning days decided where teams of legionaries would go during their holidays, providing them with an opportunity to go to another country to give witness to and to offer the faith. Frank Duff believed in setting ideas to paper and then including everyone in the planning process; in this manner he was allowing the Holy Spirit to have his say. He was a great believer too in the ripple effect; one person speaking to a second, the second speaking to a third and so on, so that in time the ripple becomes a tide, and the tide becomes a torrent.

When the strengths and weaknesses of the Legion in a particular country was under consideration, Frank Duff listened attentively to the different aspects, offered suggestions and rarely did a meeting end without agreement as to what the next steps should be.

This attention to detail was no less the case when it came to planning his annual cycling holidays in different parts of Ireland, choosing the part of the country to be visited, working out the number of miles between one



town and the next to be journeyed each day, checking the bicycles were in full working order, ensuring that the accommodation was suitable for the group – everything was planned meticulously. He had a great love for the country and while on those cycling trips was able to switch off from his day-to-day concerns. In the evenings he regaled the group with stories of the early days of the Legion and the extraordinary people from all walks of life who crossed his path. Those occasions were opportunities to see his great sense of humour and to hear his hearty laughter when reminded of something funny which had occurred.



I recall sitting in the back row of St. Joseph's Hall, Rathmines Road, Dublin when the Concilium meeting was held there in the early 1970's. There must have been a seating capacity of 300 and there wasn't a seat to be had. During one meeting, an issue in one of the reports was being teased out, possibly to do with the issue of the right to life; Frank Duff contributed with a short but concise intervention on the most recent medical data on the issue. I remember being fascinated at how well read he was and wondered how, despite his heavy schedule, he managed to keep up to date with medical and scientific advances, areas in which he had a keen interest.

In the work relating to the introduction of his Cause, we have had an opportunity to gather together the letters of his which are filed in the Concilium offices, about 33,000 of them. I was one of many who had the privilege of typing files of letters across a number of years in order that they would be computerised. I couldn't help but be struck by the picture he painted in the letters of what was going on in the Legion and in the Church at any given time. He freely shared this knowledge with those to whom he was writing, both clergy and lay persons. He was frank and open with the views he expressed.

All of what he wrote had at its heart a concern for souls. He considered each soul to be priceless where God

was concerned. All of us who knew him would attest to the fact that, as described in Chapter 40 of the Legion Handbook, his desire was that Christ would be brought to everyone. He exhorts in that chapter that everyone be approached "lest the gentle Jesus frown upon us."

In the very many talks he gave during his lifetime, and right up to shortly before his death in 1980, a theme he returned to often was that of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He had studied everything written about her of which he could get hold. Not content with that, he enriched us in those talks by sharing his knowledge with us, most especially the role she plays in bringing us to her Son. Indeed, a couple of his talks on Our Blessed Lady, I believe, give an insight into Our Lady as yet not fully realised by the Church at large. Such was the intimate knowledge and love he had of her.

When speaking at his funeral, Cardinal Tomas O'Fiach described Frank Duff as the greatest Irishman of the century. I agree that he deserves that accolade because of the graces that were conferred on him to mobilise lay

people from all walks of life in all parts of the world, based on a realisation of the consequences when we receive the Sacrament of Baptism.





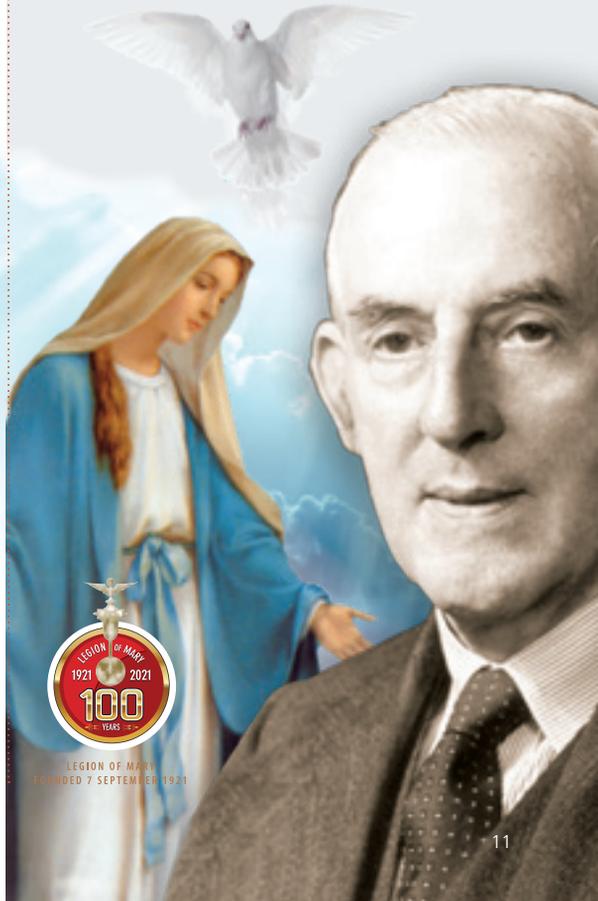
In those days after his death, two aspects struck me: the numbers of ordinary citizens of Dublin and further afield who came to see his mortal remains in the oratory of the Coeli Hostel, and without any formal arrangement being notified; and when we emerged from Westland Row Church, to witness the number of people who had gathered along the streets nearby to say their final farewell to this man who was not in the public eye. Many may never have met him personally but recognised him as a good and holy man and that he was.

I owe Frank Duff a great debt of gratitude. He enabled me as a layperson to have the possibility of coming closer to God in a particular way. Through the weekly meeting, I was able to learn more about my



The Voice of the Legion of Mary

Faith, about the doctrines of the Church, about the Pope's writings and about many other practical things. Through the organisation he helped to found, he gave me as a layperson the possibility of not just thinking about, but actually doing something, concrete for the Church through the weekly work assignment. Had it not been for his founding the Legion of Mary, I wonder how committed a Catholic I would be, or at the very least, how much less enriched I would be. He held the priests in very high regard; he respected what they stand for and he exhorted us lay people to support and to work with them in every way possible for the greater glory of God and in union with Our Blessed Lady.



LEGION OF MARY  
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# Cardinal Leo Joseph Suenens

By Michael Walsh

Former Spiritual Director of Legion of Mary in Belgium  
(16 July 1904 – 6 May 1996)



As Spiritual Director of the Legion of Mary in Belgium, Monsignor Suenens came to appreciate the effectiveness of the Legion as a lay apostolate. It was during this time that he came to learn of the heroic life of the Irish Legion envoy, Miss Edel Quinn, and the example of her life and work in east Africa was to leave a dedicated mark on his whole episcopal ministry. He was subsequently to write the first authoritative Life of Edel Quinn and lived to see her declared by the Church 'Servant of God.'

In relation to the Legion of Mary worldwide, Suenens wrote: 'Today, two currents dominate the life of the Church: the Marian current and the apostolic current. These two currents meet and blend harmoniously in the Legion of Mary, which has been a providential instrument in the hands of Mary and the Church for the spread of the Kingdom of God on earth.' In connection with seeking conversions to the Church, he wrote: 'By dint of repeating that people are not ready to receive the Gospel, one would end up by not being ready to bring it to them.'

Suenens spoke with conviction about many matters pertaining to the Legion of Mary and to Faith in general. The following is an extract from *La Theologie de la Apostolat* (Theology of the Apostolate), which is a commentary on the Legion Promise: "The Legion of Mary aims simply at

the living of normal Catholicism. We say 'normal'; we do not say 'average.' In these days there is a tendency to think that the 'normal' Catholic is one who practices his religion altogether for his own sake without taking any active interest in the salvation of his brethren. To judge thus would be to caricature the real Catholic, and indeed Catholicism itself. Average Catholicism is not normal Catholicism. It would seem to be necessary to subject to a scrutiny, to a process of revision, this prevalent notion of 'good Catholic' or 'practicing Catholic.' One is not a Catholic if one falls below a certain apostolic minimum, and this indispensable minimum, on which will depend the Last Judgement, is not being reached by the mass of so-called practicing Catholics. Therein lies a tragic situation; therein lies a fundamental misunderstanding."

Leo Joseph Suenens was born on 16 July 1904 at Ixelles, Belgium, the only child of Jean-Baptiste and Jeanne Suenens. After losing his father at age four, Leo lived with his mother in the rectory of his priest-uncle from 1911 to 1912. Despite pressure from rich relatives to study economics and manage their fortune, Joseph chose the priesthood, studying first at Saint Mary's Institute in Schaerbeek and then entering the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome in 1920. From



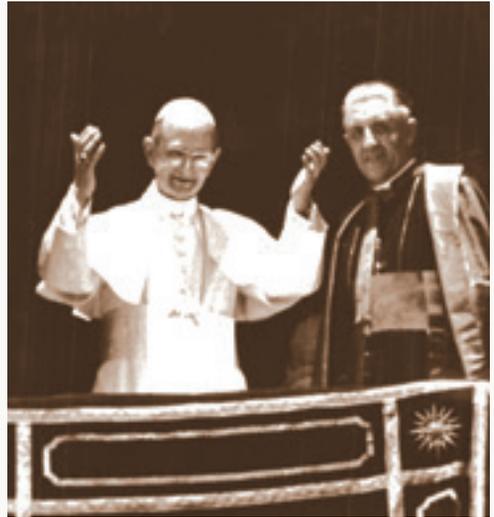
the Gregorian he obtained a doctorate in theology and in philosophy (1927), and later a master's degree in Canon Law, having taken as his mentor Cardinal Désiré-Joseph Mercier.

Ordained to the priesthood on 4 September 1927 by Cardinal Jozef-Ernest van Roey, Suenens initially served as a professor at Saint Mary's Institute and then taught moral philosophy and pedagogy at the Minor Seminary of Mechelen from 1930 to 1940. He worked as a chaplain to the 9th artillery regiment of the Belgian Army in Southern France for three months, and in August 1940 he became vice-rector of the Catholic University of Louvain.

When the Louvain's rector was arrested by Nazi forces in 1943, Suenens took over as acting rector, where he evaded and occasionally openly defied the directives of the Nazi occupiers.

Raised to the rank of Monsignor in October 1941, he was included on a list of thirty hostages who were to be executed by the Nazis, but the Allied liberation of Belgium occurred shortly before these orders could be carried out.

On 12 November 1945, Suenens was appointed by Pope Pius XII as Auxiliary Bishop of Mechelen and Titular Bishop of *Isinda*. He received his episcopal consecration on the following 16 December from Cardinal van Roey, with Bishops Étienne Joseph Carton de Wiart and Jan van Cauwenbergh serving as co-consecrators. He was named Archbishop of Mechelen on 24 November 1960, and created Cardinal Priest of *S. Pietro in Vincoli* by Pope John XXIII in the consistory of 19 March 1962.



Cardinal Suenens was one of the cardinal electors who participated in the 1963 papal conclave which elected Pope Paul VI.



When Pope John called the world's Bishops to Rome for the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965), he found in Suenens a man who shared his views on the need for renewal in the Church. When the first session fell into organisational chaos under the weight of its documents, Suenens, at the invitation of the Pope, rescued it from deadlock and essentially set the agenda for the entire Council.

On the topic of what is described as 'Mutism' Suenens commented: "It is said of those outside the Church they will not listen. But the real truth is that Catholics will not speak. By dint of repeating that people are not ready to receive the Gospel, one would end up by not being ready to bring it to them."

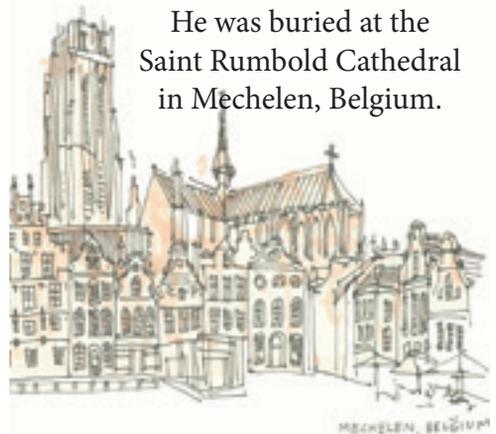
Speaking about St. Joseph, and the historical life of Jesus, Suenens wrote: 'We cannot dissociate the historical life of Jesus from his mystical life continuing in the Church. It is not without reason that the Popes have proclaimed St. Joseph Protector of the Church. His task has remained ever the same amid changing times and ways. As Protector of the Church of



Christ, he does no less than carry on his earthly mission. Since the days of Nazareth, God's family has grown and spread to the ends of the earth. Joseph's heart has expanded to the dimension of his new fatherhood, which prolongs and surpasses the paternity promised by God to Abraham, the father of a myriad. God does not vary in his dealings with us; there are no second thoughts, no arbitrary changes to His plan. All is one, ordered, consistent and continuous. Joseph, the foster-father to Jesus, is likewise foster-father to the brethren of Jesus, and is, to all Christians throughout the ages. Joseph, the spouse of Mary who brought forth Jesus, remains mysteriously united to her while the mystical birth of the Church proceeds in the world. Hence, the legionary of Mary who is working to extend here below the Kingdom of God, that is the Church, rightly claims the special protection of him who was the head of the new-born Church, the Holy Family.'

Cardinal Leo Joseph Suenens, born in Ixelles, Belgium, died from thrombosis in Brussels aged 91, on the 6th May 1996 after a long and fruitful life.

He was buried at the Saint Rumbold Cathedral in Mechelen, Belgium.



# VENERABLE EDEL QUINN

## A heroic journey into the unknown

By Annette Mulrooney



The story of Edel Quinn and her apostolic work in Africa as envoy of the Legion of Mary is now well known, but what sort of person was she in herself? The impression given by Cardinal Suenens in his biography is that of a radiant personality in which nature and grace were united in a wonderful harmony.

His insight is confirmed by hundreds of witnesses examined since his book was written.

*'The words light and joy recur like a refrain right through the evidence, covering every stage of her life.'*

(Rev. Fr. Anselm Moynihan, O.P. Vice-Postulator of the Cause.)

*'When your life is given to God nothing can happen. The serenity that comes from that! Nobody can browbeat you. This accounted for the fearlessness and the optimism of Edel Quinn. The fact that she was one bubble of joy; that she was happiness all through.'*

(Fr. Terence McLoughlin O.P.)

*'Difficulties which confronted Edel'.*

(Canon Francis J. Ripley Sp. Dir. Senatus of Liverpool).

We read in Edel's life of the difficulties which confronted her. At first, the African Catholics were incredulous, even suspicious, that a white lady should concern herself with them. More, that she should encourage their own people to work in the apostolate. This was unheard of. They always regarded that work as belonging to priests and catechists. It was a shock to them to learn that it was their duty to spread the faith.

Then we read about the physical problems – miles and miles of travelling, rain, mud, swollen rivers, impassable roads, or heat and dust. missionaries saw this sick girl doing what none of them could manage. In the morning taking long journeys of a hundred miles standing in uncomfortable lorries, returning about one o'clock. While missionaries enjoyed their siesta, Edel would restart work and keep at it until evening.

*“Turn to Mary in all circumstances”*

Then praesidium meetings, interviews and hosts of other duties. Priests saw her covered with mud from head to foot. They knew of her long hours without food, of the tropical storms she encountered, torrential rain, nights in lonely forests, wild animals about, not knowing whether she would be rescued or not. When she returned home, she was always smiling, passing everything off as nothing heroic at all.

One thing enabled her to do it all – her union with Mary. “Turn to Mary in all circumstances”, she said, “that she may teach you to love Jesus. To serve the Father; to become like a child in your attitude – trusting utterly, never doubting, showing loving tenderness in little things.” (*Canon Ripley.*)



Quoting Fr. Bede: “One of the really difficult areas in our spiritual life is the tendency to judge others and therefore hold back the joy and freedom of our

own interior life. I find Edel’s guidance very helpful in this whole situation. She writes in her notes: ‘It is no part of our duty to judge others, so let us not torment ourselves about their doings. We will love our neighbour - and we will be unable to speak ill or criticise - if in each one we see Christ. Restrain the tongue: employ it as you think Mary would have used her speech. *Noli judicare.*’

In 1936 Edel spent her holidays in North Wales promoting the Legion apostolate and, on her return, offered herself as a Legion Envoy. She agreed to go to Central Africa at the invitation of Bishop Heffernan and in 1936 set sail.

“I know what’s before me. It is exactly what I am looking for. I am going with my eyes open. I don’t want to be sent off on any picnic.” – The words of Edel Quinn at the meeting of the Legion of Mary where her going to Africa was decided. “PICNIC”, You’ll BE a picnic for somebody” replied Dr. Magennis, a former General of the Carmelite Fathers.

“I call on all of you to witness that this picnic will not be a very substantial one.” Interjected Frank Duff, President of the Concilium, to roars of laughter. Edel was on her way to Africa.



Edel and Frank prior to departure for Africa at Tilbury Docks, London

Her field of work was Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Malawi. It is impossible to describe all that this involved. Kenya itself is 1,000 miles long and 750 miles wide with a population of some 13 million people. It is like putting England, France, Spain and Italy together with different languages, races and cultures all living there.

The weather is not like the Irish climate. She was situated on the Equator with extreme heat and torrential rain and with a threat of malaria and very difficult travel conditions.

This is what one priest in Africa said about Edel: “When speaking of her, one is up against something which flesh and blood cannot explain. The work she did and the energy with which she accomplished it in seven or eight years is out of all proportion to her frail and delicate constitution. No one ever heard of her speak of her health. She was always happy and loved to see others so. No Legion work was beyond her, no matter what the cost. She was the most self-sacrificing of persons. She saw only one objective: that of making the Legion known as a powerful means for bringing souls to God. We pray that soon she will be raised to the ranks of the canonised saints.” (*Rev. Fr. Cecil Johnston*).

Rev. Fr. Anselm Moynihan: “Edel Quinn’s personal character was one in which a warm outgoing, joyful humanity seemed to be radiant with the indwelling Spirit of God.” “The

good she did”, wrote a missionary priest, “was largely due to her personality. I had the impression that she carried about with her some of the fragrances of Our Lady.” Thanks to Cardinal Suenen’s ‘Life of Edel Quinn’ and the efforts of the Legion, that fragrance has been diffused throughout the Church, evoking everywhere a response of affection and devotion towards Edel. To make Edel known and to promote her Canonisation Cause is obviously not just a work for the glory of the Legion. It is directly a work for the Church, for the glory of God, a work of immense value and urgency.”

Cardinal Yves Congar, O.P. spoke of St. Therese of Lisieux as “a lighthouse set up by God to guide the Church as it entered the nuclear age, so full of opportunities for the material good



of mankind, yet so full too of physical and spiritual perils.” Edel had a strong spiritual kinship with Therese and it may not be fanciful to think that she, in turn, has been set up by God as a light to inspire and guide the Church as it enters on its task of re-evangelising a world that has lost the sense of God. Cardinal Martini’s words were not lightly written; they were addressed to the Pope himself: “Edel Quinn was the personification of the Church’s missionary spirit.”

*“To suffer for Our Lord is my greatest joy”*

The lay apostolate became her way to bring together in her life the Christian witness which we are all called to show. The sense of ‘being sent’ created in her a responsibility to go wherever the Legion might send her. She found her full expression in her years of missionary accomplishment in Africa, inspiring the clergy and the people with her enthusiasm and her self-sacrificing nature. Her influence is still being felt.

“She suffered many obstacles besides her health. She had to overcome racial segregation, class distinction, petty infighting, rejection of her message, great distances, bad weather, heat, little sympathy, attempts to get her to modify the Legion Handbook, tiredness, weakness and the ravages of the Second World War. The illness that Edel experienced, especially on her many long journeys to mission stations, did not stop her achieving her goal to serve Jesus and Mary, in bringing the faith to the Africans. She was no slave to illness but drove on in love with her God. Her persistence and commitment to the Gospel was an example to all.

If one saw things truly; how we should be grateful and rejoice at every physical weakness, tiredness... They are our share in Christ’s sufferings

and graces. She summed up her whole approach to suffering by saying. “To suffer for Our Lord is my greatest joy.”  
*Fr. P. Ó Cochláin.*

From her biography written by Cardinal Suenens, the reader realises that the Kisumu Curia was the final act of her earthly Legion foundations. It must have cost her valiant fragile body a tremendous effort to make the almost three-hundred-mile journey from Nairobi to Kisumu and to Rangala which was a mission only about fifty miles distant from the Ugandan border. Edel was already in a dying condition when she reached Rangala, where she hoped to found the Curia. All the Rangala community was alarmed when they saw the great change in her physical condition. Although Edel was just the same happy person, the dreadful disease had reduced her to a mere shadow.

“The successful record of this Curia’s activities may be surely attributed to Edel Quinn’s dying effort and the unspeakable sufferings she must have endured in its foundation.



She succeeded in completing her missionary labours in Rangala but she was too ill to proceed to Kakamega. After a brief stay in the Convent of St. Therese, Kibuye, Edel returned to Nairobi where she died on the 12th of May, 1944.” (Fr. A. Moynihan).

Homily by Monsignor John Moloney:

*‘The Springlike Freshness of Edel Quinn’s Holiness’*

“The springlike freshness of her holiness is worthy of our attention. Her whole life was, in truth, a new song. A reflection on her remarkable life helps us to sing a new song of thanks to the Lord, for through her He has worked wonders

She found another motivating influence in her life in the example of St. Therese of the Child Jesus. She saw in her the model of the great missionary, the tremendous lover, the heroic sufferer. Therese was a saint in a hurry who cut out all the frills. Her one wish to be “love in the heart of the Church.”

The recall of her missionary apostolate brings to the surface the names of many who influenced and supported her work. There was a letter to Frank Duff at the beginning of her journey. ‘Rejoice



that you had the courage to emulate our Lord in His choice of weak things in Faith.’ There was the immense help and encouragement she received from the Apostolic Delegate. Archbishop Riberi, later, from China wrote: ‘hidden in the depth of the African jungle Edel Quinn was helping to save China.’



She had the unfailing help of Bishop Heffernan. At a time when her health was rapidly failing, she answered the invitation of Bishop Leen to come to Mauritius.’

To conclude with a quote from the late Mother Mary Celestine Walls: ‘Lasting Impressions.’

*“Looking back, I can truly say that Edel Quinn left an indelible mark on my life. She was like a bright light that shone on all who approached her. But more especially on her friends. This light gave out not only brightness, but also warmth – the warmth of love. I can still feel its effects. Her friendship was a source of constant joy and happiness. One could not fail to be better for having known her – at least, so it seems to me.”*

# A Legionary Remembers

By Frank Holohan

I first joined the Legion of Mary many years ago as a mere adolescent in a rural parish in county Kilkenny. One Sunday the Parish Priest announced that he intended to establish a praesidium of the Legion of Mary in the parish and those interested could leave their names in the sacristy. This I duly did, together with my older sister. Altogether, seven volunteered: four men and three women. An inaugural meeting was held with Curia Officers present who gave us comprehensive information on the history of the legion, the work involved, and other practical advice.

The local Sergeant of an *Gárda Síochána* (Irish Police), was elected President and the local schoolmistress elected Secretary. The Secretary proposed that the praesidium be called 'The Praesidium of Our Lady of Knock', and this was readily accepted. The parish curate Father Joseph Langton became our Spiritual Director.

The main work in those early days was home visitation with a strong emphasis on getting households to recite the family Rosary. The praesidium purchased a portable radio and my duty each Sunday morning was to bring the portable radio to an elderly couple so that they could listen to the

Mass which was broadcast over the airways.

The Secretary was the only member in possession of a motor car. One bachelor farmer used his tractor as a means of transport, while the remainder of us used our bicycles.

A significant feature of the praesidia of that particular Curia was the frequency with which social evenings were held. These evenings took place in the local parish hall. They commenced with the Rosary, followed with music and dance, and ending with tea and cake and concluding legion prayers. Other praesidia would be invited and they in turn would reciprocate.

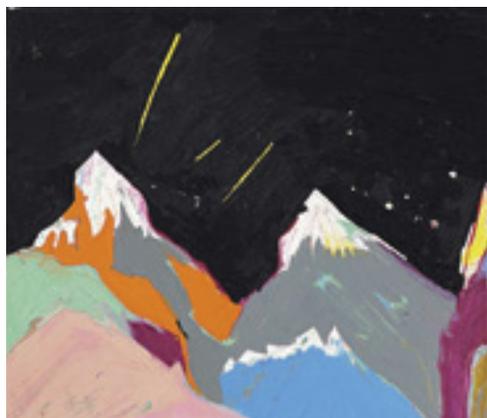
It was at these social gatherings that I took my first awkward steps on the dance floor. Those wonderful Legion women, superior to me in age and grace, smiled tolerantly at my faltering steps while inwardly believing that I had two left feet!

I remember at one praesidium meeting one member announced she had heard that at the far end of the parish a bachelor man named Jack Fogarty kept open house where neighbours would visit to play cards. She suggested that the Legion could pay a call on house visitation. In this way the praesidium

could meet men from several different houses, and all on the one visit.

Some members of the praesidium were skeptical of the idea, but she chided us for our lack of trust in Our Lady. She reminded us of the Biblical passage from Matthew 17:20 where Christ told his disciples: "if your faith was the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mountain: 'move from here to there' and it would move; nothing would be impossible to you."

### Faith Moves Mountains - Matthew 17:20



The evening we visited Jack's house was a glorious summer's evening in July 1959 as the western sun was beginning to set way off into the Tipperary hills beyond the town of Templemore. On arrival at the house, some five or six men had already gathered but the card game had not commenced: they were waiting for one individual who was usually a late arrival.

Sister suggested that while waiting for the latecomer, we should all kneel and say the Rosary.

Whether through embarrassment or not knowing how to respond, the men dutifully went on their knees beside their chairs and the rosary commenced.

At the second decade of the rosary the latecomer arrived at the door. Seeing everyone on their knees and praying the Hail Mary, he immediately thought the worst and loudly exclaimed: "Good God is poor Jack dead!" The kitchen erupted in laughter, and despite best efforts order could not be restored. The Rosary came to an abrupt halt while the men resumed their seats and said it was time to commence the card game.

At the following praesidium meeting someone laconically remarked: "well, at least they said two decades."

Looking back over the years since that far-off July evening when all the world was young, I remember with love and gratitude the wonderful members of that praesidium and the work we had accomplished: seven members-four on bicycles, one on foot, one with a tractor and one with a Morris Minor car. All genuine honest folk of the post-war generation. None would ever appear in societies columns, but they did not worry: their names were indelibly inscribed in the Book of Life!

*All of them have long since gone to  
their eternal reward-save one:  
ignoble me!*

# Homily at Centenary Mass

## Archbishop Dermot Farrell

*Homily of Archbishop Dermot Farrell at the Mass for the Centenary of the Foundation of the Legion of Mary Church of St Nicholas of Myra, Francis Street, Friday, 3rd September 2021*



LEGION OF MARY  
FOUNDED 7 SEPTEMBER 1921

I am delighted to celebrate this Mass to mark the centenary of the foundation of the Legion of Mary, here in Dublin, by Frank Duff on 7th September 1921.

Little was it realised at the time that the small group he founded would spread its wings all over the world.

The Legion of Mary grew out of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. Frank Duff saw the need within the need. His vision was to offer concrete ways for Catholic lay people to live out the gospel of Jesus, its call and its mission in the contemporary world, supported by prayer, friendship, trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit, under the patronage and protection of Mary, who herself had been so open to the message of the angel, that Word who took flesh in her.

Of course, Frank Duff saw that this could not happen in a vacuum. Consequently, the purpose of the Legion of Mary is twofold: the spiritual growth and development of its members, and the witness to and service of the kingdom of God.

It was an apostolate that grew phenomenally after its foundation, helped in no small way by the conviction and zeal of its earliest members, and the Legion's profile in the Eucharistic Congress held in Dublin in 1932, a mere decade after its foundation. There was a wonderful idealism in Frank Duff which prevented him from being blown off course, despite persistent opposition he experienced from ecclesiastical authority.

Frank Duff, a man ahead of this time, could be described as prophetic in the true Christian sense of that word: someone sensitive to the call of God and utterly dedicated to God's will (see Luke 1:38). He translated his prophetic perspective of the universal call to holiness into a vibrant lay movement. Looking at the history of the Legion one can see how closely it mirrored Saint Luke's portrait of the call of Mary—the Annunciation—which is first and foremost God's call of a prophet (see Luke 1:26–38).



her: “do not be afraid.” Frank Duff encountered great opposition from ecclesiastical authorities. He was not distraught by or angry at the lack of response from some ecclesiastical

The meeting between Mary and the Angel of the Lord as recounted by St. Luke is very real and in the form of a frank dialogue. Faith is built on dialogue and grows through dialogue. Listen to Mary and her Son in this evening’s Gospel: there is dialogue and maybe not the easiest of dialogues. Like Mary throughout the gospels, Frank Duff entrusted himself to the Word of God and let himself be led by God’s call. He was willing to cooperate with the divine will, although he in no way knew its contours or deepest purposes. In imitation of Mary at the time of the Annunciation, he declared himself the “servant” of the Lord. He spoke his “yes”, and without that “yes” it is unlikely we would be celebrating today. In order to act through us, God almost always needs our human response. In this way the mystery and power of God takes flesh in us again and again. If Frank Duff did great things, was it not the Lord who had done them for him? (See Luke 1:49).

In the dialogue with God, Mary expressed her surprise, fears and doubts. “How can this be?” But she heard the voice of God who told

authorities. He was received by Pope Pius XI and his Secretary of State Pacelli before being received by his own Archbishop. He was received by Archbishop Byrne eight years after he first sought an appointment! While Frank Duff spoke candidly and he persevered, which are key elements of the Christian way of life, he was not inhibited, impatient or negative regarding the prevarication.

In her dialogue with God’s angel—which is actually a window into her prayer (and ours)—she is given and welcomes God’s promise: “the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;” Mary entrusts herself to His word, and says her yes.

Likewise, Frank Duff abandoned himself to the Lord, and took a step forward with his initiative. He trusted that the Lord was with the Legion as its story unfolded.



The fourth stage in the annunciation story is the embrace of the mission “Behold, the Servant of the Lord.” Mary, like her Son, takes up the call and mission of God’s prophet. Frank Duff took up the same call to evangelise and to witness to the Kingdom of God, that is to say, a body formed by those who participate in him, who share his relationship to the Father. Frank Duff discovered in the encounter with God that his life was to be at the service of a larger project, to become a servant in the development of the future God offers to all his creatures.

He perceived the need on two levels: that of spirituality and the loving care that is shown to those on the margins of society. This prophetic sign of a great humanity and the spiritual dimension are inseparable. “By loving your neighbour, you gain the sight of God; by loving your neighbour you purify your eye for seeing God” (St Augustine, Treatise on St John, 17, 8). We see the same care in the compassionate request of Mary to Jesus in this evening’s gospel: “They have no wine.” (John 2:3).

The charitable dimension had to be addressed at the level of the heart. The organ for seeing God is the heart. The Church’s charitable work is guided by faith, that is by trust in God and what God is doing. This is much more than an ideology or some vague project aimed at improving the world (see *Deus Caritas Est*, 33). Unlike worldly

stratagems, the Legion cannot aim at solving all problems but must trust in the way of Jesus, in prayer which sustains us in our service of others (see *Deus Caritas Est*, 36). It was the love urging him on (see 2 Cor. 5:14), a love nourished by an encounter with Christ, enlivened by Mary’s faith, deepened by prayer, that taught Frank Duff to do what he could and rely on God for the rest.



The Legion of Mary is a lay apostolic movement at the service of the Church. The theology and spirituality of the Legion centres around the idea of Mary as Mediatrix of All Graces. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was a laywoman and his first disciple. In Mary, we can see that at the centre of Christianity there are not merely ideas, but lives, real lives. Everything about her reminds us that God’s heart is close to the poor, the weary and the oppressed. Like her son, she embodies the mission of the Church: to bring us home to the God who is already with us.

At the heart of the spirituality of the Legion of Mary lies the conviction that the Christian is baptised into this mission of the Church. The core values of the Legion draw their inspiration from the mystical body—that we are all one in Christ, the trust that is the faith of Mary, that all are called to live a life in the Holy Spirit, and what we might term today a faith that is proactive.

Like John the Baptist—the one who prepared the way of the Lord—Frank Duff realised, ahead of his contemporaries, that every Christian is called to the apostolic dimension of our faith.



the case in Africa—and we remember the gentle witness of Edel Quinn; it played a crucial role in the Columban mission to China—providing a natural extension of that mission, with legionaries

It was only with the Second Vatican Council that the laity began to regain their rightful place in the Church. From its foundation in 1921 the Legion was carrying out the mission of the Church as was proposed by the Second Vatican Council. That vision and its energy has also come at a price: precisely, because it was ahead of its time in so many ways, and because it could welcome the Council's engagement with the world in so many ways, it frequently left itself off the hook for the ongoing need for *aggiornamento* and renewal that have become vital in the 65 years since the Second Vatican Council.

The vision of Pope Saint John XXIII, Pope Saint Paul VI, Pope Saint John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis calls us to the constant and ongoing renewal of the Church and its structures. This is difficult work, but it is vital if we are to proclaim the gospel in an ever-changing and increasingly fragile world.

Across the developing world, the Legion was significant in organising the apostolate of the laity, particularly in the early twentieth century. This was

bringing dynamism and dedication of the rapidly growing Church in China. Many of them endured persecution and imprisonment. That zeal for the gospel must always burn at the heart of the Church. The living and animated faith for which you pray in the Catena is the heart of an engaged and committed discipleship. Is it not also at the heart of the deeper vocation to religious life in all its forms?

In a world that is often hostile to the values and vision proclaimed by Christ: in particular, concern for the little ones, and their hope and dignity, the Legion Apostolate continues to be relevant as a necessary tool for evangelisation. Those who have never heard of the living Christ are told of him, the sick are consoled, those who have lapsed are encouraged. From Mary, the Church—all the baptised—learn the compassion, tenderness, and the care that every person desires. As Pope Francis indicates at the end of *Evangelii Gaudium*: “There is a Marian ‘style’ to the Church’s work of evangelisation. Whenever we look to Mary, we come to believe once again”.

*“They go out, they go out full of tears carrying seed for the sowing:  
they come back, they come back, full of song carrying their sheaves”*

The Legion of Mary in Dublin still has a strength about it that it may not have in other parts of Ireland. Why? Because from the start the Legion in Dublin tackled serious social and pastoral problems which other groups shied away from. They had an apostolate



to prostitutes, for instance and set up the Morning Star hostel for the homeless. In contemporary Ireland, the apostolic work of legionaries can have formidable consequences—if lived with authenticity, gentleness, and courage—at the social, political, cultural and economic levels. The values of the gospel are not just ideas; they are radical actions on behalf of the poor, the homeless and the refugees and migrants.

As anyone who is pastorally engaged knows, we live in a rapidly changing world, and in a pastoral and ecclesial situation that changes before our eyes. We cannot evangelise the past; we can bring the Good News of Christ only to our today and our tomorrow. This is the perennial mission of the Church. As long ago as 1943, in his encyclical *Divino Afflante Spiritu*, Pope Pius XII put it like this: Let bishops favour and

support those pious associations whose aim it is to distribute copies of the scriptures, especially of the gospels, among the faithful, and to procure by every means that in Christian families the Scriptures be read with piety and devotion.

His call that the word - to which Mary responded - be made available to all the Church, still rings out today. It was taken up by the Second Vatican Council in *Dei Verbum*, and by Pope Benedict XVI in *Verbum Domini*. If the Legion wants to continue to evangelise in this new time, might it not embrace this call which is so much at heart of the Church’s mission?

It can be done by promoting scripture study groups, by praying with scripture, by *Lectio Divina*, and in so many other ways. Perhaps it is here that legionaries from Milan, or from across South America have so much to offer. What a wonderful return that would be for the work of Alfie Lambe: “They go out, they go out full of tears carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song carrying their sheaves” as it says in the psalm (126:6). As Pope Pius suggested, might you give families a copy of one of the gospels and support people in reading and praying the word.

Today we celebrate the Feast of Pope Saint Gregory the Great (540–604) who became pope on this day in 590. An extraordinary pastor and teacher of the faith, he would still say: “many things in the Sacred Writings, which I was unable to understand on my own, I came to grasp while in the presence of my brothers and sisters” [*In Ezechielem*, II, 2, 1. (PL 76, 948–949)]. What better gift (see 1 Cor 12:4–11) might the Legion of the 21st century give to the Church than this service of God’s Word, the Word which took flesh in Mary, the Word who is our life and who brings new life—our daily bread.



Legion of Mary President Mary Murphy with Archbishop Dermot Farrell



Following the Centenary Mass at St. Nicholas of Myra a small group gathered at Myra House to celebrate the Centenary of the Legion of Mary

## Thank You

We wish to thank sincerely Sr. Mary Amatrix and her Community of the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters at the Convent of Divine Love Philadelphia for their thoughtful and generous gesture of perpetual enrollment of all members of the Legion of Mary on the occasion of the Legion’s Centenary. This wonderful and grace-filled gift of perpetual enrollment brings joy and blessings to all members of the Legion of Mary worldwide.

# Venerable Edel Quinn 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations in Kenya



This year various councils and praesidia congregated at their respective parishes to commemorate the death of Venerable Edel Quinn at a very extraordinary time due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has ravaged the whole world.

A team from senatus led by Spiritual Director Rev. Fr. Boniface Kariuki visited the grave-side of Edel Quinn where they recited the rosary followed by legion prayers and accompanied by sweet songs of Our Lady.

Fr. Boniface in his speech requested us to put more efforts in our Apostolate and prayers that the Church may give official recognition to the spiritual beauty and riches of Edel Quinn by beatifying her. We are living under difficult times in the history of humankind and only our prayers through the intercession of Venerable Edel Quinn will save the entire world.



Senatus Spiritual Director and other officers visit the graveside on 12th May 2021



Queen of Apostles Praesidium South B



Seat of Wisdom Praesidium, Nairobi University Chapel led by Spiritual Director and Senatus President Br. Geoffrey Mutuma

# LEGION ENVOYS

In this Centenary Issue of Maria Legionis, it is fitting, as far as practicable, to record the names of the Legion Envoys who have served the Legion of Mary throughout the world and in all continents.

Men and women left their places of employment on leave of absence and devoted some years in foreign lands establishing councils, working in communion with their local Bishops and clergy and giving their duties to Mary and to God.

Sadly, some have passed to their eternal reward; many have returned home; and many continue to serve abroad. The Legion Envoy is an essential and integral part of the Legion Apostolate and the jewel in the crown of the Legion of Mary.



LEGION OF MARY  
FOUNDED 7 SEPTEMBER 1921

## Legion Envoys Around the World



1934-1946  
Mary Duffy (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to USA/Canada



1934-1938  
Ruby Dennison (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to South Africa



1936-1939  
Una O'Byrne (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to U.S.A./Canada



1936-1944  
Edel Quinn (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to East Africa/Mauritius



1945-1952  
Hilda Firtel (Austria)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Germany



1936-1947  
John Murray (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to USA/Canada/  
Mexico/ Philippines



1940-1950  
Veronica O'Brien (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to France/Greece/  
Yugoslavia



1944-1952  
Dorothy Wynn  
(South Africa)  
Served as an Envoy  
to South Africa



# Legion Envoys Around the World



1945-1948  
Katherine Dickson  
(England)  
Envoy to East Africa



1946-1963  
Joaquina Lucas  
(Philippines)  
Served as an Envoy  
to South America/Portugal



1946-1958  
May Ingoldsby (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Italy



1947-1957  
Ruby Roberts. (South Africa)  
Served as an Envoy to  
Sudan/Egypt



1947-1950  
Maurice O'Connor (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy to West  
and Central Africa



1948-1951  
Andre Chamagne (France)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Algiers



1948-1952  
Anatol Kaszczuk (Poland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Poland



1948-1952  
Peter Norman (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to India



1948-1958  
Teresa Su (Hong Kong)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Indonesia



1949-1953  
Henretta Talabot (France)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Belgium



1950-1959  
Pacita Santos (Philippines)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Spain



1950-1959  
Agnes Orelabar (England)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Japan



1951-1957  
Cecil D'Souza (India)  
Served as an Envoy  
to India/Pakistan



1952-1956  
Lydia Villegar (Switzerland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Switzerland



1953-1956  
Seamus Grace (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Colombia/Venezuela



1953-1956  
Helen Lamy (Canada)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Canada

# Legion Envoys Around the World



1953-1959  
Alfie Lambe (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to South America



1954-1958  
Marie O'Connell (France)  
Served as an Envoy  
to West Africa



1954-1959  
Ellen Moller (Denmark)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Denmark



1955-1960  
Mary Clerkin (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Brazil



1955-1960  
Joan Lynch (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Thailand/ Vietnam/  
Laos/Cambodia



1955-1960  
Delphine Madill (U.S.A.)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Canada/Haiti/  
West Indies



1955-1964  
Anne O'Connor (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Zaire  
(Republic of Congo)



1955-1968  
Rose Reynolds (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Wales



1956-1958  
James O'Hanlon (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Norway/Iceland



1956-1959  
Paddy Stenson (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to South Africa



1956-1959  
Maria Diepen (Holland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Netherlands/Antilles/  
French Guiana/Suriname



1956-1960  
Eileen Sheehy. (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to West Africa



1956-1962 & 1970-1972  
Marie Victoire Zacherl (Austria)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Greece/Turkey/  
Netherlands



1956-1963  
Una Twomey (Wales)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Bolivia



1956-1965  
Anita Agostini (U.S.A.)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Mexico



1957-1960  
Maureen McPolin (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to West Africa



# Legion Envoys Around the World



1958-1960  
Diarmuid O'Donovan (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to East Africa



1959-1967  
Noel Lynch (Ireland)  
Envoy to Argentina



1958-1961  
Marjorie Quinn (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to North Africa



1959-1960  
Mairead Brady (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Portugal



1959-1962  
Tadgh McMahon (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Brazil



1959-1978  
Joan Cronin (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Portugal/Angola/  
Mozambique/Brazil/  
Indonesia



1960-1963  
Louis O'Neill (Ireland)  
Envoy to Chile



1960-1964  
Nuala Burke (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Sudan/Egypt



1960-1965  
Dick Maher (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Portugal



1961-1963  
Tom Honey (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Brazil



1961-1963  
Pauline O'Donnell (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Madagascar



1961-1964  
Fergus Roche (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Mexico/Paraguay



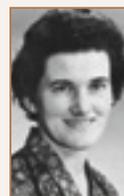
1961-1965  
Gerard Reynolds (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Pakistan/India/  
Burma (Myanmar)



1961-1965  
Kathleen Allen (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Thailand/Vietnam/  
Cambodia/Laos



1962-1965  
Joseph Pilendiram  
(Sri Lanka)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Kenya/Uganda



1962-1965  
Celia O'Donovan (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to West Africa

# Legion Envoys Around the World



1962-1966  
Brian McKeown (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Zaire  
(Republic of Congo)



1962-1965  
Harriet Cullen (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Botswana



1962-1965  
Maria Senra (Portugal)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Portugal/Angola/  
Brazil/Cape Verde



1963-1968  
Teresa DeRidder (Holland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Chile



1963-1968  
Mary Kennedy (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Canada



1963-1970  
Jerry O'Sullivan (Ireland)  
Envoy to Venezuela



1964-1967  
Anna Boylan (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Central America



1964-1967  
Anne Lavery (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Argentina



1964-1967  
Vachel Sampson (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Switzerland



1964-1967  
Paddy Fay (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Mozambique



1964-1968  
Anna Donachy Lynch  
(Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Congo



1964-1968  
Isabel Edelen (U.S.A.)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Mexico/Central America



1964-1969  
Kathleen Murphy (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Central America



1964-1969  
Brendan Shorthall (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Tanzania



1965-1969  
Juana Mateu (Spain)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Bolivia



1965-1969  
Vincent Ryan (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Nigeria



# Legion Envoys Around the World



1966-1968  
Maurilyn Landers (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to South Africa



1966-1969  
Jean Gillespie (Scotland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Mexico



1966-1969  
Frances O'Malley (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Sweden



1966-1971  
Ann Murray (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Peru



1966-1972  
Lina Vacarro (Argentina)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Brazil



1967-1970  
Gerry McLarnon (Ireland)  
Zambia/Malawi



1968-1971  
Dick Soulliere (U.S.A.)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Mexico



1968-1971  
Freda Coyne (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Ecuador



1968-1972  
Pauline Morrison (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Argentina



1968-1973  
Dan Hourigan (Australia)  
Envoy to Uruguay



1969-1989  
Julio Cesar Cirillo  
(Argentina)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Uruguay/Ecuador/  
Central America



1970-1974  
Roberta Connon (Scotland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Chile/Argentina/  
Mexico



1971-1975  
Barbara Hopper (England)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Ghana



1973-1977  
Mary Murphy (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Kenya



1974-1977  
Robert Menner (Australia)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Japan



1974-1975  
Terence McGuckin (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Tanzania

# Legion Envoys Around the World



1974-1977  
Margaret Brodigan (Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Malawi



1979-1986  
Socorro Cruz (Philippines)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Thailand



1980-1983  
Perlita S. Chongko  
(Philippines)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Japan



1983-1988  
Herman Mazuelo Leyton  
(Bolivia)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Latin America



1988-1990  
Clair Connolly Pater  
(Ireland)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Poland



1995-1998  
Maria Smilga (U.S.A.)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Lithuania



2008-2011  
Bernardo De Nardo  
(Argentina)  
Served as an Envoy  
to Armenia/  
Kazakhstan/Nepal



THE SERVANT OF GOD  
ALFIE LAMBE



THE SERVANT OF GOD  
FRANK DUFF



VENERABLE  
EDEL QUINN

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.

## Servant of God

# ALPHONSUS LAMBE

*By Fr. Gerry McCloskey*



On 21st January 1959 Alphonsus Lambe (more commonly known as Alfie) died in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It was significant that his death occurred on the feast of St. Agnes. ‘Agnus’ means ‘lamb’ in Latin. Alfie, during his time in South America, was affectionately known as ‘El Corderito’ – which means the little lamb. He was lamb-like in personality, according to all accounts being childlike in his love for the Blessed Virgin. He had a short life being only 26 when he died, but he managed, in that time, to squeeze in so much, especially in the last six years.

Alfie was born on June 24th 1932 in Tullamore, Co. Offaly during which time the Eucharistic Congress was going on in Dublin. By the age of thirteen he had decided that he wanted to enter Religious Life. In 1949 he entered the novitiate of the Irish Christian Brothers in Dublin, Ireland. Sadly, after a year, he had to withdraw because of ill-health. Alfie was broken-hearted; but God and Our Lady had other great plans that would allow him to discover his true vocation. During his time in the novitiate, Frank Duff, the founder of the Legion of Mary had come to visit and had spoken to the novices of the Legion and its work. What Frank said made such a deep impression on him that when he had to leave the

novitiate, the first thing that he did was to join the Legion of Mary. Alfie took to it ‘like a duck to water’.

Within months, he was working in the Morning Star Hostel, Dublin, as a live-in brother. Within a couple of years, he was working with Concilium helping to support the Legion all over Ireland. He got to know Frank Duff who, seeing his great potential, appointed him as Legion of Mary Envoy to South America.

On July 13th 1953, Alfie set out for South America. He arrived in Bogota, Columbia, where the first task-in-hand was to learn Spanish. Quickly and quite easily he became proficient in both Spanish and Portuguese.

By November of that year, he went to Ecuador. There he got to know a bishop who arranged for him to speak to the Bishops Conference; they gave him free licence to go around any parish in Ecuador, in order to promote the Legion. The lay people were delighted to be empowered, as they saw it, in spreading the Gospel. In a matter of months, Alfie had begun many praesidia.

Following in the footsteps of Christ, he was always on the move. His work took him to other parts of South America; to Uruguay, Bolivia and Brazil. Once he had set up these praesidia, he would move on, handing over the rest of the work to the new South-American members, who soon

learned the Legion system. At one stage Alfie was helping to form a 100 praesidia per month. It was his love for Our Lady that drove him on. In 1958 he fell ill. By this stage he was working in Argentina. They had thought at first that he had an ulcer, but the actual diagnosis was lymphoma (cancer) of the stomach. After his death the following January, he was laid to rest in the plot of the Irish Christian Brothers in Buenos Aires.

He had a very short, but oh so fruitful life! Even in that last year, not thinking that he was going to die, he was learning Russian, because he had hoped to be sent to Russia in order to spread the Legion there.

His cause for Beatification was completed on March 26th, 2015 by Vice Postulator Father Oliver Skelly who was quoted as saying:

*'His life was nothing short of miraculous. His enthusiasm and zeal for bringing people to Christ through Mary makes him a role-model for young people, members of the Legion of Mary, and all Irish men and women.'*



Please pray for the cause of his beatification, which is slowly advancing. Although there already have been many little miracles attributed to his intercession, they still need an officially recognised miracle. I have heard of some who have been praying to Alfie who have experienced his help in all sorts of different and troubling situations.

### **Prayer for the Beatification of the Servant of God Alfie Lambe**

*O God, who by your infinite mercy inflamed the heart of your servant, Alphonsus Lambe with an ardent love for you and for Mary our Mother; a love which revealed itself in a life of intense labour, prayer and sacrifice*

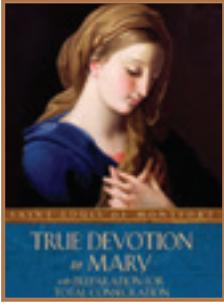
*for the salvation of souls, grant, if it be your will, that we may obtain, by his intercession, what we cannot obtain by our own merits. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen*

# The Spirit of the Legion



*By Immaculate Heart of Mary Praesidium Limavady*

*Now that we have reached the Centenary of the Legion, it is clear the significant role we have as legionnaires in the modern world.*



The Legion is not just another organisation. After reading St Louis Marie-de-Montfort's Book: 'True devotion to Mary', Frank Duff was inspired by the Holy Spirit to form the Legion. He noted that personal sanctification was to be our main aim if we are to grow in the spirit of the Legion. This enables us to proclaim Christ to the modern world. As Frank Duff puts it: 'a faith which will conquer and lead us forth united' (concluding prayers).

## *The opening prayers of the meetings begin:*

In the name of the Father, etc.

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,  
and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and they shall be created.

And you shall renew the face of the earth.

## *Let us pray;*

God our father, send out the gifts of your Holy Spirit on the world.  
You sent the Spirit on your church to begin the teaching of the gospel:  
now let the Spirit continue to work in the world through the hearts of all  
who believe. Through Christ our Lord, *Amen*.

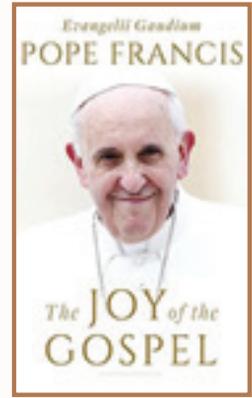
When Frank Duff selected this as the opening prayers, he had everything in perspective. The Trinity was invoked in his fullness. The presence of God motivated his thoughts. He must have acquired this through fervent participation in the liturgy. The liturgy reminds us of the dogma of the Blessed

Trinity and this mystery is revealed to us by God's essential and intimate life. It recalls our beginning and our end, God's eternal life and the immortality of our souls. The liturgical soul lives by the thought of eternity and in the light of eternity. The salvation of souls was the thought behind the Legion.

In *Evangelii Gaudium* - The Joy of the Gospel - Pope Francis writes:

With the Holy Spirit, Mary is always present in the midst of the people. She joined the disciples in praying for the coming of the spirit (Acts 1,14) and this made possible the missionary outburst which took place at Pentecost. She is the Mother of the Church which evangelises; without her we could never understand the spirit of the new evangelisation. In chapter five, page 259 Pope Francis writes about spirit-filled evangelisers (that is the challenge for legionaries.) At Pentecost, the spirit made the Apostles go forth from themselves and turned them into Heralds of God's wondrous deeds. Only with the spirit do we have courage to proclaim the newness of the Gospel and to be convinced even when we meet opposition. Let us call on Him today firmly rooted in prayer, for without prayer all our activity risks being fruitless and our message empty. Jesus wants evangelisers who proclaim

the good news, not only words but above all lives transfigured by God's presence. Frank Duff states that to grasp a doctrine, practise it; this is the challenge



which faces all legionaries, but it is the spirit of the legion which was foremost in Frank Duff's mind when he was inspired to commence the organisation. Thankfully the Legion spread worldwide thanks to the spirit of God and our departed legionaries who co-operated in obedience to take it to far countries. Those legionaries are still with us in spirit in the church triumphant (communion of saints). This fills us with courageous zeal for the warfare, knowing we are not alone. The spirit unites us; how good and pleasant is it to dwell in unity.

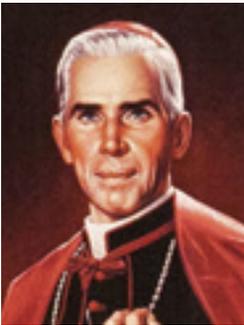


*In Psalms 132 we read;*

*The Divine cry  
The cry of the Holy Spirit.  
The cry of the prophesy  
That was heard in Judea  
Has now been heard throughout  
the world.*

In the present situation in which we find ourselves, it is difficult to promote the Holy Spirit. In the Ratzinger Report 1984, Pope Benedict XVI puts it: "Today more than ever, the Christian must be aware that they belong to a minority, and they are in opposition to

everything that appears good, obvious and logical to the spirit of the world as the New Testament calls it. Among the most urgent tasks facing Christians is that of regarding the capacity of non-conformity i.e., the capacity to oppose many developments of the surrounding culture. That doesn't mean that Pope Benedict wants Christians to cut themselves from the world. Rather he wants them to be in the world but not of the world; to find as he once memorably put it that none-too easy balance between a proper incarnation in history and the indispensable tension towards eternity.



Archbishop Fulton Sheen said in his prophesy over fifty years ago: "it is so true in our present age that our nation is so full of people who cry down, down with churches, down with teachers, down with governments down, down, you cannot build anything down. We must begin to use the word up, up from all this filth, up from injustice, up from indifference up, up to God. We must build up if we are to proclaim the Kingdom of God (third luminous mystery.) The destruction of order is everywhere; the more we increase in faith the more we are equipped to overcome the worldly evil. Bishop Sheen says: "Moses wrote, 'as the eagle stirs among its young, God stirs among the Nations.' We must give our wills to God so that He can lift us up." Bishop Sheen loved poems; his favourite was 'Lovely Lady dressed in Blue; it ends thus:

### *Lovely Lady dressed in Blue - Teach me how to pray*

Frank Duff built the Legion on the model of the Roman army. He knew that we would have to fight spiritual battles. The task facing us today is great if we are serious about capturing again- Belief in God and the dignity of man. Handbook page 305 chapter 33.

*Legionaries must be forefront in the church's battle.*



The Holy Spirit puts victory at our disposal in the battle of the Church. With this in mind we should be an inspiration to the whole Church by the trust and courage with which we take in hand the great problems and evils of the day.

Now that we have reached the Centenary may all legionaries grow in the Legion Spirit, so that the wisdom with which Good St. John XXIII was inspired to start the Second Vatican Council may be appreciated worldwide. So that the Vatican II documents may be implemented the way the Holy Spirit intended them. I'm sure that thought was foremost in Frank Duff's mind when he sat in on the sessions of the Council at the invitation of St Paul VI. The legion can accomplish this if the Spirit of the Legion is renewed as the Spirit of the Legion is Mary herself (Handbook page 12-3).



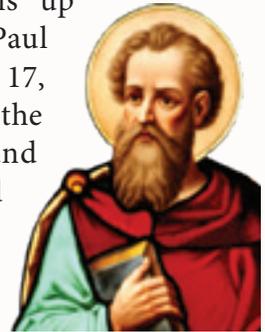
Pope Paul VI and Frank at the  
Second Vatican Council

The Lord is King and ruler of all the earth (Psalm 95.) They were singing a new hymn in front of the throne in the presence of the lamb (CF Rev- 14.3)

*Psalm 96:*

*O sing a new song to the Lord  
Sing to the Lord all the earth  
O sing to the Lord bless his name.*

To sum all this up we quote St. Paul (Ephs. 3, 10, 16, 17, 18 ,19) So that the sovereignties and powers should learn only now through the Church, how comprehensive



God's wisdom really is exactly according to the plan which he had from all eternity in Christ Jesus our Lord. God has endowed the church with mighty graces that even the angels can see God's plan unfold through the Church. Out of his infinite glory, may he give you through his spirit for your hidden self, to grow strong so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith until knowing the love of Christ you are filled with the utter fullness of God.

*Mary, Light of the world, Spirit of the  
Legion, show us the way.*



*Immaculate Heart of Mary Presidium  
Limavady - Our Lady of Zion Curia*

# Address at Acies Ceremony



By Fr. Eamon Devlin C.M.

*This address was given at the Virtual Acies of Bethlehem Curia in St. Francis Xavier Church, Upper Gardiner Street, Dublin 1, on Saturday 27 March 2021*

All hearts Lord are in Your hands. You can bend as You choose the most obdurate and soften the most hardened. Do that honour this day to the blood, merits, wounds, names and inflamed hearts of Your Beloved Son and His Most Holy Mother by granting the conversion of the whole world.

"Nothing less my God, nothing less because of Mary their mother, because of your mercy and your might."

Many of you will recognise that prayer as Frank Duff's prayer for the conversion of the world. It is a prayer that deserves to be more widely known and prayed, particularly among legionaries as it captures much of the spirit of the founder and of the Legion itself, not least its boundless confidence in the power of God's grace and the efficacy of Our Lady's intercession: "nothing less my God, nothing less."

Throughout the handbook we are exhorted to look to the indomitable Faith of Our Lady and her humility: the two great virtues which attach her completely to the plan of God and in such a way that she is completely at

the disposal of Divine Providence. The conversion of the whole world is therefore no fanciful goal because it is the work of God through Mary. And for us in the spirit of Mary it is something for which we long and live and ask her to assist us in playing our part in making it a reality.

For more than 12 months now legion work like all other activities have been severely curtailed by the requirements of high levels of restrictions in the fight against virus infection (coronavirus, Covid-19). In this Centenary Year of the Legion let us identify ourselves with the challenges that faced those first legionaries in 1921 as they gathered around the first Legion altar and dedicated their efforts to her powerful intercession. Ireland and the world were in the aftermath of the most destructive and harrowing of wars just ended in late 1918; Ireland itself was in the throes of civil convulsion arising from the Easter Rising and its aftermath, the War of Independence. A worldwide flu, festering no doubt on the back of the depression and war had swept the world bringing more deaths to millions.

Poverty, division, unemployment, homelessness, dreadful housing conditions were endemic. Into this stepped those first legionaries armed with the indomitable Faith of Mary and wrapped in her humility, which engendered profound trust in Providence. The challenges facing the first legionaries were as daunting if not more so than those we face today, but the means we have to face them are those same gifts of God and Mary.

How then can we as legionaries work for the conversion of the whole world in the face of so many challenges?

First and foremost, prayer remains our source of strength; would legionaries consider adding Frank Duff's prayer for the conversion of the world to their daily prayers, even disseminating it to auxiliaries, family, friends: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matt. 18:20). "Ask and it will be given you: seek and you will find, knock, and it will be opened to you" (Matt. 7:7).

Much of the work practices of legionaries are on hold: visitation of homes, hostels, street contact, clubs, *Exploratio Dominicalis*, extension, congresses, *Peregrinatio Pro Christo*, even weekly meetings: -

- ▶ Continue contact with people we have got to know in our visitation areas through phone, modern devices, or by letter. This helps reduce isolation and it is so encouraging

when people know they haven't been forgotten,

- ▶ Continue to provide legion literature, including the three causes and, with the proper permission, in churches that are open for private prayer,
- ▶ Care for public shrines of Our Lady in our visitation areas by keeping them tidy: plant flowers, etc., because people who are out and about are more likely to linger and perhaps pray these times,
- ▶ Encourage people by call or letter to tune into Mass, religious programmes e.g. Radio Maria and raise awareness of parish services that are available on-line,
- ▶ Reach out to bereaved families in your parish by sending a card or message to be passed on to the family at the time of funeral and contact them again at the time of the Month's Mind.

The pandemic and the restrictions (which are now being eased bit by bit) necessary to suppress it are both a challenge and an opportunity. As legionaries we pray daily for the faith of Mary "that fullness of faith to which it is given to conquer the world." As we renew our personal and communal consecrations to Our Lady today let us pray that we will be instruments of that faith in action: courageous, firm, lively, on fire and indomitable.

# From Heuston to Mexico

By Charlene McQuitty



It was 1998, my legionary husband, Holly, and I were praying about doing something special for our 25th wedding anniversary. And special it was! We heard that the Houston Legion of Mary was organizing an evangelization mission called the Peregrinatio Pro Christo, PPC, to San Luis Potosi, Mexico. And so, we signed up. Prayer answered.

I began reading about the PPC in an article written by the Servant of God Frank Duff, entitled: "Some Peregrinatio Principles." It begins: "St

Augustine tells us that the heart

of man is made for God and is restless until it finds repose in Him..." We could see in that

thought of the great saint the main driving power for the

Peregrinatio. The adventure

immediately took root in my heart and soul. There was a sentence he wrote that I found unforgettable: "At times it may seem that we have to force our way through a very mountain."

That mountain had a name, Sierra Madre! Two vans filled with legionaries from Houston and one van from the Dallas area departed downtown Houston in June of 1998 for a little town called Ahuacatlán de Jesús in San Luis Potosi, Mexico - a short 19-hour drive across the border. Getting to the

border was no problem. Getting across the border, however, was a problem. Although we could see the mountain, we could not pass.

The team leaders spent considerable time in the border patrol office trying to figure out what they needed to do to get the three vans into Mexico. Sitting outside the office, the legionaries were anxious as the young border patrol officers walked back and forth with their big guns and hardened countenances. Ah, of course, Our Lady came to the rescue!

Having 10,000 Miraculous Medals in the vans, the thought occurred to us, that we had a few to spare. Removing a small bag of medals, we said a prayer and then began to offer them one - by - one to those patrolling. Soon, the hardened faces seemed to be having a meltdown as by this point most of them had been given another weapon which was out of this world: the Miraculous Medal! Their austere attitudes seem to be dissipating into thin air, and so was our anxiety. It truly seemed like a miracle.



*“For the natural limitations do not exist in the supernatural order.”*

*Legion of Mary Handbook, Chapter 37, page 232. Peregrinatio Pro Christo*

Soon there was good news and bad news. One van was cleared to enter Mexico and drove off disappearing in the distance. The second van had incorrect paperwork and was rented by a legionary named Bobby. Holly and I were riding in the third van belonging to our legionary sister, Gina. It was cleared for entry; however, there was the decision to go on or stay with the second van. We decided to stay with our brother and sister legionaries. We prayed that the Holy Spirit would enlighten us, to clear the path, to move us all to the other side of the mountain.

Making the best of the situation, we checked in to a comfortable hotel near the border crossing.

All of us eagerly met in the hotel lobby waiting to hear from Bobby on what we were going to do regarding the van. But where was Bobby?

Gloria, Bobby’s wife, then confessed what he had done. Bobby had waited until after dinner when all of us were retiring to our rooms, and then he decided to drive all the way back to Houston to secure the required paperwork needed to cross the border. Mission accomplished; he was on his way back to our hotel.

Crossing the border with ease, the two vans entered a majestic land of overwhelming beauty traveling through the mountains as if it was

our destiny. It was late afternoon when Bobby drove off the main road. The sound of church bells became very distinct, and we knew that was where we were headed. When the dust cleared, we saw a lovely little church, and surreal as it all was, a villager yelled out in excitement: Señor Bob; They knew him!

Mass was about to commence, and the priest was ecstatic to see his friend, Señor Bob. He invited us to bring the 10,000 Miraculous Medals to the foot of the altar and at the end of Mass he blessed them. Afterwards, we gave Miraculous Medals to all who wanted them. A very generous parishioner invited us to her home and provided accommodations for all of us for the night. It surely was Divine Providence since none of us, except Bobby, knew exactly where we were or where we were going to spend the night. Jesus, I trust in You!

A restful night prepared us for the final stretch to Ahuacatlán de Jesús somewhere in central Mexico. The seminarian who was traveling with us was at the wheel when we finally arrived at our destination. He stopped to ask a young man for directions to the church. All those in the van who spoke Spanish burst out laughing as to the directions: “Keep driving straight and you will run right into the Virgin, (statue) and then make a right turn.”

Oh yes, I guess you could say that we all had made a right turn as right into the loving arms of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Everything seemed surreal at this point. The village nestled high in the mountains was simply majestic. The landscape was breathtaking. The flowers were large and fragrant and seemed to be everywhere. It was a humble and poor little place, but so rich in the things not of this world.

As we pulled up to the church, we realized that it was a compound consisting of the church, rectory, a few apartments that would soon be our accommodations, the dining room, kitchen area, the convent and the nuns' chapel. None of us realized that we were about to meet the most unforgettable priest from Austin who was lovingly known as the Rosary Priest.

Each morning we awoke to the sound of "Who is she that cometh forth as the morning rising, fair as the moon terrible as an army set in battle array"

- the Catena prayer that became our daily wake-up call. The adventure of the Peregrinatio Pro Christo was just beginning!

Our meals were prepared each day by the cloistered nuns who lived on the compound. I quickly learned how to thank the sisters in Spanish. This became my personal mission after each meal. *Gracias, la comida está muy rica* I so proudly said and received a humble, holy, smile in return.

We could hardly contain our excitement as we grabbed the brown bag lunches that the sisters had prepared for us and climbed into the van to make our way up the mountain. Halfway up, those of us who were not in top physical shape were dispatched two-by-two to begin our visitations working our way down the mountainside. The others, including my husband, were driven to the top of the mountain, and they also were dispatched in pairs.



My partner was a Deacon from Houston.

We stumbled on our first little home. It was a simple structure on a cement slab that I later would realise was rare in this area. The Deacon greeted the lady in Spanish. She invited us in, and we immediately saw a little altar of Our Lady of Guadalupe with beautiful flowers. Ave Maria! And those dogs that sounded like wolves were just a smoke screen to keep us away.

All week we spent visiting the villagers in their little dwellings that had dirt floors with walls that didn't even connect leaving large air spaces.

It was good for the summer months and bad for the winter. The women cooked on what looked like little iron fire pits on the ground. Many women whom I met were probably in their 50s like me. It was difficult to watch their labour as my thoughts wandered to my recent desire to update my very own kitchen.

Forever holding a special place in my heart is that practically every home we visited had an altar of some kind to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Oh, how the people love her!

My husband shared his story of an encounter with a man and his young son who was about seven or eight years old. The little boy was obviously so sad, and the father explained that his wife, the boy's mother, had abandoned them

for a better life in the United States.

How hard it is to look in the eyes of suffering children! He gave them Miraculous Medals, Catholic literature, and prayed with them. Holly had a special Holy Card of the Blessed Mother. He leaned over to the little boy and looked into his tearful eyes and said: "She is your Mother now" as they prayed the Hail Mary together.

It was a moment in time, a holy moment, a spiritual connection, an unforgettable encounter that remains alive in his heart to this day. How many adults today could identify with that little child.

This was a heartbreaking situation, but a beautiful example of Our Lady's Motherhood of souls.

Legion of Mary Handbook,  
Chapter 6, #3 page 32.

A lady whom we visited and prayed with wanted to show her appreciation for our visit and reaching into a jar she removed one coin. Beckoning her young son, she asked him to walk to the store to get us a soda. Understanding that the store was quite a distance up the mountain, we politely declined much to the little boy's delight. All I could think about is how at home we reach into our refrigerators and grab a soda or drive through one of the many fast-food places and order a burger and a drink. I struggled to hold back the tears. We could plainly see that the



clear-glass jar held only that one coin that she was so willing to spend on us.

The Rosary Priest celebrated Holy Mass for us every evening followed by our Legion of Mary meeting complete with prayers and reports. Occasionally, Father joined us for meals, and we learned that it was he who was responsible for the compound where we were staying, and for the many legion groups that we were encountering during our daily visits with the villagers.

One afternoon, as we were making our way down the mountain, we came across a small group of people gathered under a covered area praying the Rosary; and then we saw it: a Legion of Mary altar! Yes, they were having a Legion meeting! I soon met the praesidium secretary. We had our photo taken together because I too was a praesidium secretary. Everything was the same and yet everything was so different!

The days were filled with so many experiences especially with the children on the mountain. I later found out why so many of our legionaries seemed to be famished at dinner. It was because many of them gave their lunches that the nuns had prepared for us each day to the children on the mountain who were hungry, very hungry. Oh Lord, I realized all the food I have wasted throughout the years, and I began to cry tears of regret.

One afternoon, we were finishing our

visitations for the day when, sadly, the vehicle we were riding in spooked a cow whose owner was trying to keep it contained and calm. Then the unbelievable happened! The cow ran off the cliff to its death. Can you imagine this? That cow represented a large portion of the owner's income. Bobby stopped the van jumping out to talk to the very upset villager. I am not sure what he said or if he tried to compensate him in some way, but we did see him wiping away the tears.

On Saturday we saw many a young lady walking down the mountain dressed in lovely festive long dresses. What was the occasion? It was a *quinceañera*, a celebration of a girl's 15th birthday. On Sunday, we witnessed many people on foot and on donkey and horse coming down the narrow roads for Mass. Each of us had a bag of the blessed Miraculous Medals, and on this day, it was as if we were giving so many away that it felt like sowing seeds on the mountainside.

On the way back to the compound, I spotted a little boy whom we knew by the name of Oscar. His jaw was swollen big from an infected tooth, and his sad eyes followed our faces in the van window as we pressed our hands against the glass as if to wave goodbye. Do we not see Jesus in the poor, the broken, the suffering and the forgotten... do we? On the last day of our PPC, our van traveled to a different area.

When we reached the little village, Bobby, helped me out of the van and said: "This is it kid, pray your heart out." What did he mean? There are no words to describe the poverty we witnessed there. The little huts that they called home all had dirt floors, no running water, and makeshift walls of flimsy material; and many were multifamily dwellings. The trees, flowers, shrubs, and the greenery covering the mountainside of God's gorgeous creation snapped a permanent memory in my mind. Sitting with a family of several generations, I participated in the Rosary as I gazed upon the blind grandfather holding the brightly colored red-plastic beads that we had distributed praying "Ave Ave Ave Maria." It was as if we could touch the clouds because they seemed so close. I thought how sad it was that he could not see the bright red beads, but then I realised it had been myself who could not see prior to our time on the mountain. My eyes were opened on the mountain. It reminded me of the song: "Open my heart I want to see Jesus."

On Saturday morning, we loaded our gear in the van as our time had ended. The last item to be packed up was the Legion of Mary altar. Our team leader asked me if I thought this had been a great experience. My answer was "amazing" and how it must continue year after year. "But who will continue this?", I asked. She lifted the lovely statue of the Blessed Mother from the

altar and placed it in my hands with Our Lady's face staring right at me.

With mixed emotions, we said goodbye to the priest and the small group of nuns who had worked all week preparing our meals. They were holy women whom I could never forget. I wanted to give them my one line thank you just one last time when suddenly all of them broke out in a sing song chorus *la comida está muy rica* followed by a burst of laughter! In joy and tears we slowly drove away.

As we crossed the border into the United States, I gazed out the window and my first sight was a very large shopping mall. A shopping mall that suddenly seemed so empty. I was blind, but now I see. `Everything looked the same, but now everything was different. The Peregrinatio Pro Christo, Pilgrimage for Christ, to Mexico, was transformational and never to be forgotten.

The impact of this PPC was so profound that Holly and I had etched on our grave marker St. Augustine's famous quote: "Our hearts are restless until they find rest in You" as it lay waiting until God calls us home.

*And this is how my husband Holly and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary.*

**Que Viva Maria!**  
**Viva La Virgen de Guadalupe!**

# Images of the Virgin Mary in World Cultures

## *The Editor*

Living in the West-Europe and America - we take our images of the Virgin Mary from great Renaissance artists such as Raphael, Leonardo, Titian, El Greco and Velazquez. All too often we tend to overlook the fact that in other cultures the Mother of God is seen through quite different eyes. This is especially the case in depictions of Our Lady in Mexican Folk, Native-American, Afro-American, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese and Korean.

These images are not especially familiar to Western eyes, but beautiful and authentic in the cultures from which they originate.

Since the Legion of Mary has spanned the globe with councils in each of the five continents, it is fitting in this Centenary Year to include images of the Virgin Mary as depicted in various cultures throughout the world.

Hereunder are images of our Mother Mary as depicted in cultures as diverse as those mentioned above.

By becoming more familiar with the great variety of images from world cultures, in addition to our western images, we may better appreciate the fact that our Blessed Mother is indeed the Mother of all Mankind.



*Native American*



*Africa*



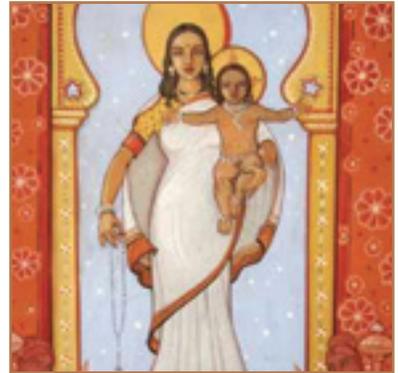
*China*



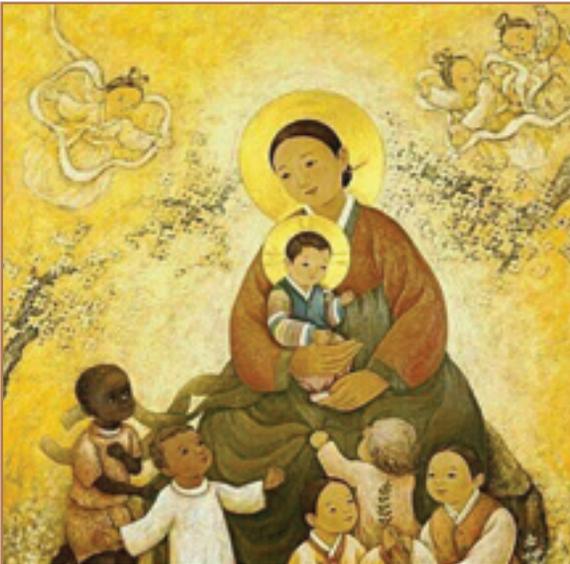
*Ethiopia*



*Japan*



*India*



*Korea*



*Mexican Folk*

# *Our Lady of Beauraing*

*By Brendan O'Donoghue*

The thirty-five apparitions of Our Lady to five children in 1932/33 at Beauraing, Belgium are not well known outside of mainland Europe. So how did a praesidium in Kilmacud Dublin take this name?

In 1957 Monsignor Deery of Mount Merrion-Kilmacud Parish, accompanied by a curate Fr. Fehily, visited Beauraing, and on return a new praesidium was established in the Kilmacud end of the parish. The existing praesidium in Mount Merrion supplied the original members for the new praesidium which became known as the Praesidium of Our Lady of Beauraing.

In 1982 the praesidium, celebrating its own 25th anniversary, which coincided with the 50th Anniversary of Beauraing, organized a pilgrimage to the shrine at Beauraing. Fr. Fehily was the spiritual director of the pilgrimage, and what follows is an extraordinary account of an event which took place between Fr. Fehily and one of the pilgrims named Frank Gallagher who was later ordained a priest.



*By Fr. Frank Gallagher MSC*

In 1978 I had made enquiries about joining a Religious Congregation. Deep down I felt a call to a vocation to follow the Lord as a Missionary Priest.

I wrestled with the idea for quite a long time but one thing or another hindered me. I contacted the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart a number of times since 1978. In 1982 the thought of a vocation resurfaced. I had reached a crucial time: it was now or never. I had seen a notice in a Church porch about a pilgrimage to Beauraing. I believe the Church was Our Lady of Peace Merrion Road. I had and still have a great devotion to Mary and to St Therese of Lisieux.

I decided to go on the pilgrimage in a very quiet way without speaking about what was in my heart and what my intention was in going. I met Fr. Fehily who was the spiritual guide for the pilgrimage, but I never said a word to him about anything. I was on the point of having to make a crucial decision and I was given an ultimatum from the vocation director to come in September.

The pilgrimage progressed and days passed until on the vigil of the Feast a Holy Hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament took place. As I recall, it was the 21st August, the Feast was on 22nd August. I remember going to the Holy Hour troubled in spirit. During the Holy Hour I had resolved to make a decision once and for all. I Prayed.

I said: "If it is your wish that I become a priest then tell me through Fr Fehily. If Fr Fehily says nothing to me about priesthood, I will see it as a sign that I will not take that road."

When the Holy Hour was over, we had just started a walk. I was still very distracted but at peace. I am not sure how Fr. Fehily came up beside me. Then he said to me completely out of the blue: "Have you ever thought about becoming a priest?" I was amazed and totally taken aback. It was

only then I revealed to him my one intention for coming to Beauraing. That was a turning point for me in my life. Fr Fehily later confided to me that he had had no intention of saying that to me: it just came out of him. The decision was made, and I joined the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Fr. Fehily and I became great friends, and he was a great spiritual director to me over the years. He would often come to visit me in our religious house in Mt. Merrion Ave. He was at my ordination and 1st Mass. I have been in South Africa for 31 years now. I am the Regional Superior for Southern Africa for our Congregation.

I wanted to go back to Beauraing in 2007 but I was in a parish near the border with Zimbabwe and a crisis had arisen in Zimbabwe concerning refugees streaming across the border into South Africa; they needed urgent help and assistance. That is the only reason I did not go back. I miss my great friend, but I believe he is still praying for me.

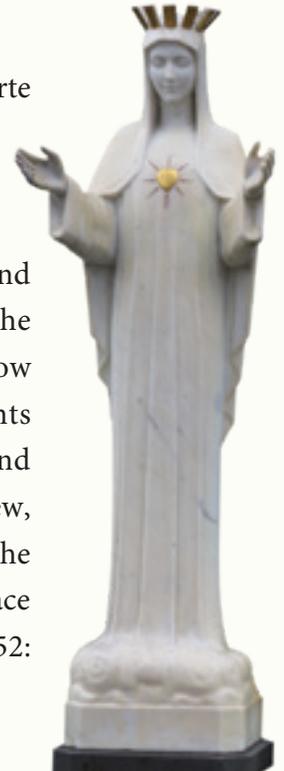




The five visionary children in Beauraing, Belgium, 1933



The youngest of the five children Gilberte Dégeimbre (born 1921) was still alive when the praesidium went again for the 50th anniversary (and Beauraing's 75th) in 2007 and met with the visionary. In 2009 she gave a lengthy interview which is now available on YOUTUBE. She recounts her experience at the time in 1952-53, and her thoughts in later life. At the end of the interview, she was asked to recall Our Lady's face. She said she could never forget that smiling face, and her own face lit up as it had done when Fr. Fehily asked in 1952: "What was Our Lady like?"



# *Acies Ceremony from the Lebanon*



# *Centenary News from Chad*



*This picture was taken at the end of the Mass marking the beginning of the centenary year in the northern province of Mongo with Bishop Abo. Received from Father Sabour Victor, Spiritual Director in Chad.*

# Malta Commemorates the Centenary of the Legion of Mary

By Joe Micallef



*To a certain extent the Covid-19 pandemic created a logistical problem of how to go about celebrating the Legion of Mary Centenary. On the mainland, the Malta Regia opted for parish-based activities with each parish undertaking its respective celebration.*

In my parish of Haz-Zebbug, with a population reaching around the 12000 mark, the event was recalled at the parish church on 7th September 2021. At 6.30pm the opening prayers and the Rosary triggered the proceedings. A concelebrated mass led by the parish priest Fr. Daniel Cardona and the Spiritual Director of our praesidium, Mary Flower of Mount Carmel, Fr. Mario Sammut, followed at 7.00pm. The prayer for the Beatification of Frank Duff was distributed to the congregation and recited as thanksgiving after Holy Communion.

At the end of the mass, the active members of our 11-strong male praesidium and legionaries from the other two parish female praesidia gathered in the parish centre for a modest September Function.

As a souvenir for the centenary, the Malta Regia launched a 13-week radio serial on Radio



Maria Malta to make the Legion of Mary spirituality known to the Maltese at large. The main topics included the influence of the St. Louis de Montfort's Mariology on Frank Duff, the establishment of the Legion of Mary in Ireland a century ago, the spirituality of the Legion, pioneering Maltese legionaries who impacted the spread of the Legion, Edel Quinn and Alfie Lambe, the Gozo Comitium with its plans and commitments, and interviews with officers and members. So positive was the general reception of the programme that the directors of Radio Maria Malta invited Legion members to recite the Rosary live once a week as from the month of October 2021 with the participation of listeners. It will be recited with the Legion prayers and the Prayer for the Beatification of Frank Duff. An encouraging number of members have already volunteered.



Sr. Mary Stenson



Fr. Eamon McCarthy

Additionally, Radio Maria Malta hosted three talk shows with the President, Vice-President and Treasurer of the Malta Regia which were broadcasted monthly from July to September. Then, on 7th September, the very day of the Centenary, in collaboration with Radio Maria Ireland, through the good services of Sr. Mary Stenson, compere of All things Legion, we transmitted a joint programme during which I interviewed her, Bro. Ray Mulrooney and Bro. Noel Lynch. They provided a stimulating insight into their Legion membership. We were grateful to Sr. Mary Stenson and the director of Radio Maria, Ireland Fr. Eamon McCarthy for this opportunity.

Elsewhere, on the smaller sister island of Gozo, the Comitium commemorated the Centenary at the National Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu on Saturday 4th September. The thanksgiving mass was led by H.E. Mgr. Anton Teuma Bishop of Gozo, flanked by several Legion spiritual directors as co-celebrants. The President, Vice-President and Treasurer of the Malta Regia, the mother council with which the Comitium is affiliated,

were the main guests. In his homily, Bishop Teuma extolled Frank Duff's foresight in ushering the apostolate of the laity so early and compared its outreach to Christ's own Gospel-spreading mission. At the end, a token of remembrance was distributed. Otherwise most parishes in Gozo celebrated the defining episode of the Legion's birth in their community on 7th September.

Articles about the Legion of Mary's 100th birthday were published in the mainstream press among which were The Times of Malta and a weekly newspaper of Catholic inspiration. Similar contributions appeared in a number of religious periodicals. On the initiative of the Regia, Maltapost plc, issued a tribute five-stamp set held in a fitting first day cover - the centenary logo, the Servant of God Frank Duff, the Venerable Edel Quinn, the Servant of God Alfie Lamb and St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort.

More importantly, may this centenary serve to instil the spirit and enthusiasm of the founding members 100 years ago so that we may venture to do great things for God and the salvation of souls. Amidst these trying times of the pandemic and widespread secularisation, we invoke Our Lord and His Blessed Virgin Mother so that legionary courage and zeal would not fail us. Meanwhile we pray for perseverance that the Legion may grow stronger with new members.

# Small Miracle at Inchigeela and Tuosist

By Bill Caulfield

*At Whitsuntide 1958 the Legion of Mary held a conference for members on the theme: 'True Devotion to the Nation.' In his address Frank Duff suggested that every citizen had a duty to give some voluntary service to his country on a regular basis.*

Among the attendance was Michael McGuinness, a Dublin legionary, who was acting as *locum tenens* for the doctor in the rural parish of Inchigeela in West Cork. On returning to Inchigeela he decided that this small quiet village would be a suitable place to apply the theory. As there was no praesidium of the Legion in this parish, he applied to Cork Comitium for permission to commence one and asked for volunteers to come and help in the initial stage.

A Cork praesidium was assigned to assist, and members went down weekly to do house -to -house visitation with the new local legionaries with a view to starting a small tourist industry there. Householders who had never thought of entertaining guests were persuaded to give it a try and the legionaries helped them prepare for the venture.

Initially legionaries were encouraged to come on holiday and make allowances for the newness of the operation. They were so delighted with the experience that word spread and people from all over Ireland and the Continent came to the area. The Irish Tourist Board was so impressed that it gave grants for tourist literature, for renovation of the Parish Hall and for changing facilities for swimming in the River Lee. The village began to thrive, and the scheme proved dramatically successful.

Meanwhile, in the parish of Tuosist, Co, Kerry, the Parish Priest, Father John Scanlan, was struggling vainly to rescue his parish and parishioners from the scourge of emigration where the last child had enrolled in the last remaining school. Many parishes along the west coast of Ireland had similar stories. Father Scanlan heard of the Inchigeela venture and wrote to Frank Duff looking for help. They agreed to hold a week-end public meeting on the 8th and 9th of December 1961 in the Lake House. Invitations went out to all parishioners and to what might be termed 'the great and the good' in the worlds of industry, local government

and national politics. There was much lively debate, not all of which was constructive. At the end Frank Duff summed up the proceedings and declared that the solution was in the parishioners' own hands and that it must not be left entirely to outside sources.

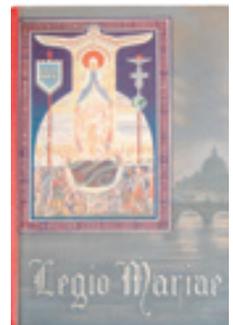
He pledged to provide legionaries to assist a new praesidium of local young men whom Fr. Scanlan had assembled. On 26th January 1962, a red van carrying three legionaries arrived from Dublin to begin operations. It was led by Syd Quinn, a legionary from the Morning Star Hostel, accompanied by Anne O'Reilly an experienced legionary, and Harry Connolly a Belfast legionary - all voluntary. The Cork praesidium which had been involved in Inchigeela put their experience at the service of the new praesidium.

The three legionaries initiated the praesidium into the practice of home-to-home visitation with a view to starting a tourism venture. It was even more difficult than Inchigeela, as the parish had no electricity, water or sewage schemes. The praesidium, under their guidance, turned their hands to interior decoration, domestic economy matters. and friendly persuasion. The scheme was launched on the 16th of March 1962 for St. Patrick's weekend. Legionaries travelled the 200 miles from Dublin and the 65 miles from Cork; and although it was probably the wettest

weekend of the year a wonderful time was had by all. Locals and visitors were charmed with each other; once again word spread, and life returned to the parish as more and more people heard of Tuosist.

Once again Continentals came to Tuosist, particularly from Holland, and some decided to settle down there. Cork legionaries and their families came for weekends or holidays and when rural electrification came to Tuosist, its last parish in Ireland, the parish really took off. All modern amenities followed but most importantly, social life flourished. Marriages followed, schools were re-opened, sporting clubs were revived, cultural life revived, fulfilling the wish of their famous poet of famine times *'Na leig don cainnt breá dul féin gcré.'* (Don't let your wonderful conversation die out).

I had the privilege of seeing this small miracle at first hand. It was the result of the application of two of the Legion's principles: Symbolic Action, taken by Michael McGuinness, and True Devotion to the Nation taken by all the parishioners and legionaries involved. Both principles are fully expounded in the Legion Handbook.



# O Happy Man, Saint Joseph!

By Dominic Dowling

*“O happy man, St. Joseph, whose privilege it was not only to see and hear whom many a king has longed to see, yet saw not, longed to hear, yet heard not (cf. Mt. 13:17); but also to carry him in your arms and kiss him, to cloth him and watch over him!”*

This was the eloquent greeting by Pope Saint John Paul II on his entry to the shrine of St. Joseph at Kalisz, Poland on 4 June to celebrate the Eucharist during the Wroclaw Eucharistic Congress in 1997.

It is part of a beautiful prayer. “I say it every day before Holy Mass and certainly many priests around the world would do so. ...The hands which touch the Eucharistic Body of Christ wish to ask from Saint Joseph the grace of a chastity and devotion equal to that which the holy carpenter of Nazareth showed to his adopted Son” said the Pope.

This reflection on John Paul’s words 25 years ago was occasioned by the news that during this Year of St Joseph which ends on 8th December, Poland’s Catholic bishops had set aside 7 October to entrust the country to the protection of St. Joseph. In preparation, they arranged a ‘Great



Novena’ preceded by a series of talks titled: ‘March evenings with St. Joseph’ given mainly by priests. Already patron of countries such as Belgium, Canada and the Church in China, Poland now regards him as special patron and protector, even though he is patron of the universal Church since 1870.

Here in Ireland, among other events, we have a modest celebration for the Year of St. Joseph that can be seen via the Internet. It was arranged in collaboration with the Avila Carmelite Centre in Donnybrook Dublin, and is basically A Celtic Journey with St. Joseph: Harp, Voice and Strings. It is a presentation by five-lady musicians with *VOX HIBERNIAE*. Sit back, relax, experience the musical presentation and meditate on the spoken words relating to Joseph, Mary and her Son. See [www.youtube.com/c/voxhiberniae](http://www.youtube.com/c/voxhiberniae) and search for ‘A Celtic Journey with St. Joseph.’

## *A gift from the Legion of Mary in Argentina*



This beautiful Icon of the patrons of the Legion of Mary which includes Saint Raphael the Archangel was created by Danila Peralta - a specialist in oriental icons from the Province of Mendoza, Argentina. A gift from the Legion of Mary in Argentina in celebration of the Centenary.



# FRANK DUFF - Messenger of Our Lady of Knock

*By Gretta Flynn*

Shortly after their marriage Dame Judy Coyne with her husband Judge Liam Coyne began to revive an interest in the then almost forgotten Shrine of Knock and brought it to what it is today: Ireland's International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine.

Judy and Liam worked hard to promote the shrine through the Knock Shrine Society, a group they founded in 1935. Six weeks after the Apparition of Our Lady at Knock in 1879 the Archbishop of Tuam, Dr. John MacHale, set up a Commission to examine the evidence of the witnesses of the Apparition and a second Commission was set up in 1936. The findings of this Commission were completed in 1939 but trying to send all the documents to Rome for the Church's official approval came at a worse moment as a world war was imminent.

Just at that time Frank Duff, founder of the Legion of Mary, received an invitation to Rome from Cardinal Pizzardo, the Cardinal responsible for Catholic Action. Though it was an extremely risky time for travelling, Frank agreed to go. Shortly before his departure Frank received a telephone message from the Papal Nuncio in

Dublin requesting him to call to the Nunciature. He was met there by the Nuncio and by Dr. Gilmartin, Archbishop of Tuam. It was entrusted to his care the sealed black-timber box containing these documents and he was instructed to deliver them to a specified office within the Vatican.

Frank was carrying a box of secret documents with only the vaguest knowledge about its contents and inevitably he was treated with the utmost suspicion at every point of his journey. The extraordinary thing about all of it was that despite the danger, and the relentless watchfulness on the part of the authorities, and though everything else he carried was examined thoroughly, at no point along the way was the box opened.

Afterwards, he realised fully the danger he might have been in on such an unsolicited mission, and when eventually he felt free to talk, he talked about it with all its possibilities, embellished by his own special brand of humour. Before that, he said he had not been a great believer in Knock, but after it he was quite convinced that it had at least one miracle.

*"Today I come here because I want all of you to know that my devotion to Mary unites me, in a very special way, with the people of Ireland....."*



It also must have been a great joy to Frank to see Knock Shrine recognised as one of the major Marian Shrines in the world, as well as the chief centre of pilgrimage for the Irish people. Forty years later, after he had taken that precious box to Rome, Pope John Paul II, came as a pilgrim to the Shrine at Knock and said in his Homily: "Today I come here because I want all of you to know that my devotion to Mary unites me, in a very special way, with the people of Ireland..... Standing on this hallowed ground, we look up to the Mother of God and say ..... "Queen of Ireland, Máthair De, keep

Ireland true to her spiritual tradition and her Christian heritage. Help her to respond to her heroic mission of bringing the light of Christ to the nations, and so making the glory of God be the honour of Ireland." And now with St. Pope John Paul II let all legionaries pray this prayer again that the Irish will respond to her mission.

And it is no coincidence that during the year the Legion of Mary celebrates its Centenary that Pope Francis officially recognised Knock Shrine as an International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine.



# Europe Searches for its Soul

by Anni Cech (Former Officer Senatus of Austria)



Probably many legionaries in the world feel the same way as I do: grandchildren are being confirmed and, in addition to a valuable material gift, one would like to give a spiritually valuable one for the occasion. It is rare to find something useful that could somehow show the young people their responsibility as Christians. From Baptism, but even more from Confirmation, the young person is called to be an apostle also for his country, yes, for the world.

When one day I came across this picture of Our Lady with the wreath of stars, I thought: This is it! I'll take that.

I have always been fascinated by the circle of stars on the European flag because it reminds me of our Immaculata: I chose this picture.



Of course, there were some voices who said that this image was not appropriate for children or young people.

The objection may be justified, but as a symbolic step?

Not many Christians, not even adults, are aware of the connection of the European flag with the Catholic Church or with the Legion of Mary. The image is easy to explain - even to young people. (I tried it in the following way) :

The Second World War was a terrible war. The peoples of Europe fought against each other. All wars are terrible but this war resulted in the cruel extermination of some six million Jews in Europe. At that time there was a young Jewish lad from Belgium named Paul Levy. When he had to watch the many transports of Jewish people crammed into trains, and not knowing where they were all being taken, he made a promise to God: "If I survive all this, I promise you, dear God, that I will become a Catholic!"

And he kept his promise, having survived the madness of the war.

When the war ended in 1945, Europe lay divided and in ruins. However, many emerging democratic leaders were determined to rebuild Europe. There should never again be war and destruction and the peoples of Europe should live together in unity and peace.

Then in 1949 A Council of Europe (*Conseil de L'Europe*) was established. Immediately the leaders of the New Europe began to think about a flag; a flag that should show the unity of this New Europe. In 1955 a competition was held to select a suitable flag. There were about 200 usable, good submissions. All countries of the then new Europe had to agree on the flag. However, since not all of them were necessarily Christian, all flags in which a cross could be seen were eliminated. Very many artists had drawn a cross in their design, because for all of them it was clear and self-evident that Christianity was the roots of Europe. And although the roots of many countries were Christian, there were several politicians who did not want the cross in the flag.

One of the many flag proposals came from Paul Levy, the Belgian Jewish young man who had become a Catholic in fulfillment of his promise to God. The flag he had submitted had

the 12 gold stars in a circle against a blue background. Interestingly, the jury of all countries was impressed by it. They understood the 12 (12 = 3x4) stars as a number of perfection, and the circle as the best sign of unity. Everyone could agree with that. Yes, the unity of all countries in perfect harmony. And it was decided to choose Levy's design for the flag.

We do not know what Paul Levy was thinking when he drew the design. Was he thinking of his origin as a Jew? Was the 12 stars a reference to the 12 Tribes of Israel in unity under the leadership of Almighty God? Or had his heart been so broken open by his conversion to Catholicism that he now saw the 12 Apostles and unity through the Catholic Church? Could it be that he had in mind the passage from Revelation where it says: "Then a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet, and a crown of 12 stars on her head." (Revelation of the Apostle John 12/1).

An artist can draw only what he sees within himself and believes to be true. Perhaps he was so overwhelmed by this great vision of the Apostle John that he chose precisely this representation for the European flag! We in the Legion know that nothing happens by chance. God always has a hand in it. Should it be pure coincidence that the vote for the European flag was taken a day

the European flag was taken a day earlier than planned: thus it fell on 8th December! Nobody thought about the fact that due to that decision the vote actually took place on the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception.



For us legionaries, of course, the blue European flag with the 12 stars puts a smile on our faces, because we see the head of the woman at the same time. For us, who come from the school of Frank Duff and St. Louis Maria De Montfort, the European flag is not only a wreath of stars.

We always remember Our Lady when an EU flag is flying somewhere.

A young person who is about to be confirmed cannot learn early enough that there are always heavenly

connections. If today important people honestly try to reunite Europe, which has obviously forgotten its Christian roots, with much human commitment and much money, they will experience that it cannot be done with human power alone. Only the woman with the wreath of stars and the moon under her feet can do it, because she once brought Christ the Savior and will continue to bring Him as long as the world exists. Only if we recognise her again as the Soul of Europe, will Europe meet the challenges of today.

All associations that co-operate with Mary serve the Church, serve Europe, and thus serve the whole world. That is why the small box as a Confirmation gift also contains the descriptions of the three candidates for beatification in the Legion: the Servant of God Frank Duff, the Venerable Edel Quinn and the Servant of God Alfie Lambe. May they be models for every young person. With each and every young person who will model his or her life after holy examples, Europe will slowly regain its soul.



*We always remember Our Lady when an EU flag is flying somewhere.*

# The Legion of Mary Spreads its Wings - 100 years of Legion Apostolate

By Michael Walsh

On the 7th of September 1921, Myra House, number 100 Francis Street, Dublin became the cradle of the Legion of Mary. The St. Vincent de Paul Society owned the house and the local conference held its meetings there. In 1917 a few women were asked to assist this conference in serving free breakfasts on Sundays to poor children. When, later on, the free breakfasts were discontinued, the location became a recruiting-centre for the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association. For this purpose regular meetings were held, at which the prayers from the Vincent de Paul prayer-card were recited, with the addition of the five decades of the Rosary. There was spiritual reading, followed by the Minutes of the previous meeting. Then reports were given by members on recruiting campaigns and any other apostolic activity. There were also discussions on religious-doctrinal subjects, as well as on practical methods of assisting others and doing-good for the Church. These meetings continued until August 1921. Father Toher, one of the assistant priests of the parish, was present at all meetings. With his friend, Father Creedon, he was largely responsible for the developments which later took place.

Amongst the lay-people the guiding spirit was Mr. Frank Duff, who has rightly been recognised as founder of the Legion of Mary. At this time he held a responsible position in the Ministry of Finance, a position which he later resigned to devote all his time to the work of the Legion. More than any other, Mr. Duff was to be instrumental in forming the spirit, forging the constitution, and shaping the destiny of the future movement. One of the frequent topics of discussion at the meetings was Grignon de Montfort's True Devotion to Mary. The idea was very unusual then, almost unknown in fact and not clearly grasped, even by those of the group who were prominent in proposing the devotion. All, however, were so deeply interested in it that a special meeting was summoned for the purpose of discussing it and enabling all to grasp its idea. 'I have often tried to place that particular event; it must have been almost immediately before the start of the Legion. It was just like making an electric connection and something happens.



Fr. Toher



Fr. Creedon

We spent the evening talking about the devotion...Then at once the Legion happened,' said one of those who attended that meeting.

Hot foot on the top of that little meeting two of the ladies who had attended it approached Bro. Duff, and said: "Couldn't something be done to enable us to undertake the sort of work which the St. Vincent de Paul brothers are doing every Sunday morning in visiting the Union Hospital." They were advised to seek support for the venture, and the following Wednesday was decided on as the date of the first meeting.

On Wednesday night, September 7, 1921, at 8 o'clock, fifteen ladies met Bro. Duff and Father Toher in the usual meeting-room in Myra House. What was their surprise to see that she whose name they were to bear was there before them! They came to the meeting ready to serve as soldiers under the banner and patronage of Mary, and, as in the case of all proper armies, the commander was there, ready to receive their enrolments. When they came to the room, the table around which they were to meet and which was usually bare was decked out just as for a present-day praesidium meeting. There was the white cloth and the statue of the

candles. The Queen was waiting for her soldiers. It was the happy thought of one of the earlier-comers, though no instructions had been given. The meeting commenced with the invocation and prayer to the Holy Ghost, followed by five decades of the Rosary. When the opening prayers were finished there was spiritual reading. Then those present sat up, and, without realising it, applied themselves to one of the great historical events of the world, the mapping out of the Legion of Mary.

The first matter raised concerned the auspices under which they were going to work. The unhesitating answer was that they had come together to serve Our Blessed Lady. They then decided on a weekly meeting and weekly active work. The setting of the meeting would be the same, and the prayers would be those they had already said. Finally, as to work, they decided to take on the systematic visitation of the Dublin Union Hospital. They would visit in pairs, a ward being allotted to each pair. This was the first work to be taken in hand, but not the only work. It was agreed that the work obligation could be satisfied by any substantial active work whatsoever, except the giving of material relief.



Immaculate Conception, two vases with flowers, two candlesticks with lighted



Dublin Union Hospital

The St. Vincent de Paul Society was doing that in the right spirit, and doing it well, so there was no need for them to enter in on that domain.



Mrs Kirwan

A President and Secretary were appointed at that first meeting and they both set a pattern for all future officers.

The President, Mrs.

Kirwan, was Australian-born. She was Australia's first contribution to the Legion of Mary and a presage of the considerable part Australia was later to play in Legion fortunes. Mrs. Kirwan was the only elderly person in the room, but she had the affection and confidence of all the young people around her. Amongst other valuable things, she brought the note of poverty into the meeting; she was, undoubtedly, in material terms the poorest person in the room. Thus, she caused the real Legion note to be struck from the start - the absence of all social and worldly distinctions in its membership.

Thus came into being the Legion of Mary as it is today in all its features. Who among them could imagine that they were inaugurating a system which was to be a new world-force, possessing if faithfully and forcefully administered, the power, in Mary, of imparting life, sweetness and hope to the nations! Yet so it was to be.

One of the first major Legion works was tackling the prostitution problem

in Dublin, a project spearheaded by Frank Duff: A house in the inner city, accommodated 31 street girls and it was taken for granted that they were a hopeless proposition, until one day an appeal was made to them. Twenty three of them responded. In a body they went on Retreat to Baldoyle Convent, Dublin and three days later they were taken to a house providentially provided. That house, called Sancta Maria, was the first of the Legion hostels. It opened on July 17, 1922, and had amazing success. Sixteen years later it was found that of the initial number of girls, not one had returned to her old way of life.

The working of this hostel soon focussed attention on Bentley Place, a notorious area of tolerated vice. Bentley Place was an anomaly. In a city steeped in Catholicism, it was one of the world's worst localities. Its evil fame had gone afar and secured it a mention in the Encyclopedia Britannica. Bentley Place was targeted and systematically visited by the legionaries, and eventually completely cleared up. The achievement is an epic of modern rescue work. It has set a standard of heroism for all future legionaries and has demonstrated that no power of evil can withstand the visitation system of the Legion.



Sancta Maria Hostel

Later on the Legion would take on the role of running other hostels. The Regina Coeli and Morning Star hostels in Dublin are examples of such ventures.

By 1924 there were four praesidia up and running in Dublin and a central council was formed to govern them. In November, 1925, this council unanimously agreed that the organisation should adopt for itself the title of Legion of Mary. By 1926 the Legion had established thirteen branches. At the council meeting of May, 1927, the term 'Council' was replaced by the title of Curia. By this time the organisation was growing conscious of its world mission, and it was this, as well as the need for consistency, which later prompted the adoption of other Latin names e.g. Praesidium, Comitium, Regia, Senatus and Concilium.

**1927 - Waterford:** The Legion started its march outside of Dublin when a praesidium was established in Waterford, Southern Ireland.

From that year onwards the Legion advanced rapidly into all the Dioceses of Ireland.

**1928 - Scotland:** The Legion took root in Scotland.

**1928 -** Frank Duff formulated the Legion System in the first Handbook of the Legion of Mary.

**1929 - England:** The Legion started up in England and in subsequent years spread to the rest of Europe.



Mrs. McKenzie-Smith (centre)

**1931. India, Pakistan and Bangladesh:**

The first Legion praesidium in India was started by Mrs. Muriel Mackenzie Smith (*Centre above*) in the Little Flower Convent, Teynampet, Madras, on the 2nd of February 1931. The first Curia was set up also in Chennai in 1931. In Bangalore, the first praesidium started in November, 1936 in Bangalore (Bengaluru), Southern India by Sr. Mary Evorette, a Madras legionary. The first Spiritual Director was Fr. I. Vampenee. The praesidium consisted of 17 lady members. Many senior and junior praesidia were established and later, Curiae and Comitia in Bangalore, and throughout the State of Karnataka. Since its foundation in Southern India in 1931, the Legion has spread from Chennai and Bangalore throughout the State of Karnataka to New Delhi, Bombay, and to the various cities and country areas in India, later crossing borders to such countries as Pakistan, Bangladesh, Ceylon, (Sri Lanka) Burma (Myanmar) and Nepal.

**1931 - British Columbia:** In late 1931 a praesidium was set up among the Cowichan Indians in Duncan, British Columbia, Canada. This praesidium was the result of queries concerning the Legion made by Fr. Neway, S.M.M., the lone missionary of Duncan, who, acting on the advice of the Concilium President in Dublin, decided to try the experiment of introducing the organisation to the Cowichans. In a letter received in Dublin Fr. Neway says: "The Legion is just what I have been dreaming of for years. Little did I think that I would be so favoured as to realise my dream among the local people...."

**1931 - United States:** The first Legion praesidium in the United States was established at Raton, a large mining camp in New Mexico, (a state in the South-western region of the U. S. A.) and was made up solely of men. In 1932 the first Curia in the United States was also established in Raton, with four attached praesidia.

**1932 - United States:** In May 1932, a praesidium comprising women was set up in Webster College, St. Louis, Missouri by Fr. Donovan. By 1933 the first Curia was formed in St Louis.

**1932 - United States:** The first praesidium in Los Angeles was set up in 1932, three months after the St. Louis start-up.

**1932 -** A significant development took place for the Legion in the United States in 1932: American Financier named Bartley Oliver wrote to

Concilium offering financial help to advance the Legion in America. The offer was accepted to fund a legionary over a period of three months and in 1933 Celia Shaw spent three months doing extension work in San Francisco. The mission was so successful that Mr. Oliver offered to fully-fund a full-time worker for three years. As a result, Mary Duffy was sent as the first Legion Envoy to America for three years. When that period elapsed, she was sent for a further three years as Envoy to North America and Canada. During this time (1936), Bartley Oliver funded two further Envoys, Una O'Byrne and John Murray as Envoys to the United States and Canada. By 1938 the Legion was in 75 Dioceses of the United States, with over 600 praesidia. By 1945, 54 Councils had been established, and by 1947, over 100 Councils and more than 1,000 praesidia, in what was then 48 States. In 1940, due to World War 2, Mary Duffy's mission had been extended for another six years until 1946, while John Murray spent a total of ten years as an Envoy, all sponsored by Bartley Oliver. As a result of his generosity, Mr. Bartley Oliver was made a Laureate member of the Legion, the highest honour that can be bestowed on a non-member of the Legion.



Mary Duffy



Una O'Byrne



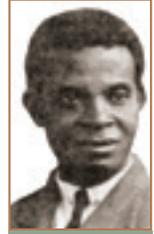
John Murray

**1932 - Australia:** The Legion started in Australia in 1932. Amongst the visitors to Dublin for the International Eucharistic Congress in 1932 was Father Henry Bakker, Parish Priest of Ascot Vale, Victoria. Father Bakker met Frank Duff, who spoke to him about the possibility of setting up the Legion in Australia. Father Bakker attended several meetings and realised the potential of the Legion before returning to Melbourne. Mrs. Gavan Duffy, of Mt. Eliza, Victoria, also visited Dublin in 1932. She had a meeting with Frank Duff and promised to study the Legion's operations in India on her way back to Australia. By February, 1933, she arrived in Melbourne, to find that Father Bakker had already set up a praesidium in late 1932 with the approval of Archbishop Mannix. Mrs. Gavan Duffy then set up the Legion at Frankston, and by the following June a Curia was formed and the following year Sandhurst had its first meeting at Bendigo. Adelaide moved early in the same year; Tasmania and Broken Hill and Queensland followed in the next two years. During the following decade Perth and Sydney had established the Legion.

**1933 - New Zealand:** The first Legion praesidium was established, and was followed by expansion into many zones of the country.

**1933 - Africa:** On September 7th, 1933 - the 12th Anniversary of the Legion's birth, Michael Ekeng, a former slave

from Central Africa was a foundation member of the Legion of Mary and the President of the first African praesidium, President of the first Curia and President of the first Comitium in all of Africa. In the same year a first foundation was made in the Transvaal.



Michael Ekeng

**1934-1938 - Ruby Dennison (Ireland):** Served as an Envoy to South Africa for four years, setting up many new praesidia.

**1934 - West Indies:** The Legion was introduced to the West Indies Islands in October, 1934, with the first praesidium being established in Trinidad.

**1934-1946 - Mary Duffy (Ireland):** Served as an Envoy to USA/Canada. Three years after the first praesidium was set up in British Columbia, a praesidium was founded in October 1934 at St. Joseph's Parish in Ottawa, by Legion Envoy, Mary Duffy, who then went on to Saint John, New Brunswick, at the request of Redemptorist priest. Father Tim O'Sullivan, and set up a praesidium. The first President was May McEvoy and Father Sullivan was the Spiritual Director. Mary Duffy went off to Toronto the next day, leaving the new-born praesidium to develop. Over the following decades the Legion expanded into many other parts of Canada.

**1936-1939 - Una O'Byrne (Ireland).**

Served as an Envoy to U.S.A./Canada, helping to expand the Legion to new areas.

**1936-1944 - Edel Quinn (Ireland):**

Served as an Envoy to East Africa/Mauritius. In 1936, with her health still failing, Edel Quinn responded to a call to go as Envoy to Africa. In November 1936, she arrived in Mombasa, Kenya. Within 14 days she had set up the first praesidium. Within five months, Edel had founded the first Curia. In the period 1937–1940 she introduced the Legion to Uganda, Tanganyika (Tanzania), Nyasaland (Malawi), and Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. She organised the translations and printing of prayers in several languages and dialects. During her many hospital spells she continued her work through correspondence. By 1943, the tuberculosis was well advanced and even Edel had to admit she was slowing down, yet she still continued her travels. By this time hundreds of Legion praesidia were thriving in East Africa and Mauritius.

**1936-1947 - John Murray (Ireland).**

Served as Envoy to Mexico/U.S.A./Canada/Philippines. From their foundations, the Legion in Mexico U.S.A. Canada and the Philippines continued to grow in numbers, praesidia and Councils during his 11 years of envoy-ship.

**1937 - China:** The first praesidium was set up in China by Fr. Hogan.

**1937 - Burma:** The first praesidium was established in 1937.

**1938 - Costa Rica and Panama:** Soon after the Legion was set up in the country in 1938, many new praesidia were established.

**1939 - Malta** joined the ranks of the Legion in 1939 and the Legion grew there and in the islands of Gozo and Comino.

**1940-1950 - Veronica O'Brien (Ireland):**

Served as an Envoy to France/Greece/Yugoslavia. She founded the Legion of Mary in Nevers, France in August 1940. After the war, Veronica travelled throughout France, where she founded multiple praesidia. During 20 years as an Envoy, she helped to establish the Legion in France, Greece and Yugoslavia.



Veronica O'Brien

**1940 - Philippines:** On 21st July 1940, the first praesidium in the Philippines was established at the Hospicio de San Jose in Manila. The first Spiritual Director was Spanish Vincentian Fr. Manuel Gracia C.M. In 1942, the Philippines was quickly cut off from the outside world and for several years - until the liberation in 1945, little news reached the Concilium in Dublin about the development of the Legion in Manila. At the time of the Japanese invasion of the Philippines which occurred during World War II, there was one Curia with twelve praesidia attached. On liberation, it was found

that there was a Comitium, three senior Curiae, a junior Curia, and over one hundred praesidia in the Archdiocese of Manila. A Senatus was later established.

**1942 - Egypt, Syria and the Holy Land** had their first praesidia.

**1943 - Holland:** The first praesidium was set up in Holland in 1943.

**1944-1952 - Dorothy Wynn (South Africa).** Served as an Envoy to South Africa for eight years, advancing the Legion to many new areas.

**1944 - Germany:** The first praesidium was set up in Ravensburg, Germany by a French prisoner of war, Bernard Leon Perlon in December 1944 who, with four convinced Catholics met secretly in each other's homes during the Nazi reign. Amid great turmoil, they started this work. Hilda Firtel joined after the war.

**1945-1948 - Katherine Dickson (England)** Served as an Envoy to East Africa for three years, building on the foundations of Edel Quinn's work and spreading the Legion to new areas.

**1945-1952 - Hilda Firtel (Austria)** Served as an Envoy to Germany for seven years setting up new praesidia and Councils

**1946-1963 - Joaquina Lucas. (Philippines)** Served as an Envoy to South America/Portugal. She established the first praesidium in Chile with the blessing of Cardinal Caro Rodriguez Archbishop of Santiago,

subsequently working in Argentina, Peru, Colombia, and Brazil.

**1947-1957 - Ruby Roberts (South Africa)** Served as an Envoy to Sudan/Egypt for ten years, with good results.

**1947-1950 - Maurice O'Connor (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to West and Central Africa for three years setting up many praesidia.

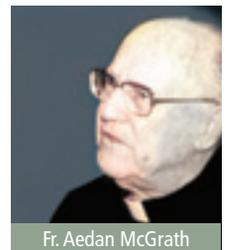
**1948-1951 - Andre Chamagne (France)** Served as an Envoy to Algiers for three years, starting up new praesidia and setting the foundations for new Councils.

**1948-1952 - Anatol Kaszczuk (Poland)** Served as an Envoy to Poland for three years, progressing the Legion everywhere he went.

**1948-1952 - Peter Norman (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to India for four years, extending the Legion to new areas.

**1948-1958 - Teresa Su (Hong Kong)** Served as an Envoy to Indonesia for a total of ten years. Teresa was recruited into the Legion by Fr. Aedan McGrath who from the outset recommended her for envoyship.

**1948 - China:** Fr. Aedan McGrath set up around 2,000 praesidia in Mainland China, mostly in schools between 1948 and 1951. The Legion was subsequently disbanded by the Communists, resulting in many



Fr. Aedan McGrath

priests and legionaries being imprisoned, including Fr. McGrath, who spent two years and eight months in solitary confinement at Ward Road prison, Shanghai before being released in April 1954.

**1948 - Japan:** The Legion was set up in Japan in 1948 and over the years multiple praesidia and many Councils were established.

**1948 - Vietnam:** The Legion started in Vietnam in 1948 under the guidance of Mgr. Joseph Marie Trinh Van Can, the second Vietnamese Cardinal. Today the Legion is present in 26 Dioceses.

**1949-1953 - Henretta Talabot (France).** Served as an Envoy to Belgium, and enjoyed much success in that country.

**1949 - Hong Kong:** As the storm-clouds of unrest moved in over Mainland China, the Legion was set up by Fr. McGrath in Hong Kong.

**1950 - Taiwan:** The Legion was started up in Taiwan in 1950 and subsequently forty praesidia were established throughout the Island by Fr. Ivor McGrath with the help of legionaries.

**1950-1959 - Pacita Santos (Philippines).** Served as an Envoy to Spain for nine years, setting up numerous praesidia and some Councils.

**1950-1959 - Agnes Orelabar. (England).** Served as an Envoy to Japan for nine years, establishing praesidia throughout the country.

**1951-1957 - Cecil D'Souza (India)** Served as an Envoy to India/Pakistan for seven years, setting up several praesidia and Councils in both countries.

**1952 - Macau:** Extension worker, Teresa Su set up praesidia in 1952 and later a Curia in Macau. In 2014, two Concilium Officers visited Macau and found six senior, one junior praesidia and a Curia still successfully operating.

**1952-1956 - Lydia Villegar (Switzerland)** Served as an Envoy to Switzerland for four years, advancing the Legion in many areas.

**1953-1956 - Seamus Grace (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Colombia/Venezuela for three years during which he expanded the Legion in both countries.



Seamus Grace

**1953-1956 - Helen Lamy (Canada)** Served as an Envoy to Canada for three years, adding greatly to the work earlier done by legionaries.

**1953-1959 - Alfie Lambe (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to South America. In 1953 Alfie Lambe was appointed Legion Envoy to South America, and with Seamus Grace arrived in Bogota, Colombia. For almost six years he worked ceaselessly in promoting the Legion of Mary in Colombia, Argentina, Ecuador, Uruguay and Brazil. After a short but grave illness he died in Buenos Aires on the feast of

St. Agnes, 21st January 1959. God had bestowed on him great natural gifts, a personality which attracted souls to the service and love of God, and a facility for learning languages, which enabled him to attain fluency rapidly in Spanish and Portuguese. During his years in South America Alfie set up a great number of Legion of Mary branches, and trained a multitude in the apostolate of the Legion. His devotion to Mary was outstanding, and in contacts with legionaries and others he explained and urged the practice of the True Devotion to Our Lady. He is buried in the vault of the Irish Christian Brothers, in the Recoleta Cemetery, Buenos Aires.



**1953 - South Korea:** Father Henry introduced the Legion of Mary to South Korea in May 1953. The Apostolic Prefect of Kwangju, which covers Naju, helped lay Catholics to establish the Legion in Kyong-dong and Sanjong-dong parishes. Since its foundation in Kyong-dong and Sanjong-dong parishes, the Legion spread rapidly to

other areas, with several new praesidia and many Councils being established.

**1954-1958 - Marie O'Connell (France)**

Served as an Envoy to West Africa with good results, including the setting up of multiple praesidia and many Legion Councils.

**1954-1959 - Ellen Moller (Denmark)**

Served as an Envoy to Denmark, extending the Legion to many parts of the country.

**1955-1960 - Mary Clerkin (Ireland)**

Served as an Envoy to Brazil for five years, travelling great distances to advance the Legion.

**1955-1960 - Joan Lynch (Ireland)**

Served as an Envoy to Thailand/Vietnam/Laos/Cambodia for five years setting up praesidia and Councils everywhere she worked.

**1955-1960 - Delphine Madill (U.S.A.)**

Served as an Envoy to Canada/Haiti/West Indies for five years, setting up new praesidia, and extending the Legion in all three places.

**1955-1964 - Anne O'Connor (Ireland)**

Served as an Envoy to Zaire, (Republic of Congo) for nine years, establishing praesidia and Councils throughout the country.

**1955-1968 - Rose Reynolds (Ireland)**

Served as an Envoy to Wales for thirteen years during which she greatly increased Legion numbers and praesidia in that country.

**1956-1958 - James O'Hanlon (Ireland)**

Served as an Envoy to Norway/Iceland for two years with good success.

**1956-1958 - Paddy Stenson (Ireland)**

Served as an Envoy to South Africa for two years, setting up praesidia and promoting the Legion in various places throughout South Africa.

**1956-1959 - Maria Diepen (Holland)**

Served as an Envoy to Netherlands/Antilles/French Guiana/Suriname for three years, travelling long distances to establish the Legion in all places visited.

**1956-1960 - Eileen Sheehy (Ireland)**

Served as an Envoy to West Africa for four years, working hard and successfully in West Africa.

**1956-1962 and 1970-1972 - Marie**

**Victoire Zacherl (Austria)** Served as an Envoy to Greece/Turkey/Netherlands for a total of eight years.

**1956-1963 - Una Twomey (Wales)**

Served as an Envoy to Bolivia for seven years, during that time advancing the Legion in all zones.

**1956-1965 - Anita Agostini (U.S.A.)**

Served as an Envoy to Mexico for nine years, during that time setting up praesidia and establishing Councils throughout that vast territory.

**1957-1960 - Maureen McPolin**

**(Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to West Africa for three years, increasing Legion membership in many areas.

**1958-1960 - Diarmuid O'Donovan**

**(Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to East Africa for two years, continuing the good work undertaken years earlier by Edel Quinn.

**1959-1967 - Noel Lynch**

**(Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Argentina, taking over from Alfie Lambe and continuing the expansion of the Legion for a further eight years in Argentina.



Noel Lynch

**1958-1961 - Marjorie Quinn (Ireland)**

Served as an Envoy to North Africa for three years, establishing the Legion in many places.

**1959-1960 - Mairead Brady (Ireland)**

Served as an Envoy to Portugal for one year doing good work promoting the Legion in various places.

**1959-1962 - Tadgh McMahon (Ireland)**

Served as an Envoy to Brazil. One year before Mary Clerkin ended her envoyship in Brazil, Tadgh McMahon arrived in the country and continued the work of extension for a further three years.

**1959-1978 - Joan Cronin (Ireland)**

Served as an Envoy to Portugal/Angola/Mozambique/Brazil/Indonesia for nineteen years, making astonishing journeys to establish the Legion in the five countries where she served as an Envoy.



Louis O'Neill

**1960-1963 - Louis O'Neill (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Chile for three years, building on earlier foundations made in various areas.

**1960-1964 - Nuala Burke (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Sudan/Egypt for four years, working successfully in warm climates to progress the Legion in both countries.

**1960-1965 - Dick Maher (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Portugal for five years, setting up many praesidia.

**1961-1963 - Tom Honey (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Brazil for two years continuing the good work done earlier by other Envoys.

**1961-1963 - Pauline O'Donnell (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Madagascar for two years with good success.

**1961-1964 - Fergus Roche (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Mexico/Paraguay for three years. The Legion was later to see great results in both countries from the efforts made by Fergus Roche and other Envoys to those countries.

**1961-1965 - Gerard Reynolds (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Pakistan/India/Burma(Myanmar) for four years with good success.

**1961-1965 - Kathleen Allen (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Thailand/Vietnam/Cambodia/Laos for four years, expanding the Legion in all the areas visited.

**1962-1965 - Joseph Pilendiram (Sri Lanka)** Served as an Envoy to Kenya/Uganda for three years continuing the Legion expansion which started many years earlier.

**1962-1965 - Celia O'Donovan (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to West Africa for three years, setting up several praesidia.

**1962-1966 - Brian McKeown (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Zaire (Republic of Congo) for four years, making great progress in expanding the Legion in that country.

**1962-1965 - Harriet Cullen (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Botswana for three years, setting up praesidia and Councils.

**1962-1965 - Maria Senra (Portugal)** Served as an Envoy/extension worker to Portugal/Angola/Brazil/Cape Verde for three years, continuing the work of early Envoys/extension workers.



Maria Senra

**1963-1968 - Teresa DeRidder (Holland)** Served as an Envoy to Chile for five years, building on earlier efforts by earlier Envoys to Chile.

**1963-1968 - Mary Kennedy (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Canada for five years, setting up several new praesidia.

**1963-1970 - Jerry O'Sullivan (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Venezuela for seven years, during that time greatly increasing Legion membership.



**1964-1967 - Anna Boylan (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Central America for three years, building on earlier advances in the region.

**1964-1967 - Anne Lavery (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Argentina for three years, continuing the good work of earlier Envoys.

**1964-1967 - Vachel Sampson (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Switzerland for three years, setting up new praesidia and Councils.

**1964-1967 - Paddy Fay (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Mozambique for three years, progressing the Legion rapidly in that country.

**1964-1968 - Anna Donachy Lynch (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Zaire (Republic of Congo) for four years. Travelling long distances to set up new praesidia and working tirelessly to progress the Legion in many parts of that vast country.

**1964-1968 - Isabel Edelen (U.S.A.)** Served as an Envoy to Mexico/Central America for four years, expanding the Legion to new areas in Central America.

**1964-1969 - Kathleen Murphy (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Central America for five years, setting up many praesidia.

**1964-1969 - Brendan Shorthall (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Tanzania for five years, spreading the Legion to many zones.

**1965-1969 - Juana Mateu (Spain)** Served as an Envoy to Bolivia for four years, starting up the Legion in several districts.

**1965-1969 Vincent Ryan (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Nigeria, enjoying much success with his expansion efforts.

**1966-1968 - Maurilyn Landers (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to South Africa for two years, setting up several new praesidia..

**1966-1969 - Jean Gillespie (Scotland)** Served as an Envoy to Mexico for three years, building on the foundations of earlier Envoys and expanding the Legion into new areas.

**1966-1971 - Ann Murray (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Peru for five years, starting up numerous praesidia and setting the foundation for new Councils which resulted in the Legion in Peru growing rapidly in the years that followed. Today, the Legion in Peru has numerous praesidia and many Councils.

**1966-1972 - Lina Vacarro (Argentina)** Served as an Envoy to Brazil for six years, following the success of earlier Envoys with expansion into new areas.



**1967-1970 - Gerry McLarnon (Ireland)**

Zambia/Malawi for three years, spreading the Legion to many new places.

**1968-1971 - Dick Soulliere (U.S.A.)**

Served as an Envoy to Mexico for three years, building on the foundations of the earlier Envoys.

**1968-1971 - Freda Coyne (Ireland).**

Served as an Envoy to Ecuador. So striking were the results of the Legion's work that the Bishops declared the Legion of Mary a part of the official apostolate of the Church in Ecuador. Four praesidia were set up in prisons, with the prisoners having an apostolate among their fellow inmates.

**1968-1972 - Pauline Morrison (Ireland)**

Served as an Envoy to Argentina for four years, continuing the work of earlier Envoys.

**1968-1973 - Dan Hourigan (Australia)**

Served as an Envoy to Uruguay, setting up many branches of the Legion and setting a foundation for rapid growth in the following years.

**1969-1989 - Julio Cesar Cirillo**

**(Argentina)** Served for 20 years as an Envoy to Uruguay/Ecuador/Central America for three years doing excellent work in creating new branches of the Legion.

**1970-1974 - Roberta Connon**

**(Scotland)** Served as an Envoy to Chile/Argentina/Mexico for four years, increasing the number of praesidia everywhere she travelled.

**1971-1975 - Barbara Hopper (England)**

Served as an Envoy to Ghana for four years, breaking new ground in many areas.

**1973-1977 - Mary Murphy (Ireland)**

Served as an Envoy to Kenya. Eight years after Joseph Pilendiram's envoy-ship in Kenya, Mary Murphy (current Concilium President)



continued the good work in that country for four years, extending the Legion to many new places in difficult conditions. As in other countries throughout the world where Envoys gave their valuable time to set up new praesidia and Councils, the Legion is vibrant today in Kenya.

**1974-1977 - Robert Menner (Australia)**

Served as an Envoy to Japan for three years, establishing the Legion in many areas..

**1974-1975 - Terence McGuckin**

**(Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Tanzania for one year, promoting the Legion in that country.

**1974-1977 - Margaret Brodigan**

**(Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Malawi for three years, with good success in setting up new praesidia.

**1979-1986 - Socorro Cruz (Philippines)**

Served as an Envoy to Thailand for seven years, travelling extensively throughout that vast country and setting up multiple praesidia and Councils.

**1980-1983 - Perlita S. Chongko (Philippines)** Served as an Envoy to Japan for three years, resulting in the Legion starting up in new areas.

**1983-1988 - Herman Mazuelo Leyton (Bolivia)** Served as an Envoy to Latin America for five years, resulting in many new praesidia.

**1988-1990 - Clair Connolly Pater (Ireland)** Served as an Envoy to Poland for two years progressing the Legion to new areas.

**1994 - Papua New Guinea:** The Legion was started up in New Guinea by a young woman from Kipaku tribe, Christine Alua, in 1994, and has increased steadily over the years extending to Yuri, Nondri and Yobai.

**1995-1998 - Maria Smilga (U.S.A.)** Served as an Envoy to Lithuania.

**2008-2011 - Bernardo De Nardo (Argentina)** Served as an Envoy to Armenia/Kazakstan/Nepal.

*Since 2011 Concilium has assigned many other extension workers to various parts of the world, including Elizabeth Kriss and that work continues to this day with good results.*

*From small beginnings in Myra House Francis Street, Dublin on 7th September 1921, the Legion of Mary, founded by Frank Duff has spread its wings and one hundred years on, continues to be a force for good in the world.*



First Anniversary Meeting 1922

# UGANDA

## Highlights from the Centenary Inauguration and Thanksgiving - Sept 2021

*On Tuesday, 7th September 2021, the Senatus of Uganda celebrated Mass to thank God for the 100 years of the founding of Legion of Mary and also to inaugurate the celebrations that will last one year.*

The President of the Senatus of Uganda in her speech thanked the Church Hierarchy for the continuous guidance, support and encouragement received from Bishops, Priests and Spiritual Directors. She recognised the contribution of the past members and officers of the Legion of Mary and thanked the current officers for the great work they are doing to keep the candle of Legion of Mary burning.

The President of UNCCLA (Uganda National Council of Lay Apostolate), a body that brings together the Laity in Uganda, Mr. Gervase Ndyanabo congratulated the legionaries on behalf of the lay faithful in Uganda for the work they were doing for the Church. He reminded the legionaries that the celebration is not just about the passing of time but the milestone of the many achievements through the Legion of Mary apostolate. He

thanked the legionaries for being a perfect example of what the bishop described in the homily as 'the love of God and the love of neighbor.'

The Senatus Assistant Spiritual Director, Rev. Fr. Ronnie Mubiru welcomed and introduced all the 20 Spiritual Directors present. They included priests from all ecclesiastical provinces in Uganda and a priest from South Sudan. Fr. delivered the messages from the Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda, H.E. Luigi Bianco and that of H.E. Emmanuel Cardinal Wamala. The Spiritual Director extended the gratitude to the late Archbishop Kizito Lwanga and Fr. Walakira for their contribution to the Legion of Mary.



Legion of Mary altar with a Vexillum brought by Edel Quinn to the first meeting of the first Praesidium in Nsambya



Some of the Spiritual Directors after Mass (*above*)  
The Bishop lighting the Centenary Candle (*right*)

The Executive Secretary of the Lay Apostolate Department at the Catholic Secretariat, Rev. Fr. Fred Tusingire congratulated the legionaries upon the Centenary and thanked the officers for working closely with the Uganda Episcopal Conference through the lay apostolate department whose commission, the main celebrant heads. He emphasised the fact that Legion of Mary is not for the old or for the illiterate-it is for everyone. He gave examples of the past presidents of the Legion of Mary that include professors, lawyers among others.

Bishop Paul Ssemogerere thanked everyone present and more especially the Spiritual Directors from different parts of the country. He thanked the legionaries for praying for the Priests and requested them also to pray for the society especially the moral decadence that is present. He made a special request to the legionaries



to continue the culture of visiting hospitals. For those who visit homes, encourage them as it is very important for the evangelisers. He also requested legionaries to support in giving catechesis to the children especially in these trying times of CoVID-19 emulating the Uganda Martyrs that continued the work after the departure of Fr. Simeon Lourdel Mapeera and Br. Amans Delmas. He reminded us in this Centenary, the words of St. Pope John Paul II: "Let us remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm, and look forward to the future with confidence."

# Origin and Development of the Legion of Mary in Rwanda

*By Joseph Gbodzisi and Pascal Akoti*

The Legion of Mary was launched in Rwanda by Monsignor Laurent Deprimoz, Bishop of Kabgayi, on May 24, 1953 on the occasion of the Feast of Pentecost. The first praesidium; 'Marie Secours des Chrétiens' was formed the next day, May 25, 1953. It had eleven members. Father Arthur Dejemeppe; then apostolic vicar, was the first spiritual director of this budding Legion in Rwanda. It is by his letter of 23/12/1953 that he informed the Concilium Legionis that the Legion of Mary is already operational in Rwanda and taking the opportunity to ask the Concilium to recognise and supervise this first praesidium. The first legionary promises took place on August 15, 1953.

Among the spiritual directors of the Legion of Mary in Rwanda who shone through their dedication to the cause of this movement of Catholic action from

an early age, it is worth noting Father Wenceslas de Renesse, Monsignor Innocent Gasabwoya, the Abbot JMV Rusingizandekwe, Father Narcisse Semuroiro, as well as Monsignor André Havugimana who also greatly contributed to the extension of the movement as well as to the development of its headquarters in Kigali.



In his letter of 04/03/1954, Frank Duff the founder of the Legion welcomed the arrival of the Legion of Mary in Rwanda. The first praesidia at the time were directly attached to the Concilium Legionis. For his part, Bishop Léon Suenens, who later became Cardinal, sent the young Legion of Mary in Rwanda a message of support, with the firm promise to send it documents related to the proper functioning of the Legion and its activities.



Spiritual directors in front of the Senatus Headquarters



One of the members of the first Rwandan praesidium, Modeste Mukandagano, passed away on October 14, 2020 at the age of 100. In an interview given a few years before her death to the magazine *Ijwi rya Legio* published biannually by Kigali Senatus, she affirmed that she still managed to pray the complete Rosary every day. "It's my secret to longevity," she said.

As for Mathias Nyandwi, another early Rwandan legionary who passed away on 04/01/2019 after a busy career as a determined, devoted and very active legionary, he, in his intervention during the jubilee of the 50 years of the Legion of Mary in Rwanda, invited the legionaries to devote themselves to true devotion to the Virgin Mary: *a sine qua non* according to him, in order to be able fully to play their roles in connection with the apostolate.

On August 22, 2003, the Legion of Mary in Rwanda celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. The festivities were enhanced by the presence of several Bishops, who surrounded the Apostolic Nuncio in Rwanda Mgr. Salvatore Pennaccio. Two Concilium delegates took part in the ceremonies of this Jubilee, namely Tommy McCabe, then Secretary of Concilium and Janet Lowthe, at the time Deputy Treasurer of Concilium. In their speech for the occasion, they congratulated all

involved on the fact that the number of Rwandan legionaries grew very rapidly from its launch in Kabgayi on May 24, 1953. It is estimated that there were 80,000 active members and 8,000 auxiliary members during the fiftieth anniversary. Today, 18 years later, Kigali Senatus has nearly 115,000 active members and 44,000 auxiliary members. It is currently subdivided into 25 comitia, 550 Curiae and 6,100 praesidia. Had it not been for the Covid 19 pandemic which has blocked almost all of the Senatus' activities, two Regiae would have already emerged in the north and south-west of the country, especially since the Concilium Legionis has already given permission and the Episcopal Conference of Rwanda has granted its blessing.



Senatus officers Joseph and Pascal on a visit to Dublin

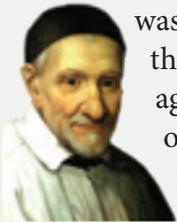


# SERVANT OF GOD, FRANK DUFF

By Fr. Donal Calloway

**O**n September 7th we celebrate 100 years of the Legion of Mary. This is truly a miraculous movement that has spread all over the world. I'm sure Frank Duff could never have imagined what he commenced in that room one hundred years ago would spread throughout the world and change the lives of so many people. It's obvious Our Lady was behind this wonderful initiative. It surely teaches us that if we want to do something for Our Lady, she will help make it happen.

The Servant of God Frank Duff (1889-1980) was born into a wealthy family in Dublin, Ireland, in 1889. During his youth, he was hit in the ear by a cricket ball; consequently, his hearing was impaired in that ear for the rest of his life. At the age of 24, he became aware of the extreme poverty of many people in the cities of Ireland and tried to



make a difference by serving the poor in Dublin through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. This charitable work gave him a desire to lead a more devout Christian life. As a result, he started to attend two Masses a day beginning in 1914 and continuing this practice for the rest of his life.

With his dear friend Venerable Edel Quinn, Duff became a pioneer of lay involvement in apostolic works. He greatly encouraged the Catholic laity to strive for sanctity and engage in charitable works. He was so well respected for his contributions to the apostolate of the laity that Pope Paul VI invited him to attend the Second Vatican Council as a lay observer. During the final session of the Council, the entire assembly of bishops from around the world stood and gave Frank Duff a standing ovation in recognition of his tremendous work.



With siblings



Young Frank



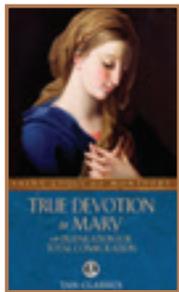
Frank's parents



Frank's birthplace

In his zeal to help souls experience the freedom that the truths of Catholicism bring, he was miraculously able to help bring about the conversion of almost the entire 'red-light' district in Dublin, especially the area associated with prostitution. He was very devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Frank Duff lived to be 91 years old, dying on a First Friday.

In 1917, the same year that Our Lady appeared in Fatima and St. Maximilian founded the *Militia Immaculatae*, Frank Duff read St. Louis de Montfort's True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin. He had overheard a few men discussing the book and became interested in acquiring a copy for himself. When he



found a first edition of the English translation in a bookstore, he purchased it. At first, he did not understand the book due to its depth and lofty Marian expressions, but, after

reading it half a dozen times, he finally understood it.

This devotion set his soul aflame. He understood that Mary was not just another saint and member of the Church, but the greatest of all saints and the very heart of the mystery of Christianity. From this point on, he began to teach everyone that if they did not understand Mary, they were incapable of understanding Christianity.

As a result of his fervent devotion to Our Lady, he founded the Legion of Mary on September 7, 1921. Having been greatly influenced himself by the writings of St. Louis de Montfort, Duff established that the Legion was to be very Montfortian in its Marian devotion and piety. The purpose and goal of the Legion was to assist Mary, the Mediatrix of All Grace, in the spiritual combat perpetually waged between the Church and the powers of darkness. He named his organisation the Legion of Mary because he viewed it as an army of the Mother of God, championing the cause of her divine Son. Through this army's use of prayer and apostolic works, he wanted the Legion to help the Church bring all souls to Jesus through Mary. It would prove to be an extremely fruitful Marian apostolate during the 20th century, with members in almost every diocese in the world.

Pope Paul VI described the Legion of Mary as the greatest movement to help souls since the establishment of the great mendicant religious orders in the 16th century!



It was so effective at bringing about conversions to Christ and spread so quickly to every part of the globe that Mao Tse-tung, the Communist leader and father of the People's Republic of China, referred to the Legion of Mary as "Public Enemy Number One."

## Champion of the Rosary

A devoted son of the Church, Frank Duff spent at least four hours a day in prayer. On most days, he would even sacrifice his lunch break to spend an hour in prayer. The Rosary was always part of his daily prayer routine. He was very fond of recommending the daily Rosary to everyone he met. He had a unique understanding of the Rosary, saying it is the “prime devotion to the Holy Spirit.” What he meant was that when people pray the Rosary, they are immediately overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, since Mary is the Spouse of the Holy Spirit and can never be separated from her spouse. This dimension of his thought is quite fascinating, since people rarely associate devotion to the Holy Spirit with the recitation of the Rosary. In the mind of Frank Duff, the Rosary opens up hearts to the workings of the Holy Spirit because in the Rosary we celebrate and remember the principal interventions of the Holy Spirit in the drama and mysteries of salvation.

The largest Marian association in the world, the Legion of Mary, is made up of small local groups and each group is called a “praesidium” This terminology comes from the Roman technique of protecting a particular area by maintaining a fortified garrison or military line. A Legion of Mary praesidium conducts apostolic works and meets



weekly to pray. Frank Duff mandated that each Praesidium pray the Rosary as part of its weekly prayer meeting. He also encouraged each member to join the Confraternity of the Rosary.

Frank Duff always stressed that the Rosary is the core of the Legion of Mary’s spirituality. As such, he desired that the Rosary be prayed with dignity and respect. He did not want it prayed too quickly or in a chaotic fashion, but rather with a meditative rhythm. He particularly emphasised that those praying the second half of the Hail Mary were not to start before the person praying the first half of the Hail Mary had said the Holy Name of Jesus. Frank Duff considered the Rosary to be so essential to the Legion of Mary that, when he wrote the Legion of Mary handbook, he said that what breathing is to the human body, the Rosary is to the Legion of Mary.



# Explanation of Front & Back Covers

The Editor



The images on the front cover are self-explanatory. Here in the center, we see the Servant of God Frank Duff-founder of the Legion of Mary on 7 September 1921. On the left we see Venerable Edel Quinn. As Legion Envoy to Africa, her heroic work remains a source of pride and joy for all legionaries. On the right we see The Servant of God Alphonsus Lambe. As Legion Envoy he left an indelible mark for good in the lands of South America.

Legionaries throughout the world pray daily for their beatification. It is hoped that in the not-too-distant future each in turn will be raised to the level of sainthood.

*BACK COVER:* Since the Legion of Mary is truly a world-wide organisation with councils in over 170 countries and in each of the five continents, it is fitting in this Centenary Year to recognize that other peoples in other continents view images of the Virgin Mary through different cultural eyes from what we in the West (Europe and America) too readily take for granted as being normal, universal and appropriate. To view a painting of the Virgin Mary through African eyes or through the eyes of the Orient is a different experience from that of viewing Our Lady as depicted by a Renaissance artist. Each is valid and each is beautiful in its own culture.

Accordingly, in this Centenary Year the image of the Virgin Mary on the back cover is taken from African Religious Art. The picture is that of Our Lady of Kibeho. In 1981-82 three Rwandan girls claimed to see and speak with the Virgin Mary. Many view these apparitions as prescient warnings about the 1994 Rwandan War which killed almost one million people. In 2001, after a lengthy investigation, these apparitions received Vatican approval.



# Lay and Religious Vocations in the Legion

By Fr. Derek Lohan

It is almost 60 years since the opening in 1962 of Vatican II. With all that has happened since in the world and in the Church we can tend to forget just how big a deal Vatican II was and continues to be. An Ecumenical Council of the Church is a very rare thing indeed. All the Bishops of the world gathered in one place to make decisions that would direct and steer the Church for generations to come. In this way, by its decisions, Vatican II was no different from all the Councils that preceded it; it changed the direction of the Church and the consequences of it are as real and alive today as it was sixty-years ago.

The Legion of Mary founded in 1921, some 40 years before the Council, is undoubtedly caught up in the great sweep of this tide of contemporary Church history that surrounds Vatican II. A tide which rose long before the calling of the Council itself. For many years before Pope St John XXIII called the Council there were many indications of the necessity of addressing the questions that the Council eventually did, such as: “What is the Church?” and “What is the relationship between the Church and Society?” “The whole question of the

Church and ‘modernity’ had become so urgent to address. Questions that were so important to answer in a time where human knowledge and technical advancements were challenging established thinking handed down through the centuries.

It is interesting to think of the beginnings of the Legion forty years before Vatican II. Little did Frank Duff and his little band know as they met in Myra House in 1921, just what the Holy Spirit was intending for them and their movement! For them they just wanted to serve Jesus through Our Lady. In the Autumn and Winter of 1921 as they set about giving catechism classes and



bringing children to Mass and visiting the sick they were living out their baptismal vocation. Something that was so highly emphasised at the Council in the 1960's: each baptised person has a vocation in the Church – but this was scarcely talked about in 1921.

Looking back now we think that lay people doing apostolic work is something quite ordinary. In churches everywhere in 2021 we might find lay people engaged in apostolic work - but not so then. The intuition about the call of baptism and how each baptised person is called to holiness and extending the Kingdom was not something that the Church talked about freely then. But it was given a firm and sure foundation at Vatican II.

And so, the vocation of the Legion is a root and a flower of Vatican II. The Legion came into existence 40 years before the Council, but it promoted a way of life that the Council would confirm as true and essential. The Legion lived out the understanding that lay people were priests, prophets and kings sanctifying the world around them. The Church was not just a silent group of laypeople led by the clergy. It was a whole People of God. The Council proclaimed what the Legion lived.

There is a story that people love to tell of a great moment for Frank Duff at the Vatican II. He had been invited to the 4th Session of the Council as a lay observer. It was an honour and of course a recognition for him. One day as he arrived in St Peter's Basilica the Council was already in session. Bishop Heenan of London saw Mr Duff coming into the Great Hall of the Council and as he happened to be at the podium at this time, over the

microphone he invited the bishops of the world to applaud him - which they did: they all got to their feet to applaud a great pioneer of the vocation of the laity.

The 'vocation of the laity', the 'priesthood of the laity', the 'baptismal call' of each person to be a priest. One might be



tempted to think that as Frank Duff spent his whole life making people alive to the fact that lay people were called to serve the Church and to proclaim the Gospel, that he would in some way have a diminished view of the ordained priesthood. If lay people had a priestly vocation, then why have an ordained clergy? Did he envision a Church where the laity would fulfil that role? No, not at all. In fact, it was the opposite. Frank Duff is quoted as saying the apostolate of the Church is "one" and the Legion has never contemplated any higher role. Frank Duff firmly believed that in the Legion, priests and people are united as one Body. He understood also what the Council affirmed: the role of the priest is that of the head; the ordained priest and the laity must work together in order to fulfil the Churches mission. The priest supports the laity to live out their baptismal vocation as priests, prophets and kings.

If the Legion is truly a root and a flower of the Vatican II, one can and should expect that the Holy Spirit flows powerfully through it, as it is so closely united to the Church. And this close cooperation with the Magisterium is indeed what the Legion aspires to, endeavouring to care in the manner “as the Person of our Lord is once again seen and served by Mary, his mother” - to quote the Handbook. And being so closely united in the Spirit with the Church, the Legion is graced with many vocations to priesthood and to religious life. Undoubtedly it loves and reveres the consecrated life, and it is ordered mystically towards its head. All over the world there are priests and religious who credit their religious vocation to the Legion of Mary. The apostolic spirit of the Legion inspired and affirmed in them a vocation at the heart of the Church. This is true of many priests, nuns and brothers today and over the past 100 years of its existence. This fact was well known: Frank Duff said simply: “the Legion generates vocations.” He was proud of how the living of a true apostolic spirit in the laity allowed a full flowering of a religious vocation in the lives of some members

And this is an important thing to remember. The Legion does not just promote the lay vocation, but it seeks to build up the whole body of Christ-including the head. This is what Vatican



II proclaimed – that the whole People of God went forward together. Laity and clergy were one. From the “rank and file” there has come those who would enter into the sacramental priesthood. And so, the Head and the Body work together.

Now as we celebrate the centenary of the Legion of Mary, we give thanks for these 100 years of the work of the Legion in promoting and sustaining the apostolic spirit among the laity, living out in a real way the teachings of the bishops of the world proclaimed in the Vatican Council.

We give thanks also for the Legion’s contribution to the growth of the whole Mystical Body of Christ, priests and laity united as one body. It is a testament to the prophetic vision of its founder that even 40 years before the Council Fathers met in Rome, it had begun promoting the just vision of Vatican II: the Church as the whole People of God. And imbued with this Spirit it has been abundantly fruitful for the Church.

And so, we pray the Legion marches on with its mother Mary to another 100 years of grace! May the Legion continue everywhere to exhibit that full flowering of the apostolic spirit, and through its close union with the Church the Holy Spirit will bless and bring growth and renew the face of the Earth.

# ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE LEGION OF MARY IN TOGO

*By Joseph Gbodzisi and Pascal Akoti*

The legion of Mary has been quickly extended to the entire world thanks to its efficiency in the combat that the Church is fighting against the forces of the evil. Thus, a quarter of century later after its birth in 1921 in Ireland, the Legion of Mary arrived in Togo through a native son of the country: Father Jean Kouassi GBIKPI BENISSAN, after the latter had experienced it in Rome.

Very soon, he started to gather some catholics and to organize a preliminary meeting on 29th October 1949 where it had been decided to organize a novena of prayer for the success of the movement.

A second preliminary meeting was organized on the 2nd of January 1950 where it had been decided to order legionary documents. On this very day, Mrs. AMEDJOGBE Elisabeth was designated for the handbook study on the theme: "The Praesidium." These first two meetings were held at Sacred Heart Parish, Cathedral.

The third meeting on 9th January 1950 was held in the house of Mrs. PASS Berth, a teacher. Her building would serve for a long time as the venue of the first presidium's meetings. Let us

remember that until 27th February 1950 the historic stating date of the legion of Mary in Togo, it was the late Bishop Jean Kouassi GBIKPI BENISSAN, then Reverend Father, who was assuring the spiritual direction of what we can call "Circle of Study", for it couldn't be called a praesidium yet. It was at this very meeting that Mrs. MESSAN Louise (midwife) and PASS Berth (Teacher) were designated as representatives of what would be later "Regina Pacis Praesidium" before the definite board was regularly set up. During this meeting, it was decided to create a group of men who would meet separately from the group of women. Then "Mater Castissima praesidium" was created, the one we can call the number 2 of the Legion of Mary in Togo.



Senatus officers at visit to Frank Duff's grave led by Sister Mary Murphy



From left: Vice President: Thierry Kalessou; President: Joseph Gbodzisi; Secretary: Pierre Sidoine Ezouhlon; Assistant secretary: Joseph Ayessou Folly; Treasurer: Romeo Dackey; Assistant treasurer: Jean Loumonvi

## *Evolution and extension of the Legion of Mary in Togo*

Despite their insufficiencies, the two praesidia were functioning. In 1954, the St. Augustine Parish of AMOUTIVE also had a praesidium named 'Mère du Bon Conseil.' The Legion went well in this parish, thanks to the zeal of an active Father the late Pierre KONDO.

In April 1954, the officers of the three praesidia decided to meet for the foundation of a Curia. The preliminary meeting was held on 20th May 1954 under the direction of Brother Jean JOHNSON, the president of 'Mater Castissima'. Brother Jacques KOUMAKO of the same praesidium was appointed the secretary of the young Curia. At that time, there were more than fifty members who made their promise, the probationers were of the same number. Auxiliary members are not included.

On Wednesday, 21st July 1954, all the officers of the praesidia of Lomé were invited to St. Augustine parish at 5. 30 pm with the agenda: Election of the Curia officers and subjects to present at the Legion meeting at Cape Coast (Ghana). At the end of the elections, Brother Jean JOHNSON was elected President, Brother Michel EClOU, Vice President, Brother Jacques KOUMAKO, Secretary and Brother Jules FRANK the treasurer. The Curia then created was called 'Mère de la Divine Grâce' - 'Mother of the Divine Grace' and Rev. Fr. William KPAKOTE was the spiritual director.

On the 20th of October 1954, a letter from Sister Eileen Sheehy the Concilium correspondent informed Brother Jean JOHNSON that the elections of the Curia 'Mère de la Divine Grâce' of Lomé were ratified by Concilium during its meeting of 17th October 1954.

In the meantime, on 28th July 1954 the praesidium of 'Our Lady of Perpetual Aid' was created in the new parish of Immaculate Conception at Nyekonakpoe.

Furthermore, the extension work had been multiplied in Lomé as well as in the parishes in the interior of the country. The parish of Sokodé comes then in the second position thanks to the efforts of Rev. Fr. Camille REDLIN from 1951 to 1952 with the permission of Bishop LINGENHIM who was leading at that time the Apostolic Prefecture that extended to Dapaong.

In 1957, the Curia of Lomé was elevated to the rank of Comitium, and then in 1971 to the rank of Regia after the Congress of all the legionaries of Togo which was held in Sokodé in May 1970.

Until that time there existed two Comitiae of which one in Lomé and the second in Niamtougou, were directly attached to Concilium. The Niamtougou Comitium, though located in the North of Sokodé, didn't control the curiae of Sokodé, Sotouboua, Ayengré, for they were also all directly attached to Concilium. Thus, there wasn't any high council at the national level to coordinate the activities of the Legion.

That is why Lomé Comitium delegated Brother Elie David GAPOTIH, then the Vice president of the Lomé Comitium, to go round all the councils and headquarters of the dioceses in the interior of the country for the holding of a national meeting of the officers of the Legion.



Senatus officers at visit to Concilium

After this round, Lomé Comitium organized a “Legionary Congress of Togo” in May 1970, after which Lomé Comitium was raised to the rank of Regia on 21st March 1971 by the Concilium. It was a watershed in the development of the Legion of Mary in Togo.

### *Developments from the years 1970*

This period is marked by the new administration organization of the Legion of Mary in Togo with Lomé Regia. The Legion made progressive developments in all the dioceses of Togo.

During this period, the Legion had two publications: the bimonthly “Levain: legionary bulletin of Togo” and later on, “Canal: Bulletin of Lomé Junior Curia.”

On the occasion of the celebration of the 25th year of the Legion in Togo in 1975, there was held an “Inter-African meeting of the persons in charge of legionary national and diocesan Councils from 25th to 29th February 1975. At this same occasion, there was a ceremony of the laying of the first stone of the house of the Legion at Baguida

In agreement with the Concilium, the legionaries of Togo have participated in the Peregrinatio Pro Christo projects organized by Ghana. In the meantime, the Regia created a Junior Curia which was very dynamic and

worked for the extension of the Legion In 1999, we could count five Comitiae, in addition to the Regia. The Comitiae were those of Aneho, Kpalime, Atakpame, Ayengre and Niamtougou.

The beginning of the years after 2000 witnessed a new impetus to the Legion. During this period, the development and the extension of the Legion continued, above all In Lomé Archdiocese. The creation of Curiae in parishes was accelerated.

In 2004, the bulletin of information of the Legion 'Levain', that had been suspended for some time, was launched again with the new appellation 'Le Levain.'

The project of the House of the Legion at Baguida which was shelved for a long time was reactivated in 2004 – 2005 with fundraising and completed in 2011 with the laying of the foundations of the fence around the plot. The apotheosis of the 60th year of the Legion of Mary in Togo was held on this plot on the 27th February 2011.

In March 2012, Regia launched its internet site, [www.Legiondemarie-togo.org](http://www.Legiondemarie-togo.org) with the help of Montréal Senatus in Canada and has organized the national meeting of the officers of high councils of the Legion of Mary.

In June 2013, many Curiae were created. We have in total ten in the whole territory; new Comitiae will be simultaneously erected by the Regia

to favor the development of the Legion in the concerned areas. Here we name the comitia of Bè-Kpota, Adidogomé, Xedzranawoe, Agoe, Vogan, Tabligbo. This raised the total number of Comitia to sixteen.

### *The elevation of Lomé Regia*

The elevation of Lomé Regia to Senatus status and of Kara Comitium to Regia status by the Concilium in 2013 was the crowning achievement of the Legion of Mary in Togo.

We give tribute to all those who have contributed to the birth of the Legion of Mary in the entire territory, particularly Father Jean Kouassi GBIKPI BENISSAN, Fathers Pierre KONDO, William KPAKOTE, Benoît DANSOU, Brother Jean JOHNSON, first president of the first curia of Togo, the Senatus successive presidents: Crespin Legonou, Late Josephine SUKA, Louis FARE, Pierre DOKOU, Theophile DIKA, Late Amédée BIRAMAH, Richard MADJALWA, Pascal AKOTI.

### *The praesidia and Councils*

Today we can count 1 Senatus, 1 Regia, 15 Comitia, 81 senior Curiae, 5 junior Curiae, 596 senior praesidia, 70 Junior praesidia.

22 praesidia, 21 senior Curiae, 1 junior Curia, 13 Comitia of which 5 are in Lomé and 1 Regia are directly attached to Senatus.

The number of the legionaries - we can count 20,250 members out of whom there are 16,200 active members and 4,050 auxiliaries. The Legion of Mary is present in all the seven dioceses of Togo. Every diocese has at least a comitium. From about 235 parishes on the national level, the Legion is present in about 210 -that is to say 90 % on average.

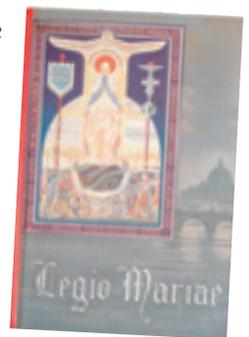
The spiritual training of legionaries is done through ordinary meetings of praesidia and councils, legionary functions, training sessions and reflection days on specific themes.

### *The reproduction of the English Handbook*

The reproduction of the English Handbook in French for Francophone Africa

The implementation of this project enabled the Legion of Togo to have sufficient Handbooks and to provide other countries such as Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo Brazzaville, Rwanda with handbooks.

With the generated funds, the Lomé Senatus assures the reprinting of the Handbook when stock runs out. The Handbook printed in Togo is consistent with the current version of the English handbook of Concilium.



# Message to the English-Speaking Legionaries of Yaounde-Cameroon on the Occasion of the Centenary of the Legion of Mary.

By Paul E. Ekpe

## *My fellow soldiers of Jesus and Mary.*

With great joy in my heart to share with you this amazing grace that we the members of the Legion of Mary in particular and the Catholic Church in general has been enriched in celebrating the Centenary of the foundation of the Legion of Mary. I find strength and courage in your continuous support for me, though "I am absent in body but present with you in spirit and delight to see how ready and firm is your faith in Christ" (*Col.2:58*).

Jubilee or Centenary such as the one we are celebrating this year, is usually a year that his Holiness grants an extraordinary Plenary Indulgence. Remember that Pope Francis granted Plenary Indulgence during the Centenary celebrations of the Apparition of Our Blessed Mother Mary at Fatima (*CCC1971*).

I therefore, urge you, fellow soldiers of Jesus and Mary, to engage yourselves vigorously in making our Centenary a big success. We can contribute more not only carrying out our weekly work obligation (*LHB.CH.33. p.191*) but also taking full part in all programmes put in place by the higher Council (*LHB. CH.28*), even after the anniversary celebrations.



We should carry out our individual role with joy in our quest for holiness for ourselves and for others (*LHB.CH.2*).

And as St. Paul, exhorts “Brethren, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain” (*1Corth.15 :58*).

We, members and officers of the English Legion of Mary, Yaounde-Cameroon, should in a special way be thankful to God for the following reasons:

*Firstly*, it was during the presidency of brother Emmanuel Fundong in the Yaounde-Regia, that we hosted for the first time, an Envoy from Dublin to Cameroon, at the time when the Legion was celebrating its 60th Anniversary in the country.

*Secondly*, it is also during the office of Sister Stella Mary Ekolle as the President of Yaounde-Regia, that the Centenary celebrations of the Legion is been organised. With the above reasons and your personal testimonies of how the Legion has contributed to your spiritual life should push you to making this event a memorable one.

Meanwhile, we should remember that Jubilee and Centenary comes usually once in one’s lifetime.

On the other hand, this anniversary celebrations should be a foretaste of the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the foundation of the English Legion in Yaoundé in 2043. But how many of us will have the grace to witness the event then?

Think of many legionaries who would have loved to see this year and this occasion but could not. It is on this basis that I exhort every legionary ardently to put his or her spiritual, moral and even material means for the advancement of the Legion of Mary both in Cameroon and beyond.

We are to turn our hearts and minds brothers and sisters, towards Vatican, to be attentive to the message of His Holiness, Pope Francis, to the members of the Legion Mary, this year. His message and that of our local Ordinaries (*LHB.CH.2*) will serve as an inspiration to us legionaries for many years to come.

Once more, I am personally grateful to God for making it possible for me to have witnessed three great centenaries and Jubilee in my lifetime (Fatima and the Legion and the Silver Jubilee) of the commencement of the English Legion, Yaoundé in 2018. I, on this note, exhort you to spare no effort in working actively in any way possible in spreading the Legion of Mary whenever and wherever possible, for this will form the great means of real celebrations (*LHB.CH.10*).

# A THOUGHT A DAY WITH FRANK DUFF

*Compiled by Tommy McCabe*

It is absolutely essential that we be prepared to stand up and face whatever may happen when there is a duty to be done.

*Frank Duff*

Unless Jesus and Mary are vivid to us as persons, it would be hard to love them in a full sense.

*Frank Duff*

It is one of the great sorrows of life that it is only as the years pile up we realise what we owe to our parents.

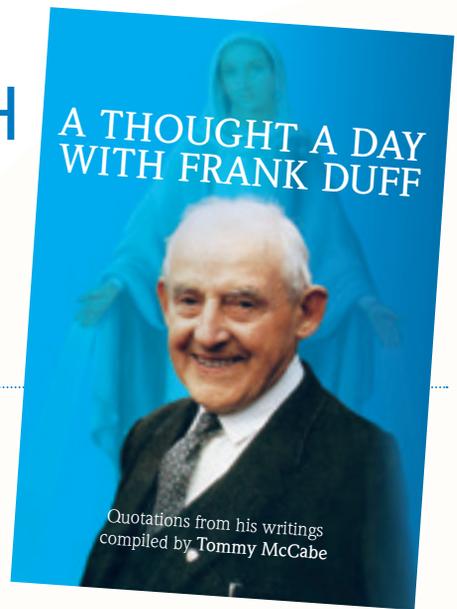
*Frank Duff*

The Spiritual voyage - like that of true love - runs neither straight or smooth.

*Frank Duff*

Every soul must be sought and perseveringly evangelised.

*Frank Duff*



We must make Mary better understood: the church places these words on the lips of the Blessed Virgin: "Those who explain me shall shine for all eternity."

*Frank Duff*

Mary was versed in the scriptures. She already knew full well that she was to be the Mother of the Man of Sorrows.

*Frank Duff*

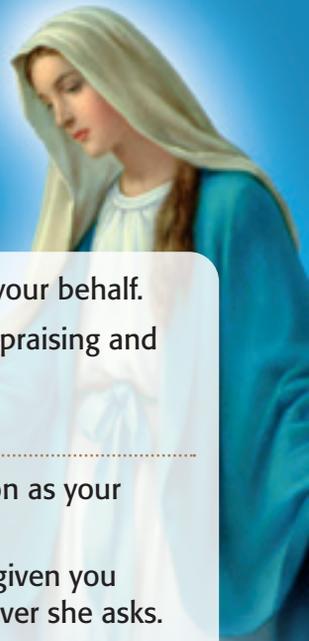
The work of religion must be set about like any other work by mobilising and organising until the helpers are sufficient.

*Frank Duff*

Copies of this lovely book may be purchase direct from Concilium at €7 each.  
Copies may also be purchased from St. Pauls Publishing, Maynooth, Co. Kildare  
and from Veritas, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin 1.



# Praises of Mary



You never think of Mary without Mary thinking of God on your behalf. Neither do you ever praise and honour God without Mary praising and honouring God in union with you.

*St. Louis Grignon de Montfort.*

In His eagerness to show you mercy, God has given His Son as your Advocate.

And then to make your confidence even stronger, He has given you another Advocate, who obtains through her prayers whatever she asks. Go to Mary, and you will see salvation.

*St. Alphonsus Liguori*

Those who want to prevent their heart from being pervaded by the evils of earth should entrust it to the Blessed Virgin, our Lady and our Mother.

They will then regain it in heaven, freed from all evils.

*St. Francis de Sales*

O Mother of love, you have given me your Heart.

Now take firm possession of my heart and offer it completely to the pure love and sole glory of your beloved Son.

*St. John Eudes*

The Blessed Virgin Mary is called the Star of the Sea.

Those who sail the ocean seas are guided to the port they seek by carefully observing the stars. In the same way, Christians are guided to heavenly glory by keeping their eyes on Mary.

*St. Thomas Aquinas*

In danger, anguish, or doubt, think of Mary and call upon her!

Following her, you will never lose your way.  
Praying to her, you will never sink into despair.  
Contemplating her, you will never go wrong.

*St. Bernard*



# The Song of the Daughters of Sion

By *Killian McMorrow*

All Legionaries know and love Our Lady's prayer and canticle of joy, the Magnificat, which is sung by her on her visit to her cousin Elizabeth. The prayer is at the heart of the Catena; which is a member's daily prayer.

The Magnificat is a song which Our Lady would have learned as a devout student of the Jewish faith. In changing form, it had been handed down to reach her for almost 2,000 years, from generation to generation.

It is sung each day by religious at evening prayer or vespers.

It finds its ultimate transcendent expression in Our Lady, Mary, the Mother of Our Lord and Saviour, whose soul 'magnifies the Lord' eternally.

The Bible contains a version, in the First Book of Samuel (I Samuel 2:1-10), which may be the original. It is prayed by Hannah. Her plea to the Lord, much against the odds and opposition, for a child, has been answered by the birth of Samuel. She has promised her child to the service of the Lord and she brings him to the priest Eli, in the 'House of the Lord'.

It is a beautiful prayer or song, which can assist our appreciation of the Magnificat. For instance, the opening lines mirror the same joyous exclamation:

Our Lady: 'My Soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.'

Hannah: "The Lord has filled my heart with joy, how happy I am because of what he has done!"

Or where the Magnificat reads:

'He casts the mighty from their thrones and raises the lowly. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty.'

Hannah's prayer reads:

'He makes some poor and others rich; he humbles some and makes others great. He lifts the poor from the dust and raises the needy from their misery. He makes them companions of princes and puts them in places of honour.'

The origins of the Magnificat in the Old Testament reminds us how history, through the spiritual journey of the Jewish people, was always moving to the mystery of the Incarnation.

Our Lady's joy on knowing she is bearing the long-awaited Messiah, is not only for herself, it is also for her people, 'the chosen people' and ultimately for all:

'He protects Israel, his Servant, remembering his mercy, the mercy promised to our fathers, to Abraham and his sons for ever.'

The Servant of God Frank Duff is acutely conscious of the deep, intimate, challenging relationship of the Church to the Jewish religion reflected in the person of the Mother of God. He formed the 'Pillar of Fire' society in the 1930's, to reach out and dialogue with the Jewish community in Ireland.

***Blessed Virgin Mary, Tower of David, Ark of the Covenant, pray for us.***



# Legion world news

## EUROPE

**Austria:** A report from the **Senatus of Austria** shows a presentation on the Legion of Mary including the Peregrinatio Pro Christo was given in the Vienna Seminary to newly arrived seminarians.

**Bosnia Herzegovina:** The usual works were not permitted during Covid but legionaries kept in touch with people by phone for support and encouragement. A praesidium in Posavska Mahala started a prayer group for auxiliaries with 18 in attendance.

**Croatia:** **Zagreb Regia** says plans are in progress for extension in two parishes. One Curia reported keeping in touch with their 398 auxiliary members by phone and visits when no other works were permitted. In the **Osijek Comitium** Hospital visitation was not permitted because of restriction but the legionaries visited family homes, auxiliary members and organised First Holy Communion and Confirmation in their parishes.

**Cyprus:** Nicosia and Limassol praesidia hold virtual weekly meetings. Acies ceremonies were held virtually in Nicosia on 25th of March and in Paphos on March 21st.

**Denmark:** A praesidium in Copenhagen resumed meetings in May following lockdown. Every second Sunday they are responsible for safety requirements in the church. No other legion activities are allowed at present.

**England:** Legionaries in **Brentwood Regia** are delivering the Maria Legionis by posting it through the letter boxes and are also keeping in touch with parishioners by phone. **Southwark Comitium** has organised the Centenary Mass for 25th September in St. Georges Cathedral with

Archbishop John Wilson as Chief Celebrant. The apostolate being carried out by some praesidia in **Central London Curia** includes contact by phone or on WhatsApp/Facebook with information re church activities. Through this a lapsed Catholic went back to Church and joined one of the online meetings. **Liverpool Senatus** decided to mark the Year of St. Joseph by having a Prayer to him printed and also one to St. Francis de Sales for help in these difficult times. **Birmingham Senatus** reported Bristol legionaries promote the Rosary by distributing Packs to those attending Mass.

**Germany:** In **Frankfurt Senatus** visitation of nursing homes has resumed since April with restrictions. All Councils celebrated the Acies as the celebration of public Mass was permitted. In preparation for the Centenary of the Legion all legionaries in Germany are promoting the 33 Day Marian Consecration. One Curia alone enlisted 100 participants for the Consecration. Other celebrations planned for Germany are: September 6th; a Pontifical Mass will be celebrated by the auxiliary Bishop of Munich in the largest Church in Munich. On 12th September the Bishop of Mainz will accompany pilgrims to a Marian Shrine, Maria Einsiedl. On 7th November the Apostolic Nuncio will celebrate a Pontifical Mass in Frankfurt Cathedral. This will mark the great central event of the celebrations.

**Italy:** The **Rome Senatus** keeps in touch with its attached councils by letter from the President and Allocutio every month. In **Milan Regia** legionaries, as part of a WhatsApp group, are keeping in touch and leading the Rosary in Church. In Turin there are two praesidia. One of these was set up in recent months.

**Latvia:** Some legionaries in **Riga Comitium**

phone the prisoners in the jail which they would normally visit and assure them of their support and prayers.

 **Lithuania:** In a praesidium in a Curia attached to the **Telsiai Comitium** the legionaries kept in touch with their auxiliaries by phone during the restrictions. Arrangements were made for a housebound person to receive the sacraments and a 40 year old person to be baptised. The cause of Frank Duff is being very much promoted. In **Kaunas Comitium** legionaries have been holding night vigils. A number of legionaries are helping with Radio Maria and cleaning the church,

 **Malta:** The **Malta Regia** meetings are taking place but with reduced attendance. One praesidium visits clubs, schools, and hospitals and does street contact. One Curia reported the Rosary is recited at a Taxi stand where drivers join in. Contact work is also done at different sea ports. Many praesidia are meeting again in their parishes with spiritual contact possible - especially with the youth. In Gozo Comitium a prayer meeting is held monthly to promote the Cause of the Servant of God, Frank Duff.

 **Netherlands:** April and May meetings of the **Amsterdam Regia** were held on Zoom. The Cape Verde Curia in Rotterdam held its Acies with 41 legionaries present. Catechesis is given to a Chinese community by a praesidium in Groningen.

 **Norway:** The apostolate of a praesidium in Tonsberg includes keeping in close contact with auxiliary members and leading the Rosary in Church. Many other parish duties are also carried out.

 **Scotland:** One of the Centenary Events was planned for Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd with Bishop Joseph Toal celebrating a Mass of Thanksgiving at Carfin Grotto and a Rosary procession to follow the Mass.

**Spain:** On 6th March the **Madrid Senatus** launched its YouTube Channel. The Acies was held on this channel. Street contact work is undertaken in the city including the 'Red light' district. University students are contacted on Campus. Some new praesidia have been set up. One large praesidium divided. Many praesidia are meeting again in their parishes with spiritual contact possible - especially with the youth.

**Sweden:** Legionaries continue to lead the recitation of the Rosary before Mass on Saturday and Sunday. They have noticed an increase in numbers participating and as a result three people have asked to join the Legion. Catechism is being taught to children and the sick and housebound are also visited.

## OCEANIA

**Australia: Melbourne Senatus:** Preston Curia held a zoom 33 day preparation for the Consecration to St. Joseph with 55 attending and on a second occasion 100. Albury and Wodonga Comitium had a new praesidium set up and two praesidia celebrated their 1,000th meeting and a junior praesidium its 300th meeting. Hobart Curia gained four new members during the pandemic. Flemington Vietnamese Comitium has three Curiae with 32 praesidia. Legionaries in **Sydney Senatus** work in the Senatus archives and book shop while regular apostolic work is curtailed. Recruitment is ongoing. A new praesidium was set up in Churchill with seven members. Centenary plans have the Pilgrim statue and Legion banner travelling to each council where Mass is celebrated. There will be a Marian exhibition in the Legion house and an art competition for children. The Centenary Mass will be celebrated on 11th September. **Brisbane Comitium** has eleven praesidia attached which include four Vietnamese. The Korean Curia has seven praesidia with 45 members. Six new active and ten auxiliaries were gained.

**New Zealand: Auckland Senatus:** A Retreat was

held in May with 120 attending. A Report was received from the Auckland Korean Comitium with 17 praesidia. Christchurch Korean Curia has eight praesidia. A Chinese praesidium of seven members visit the elderly in Rest Homes, attend funeral Masses and comfort the bereaved. They teach Catechism to children and have contact with the lapsed and invite them back to Mass. A junior praesidium help the Deacon in the parish with the RCIA programme and two candidates were received into the Church. A family of four were received into the Church with the help and support of a senior praesidium.

## WEST INDIES

**Dominican Republic:** The praesidia in the **Santo Domingo Senatus** are giving instruction by Zoom or WhatsApp. The celebrations for the Centenary which coincides with their own 75th Anniversary were due to commence on 5th September in the Cathedral "Primada de America" with the Archbishop celebrating Mass. A video on the history of the Legion in the Dominican Republic is in preparation. Some praesidia in **Santiago de los Caballeros Senatus** resumed and communications with all the councils is good. Centenary celebrations were due to begin on 4th September in the Grotto of Our Lady of Altagracia. Their weekly radio program transmitted by Radio Light and Facebook is giving great results. The Church held a Marian Jubilee year to honour the one hundred years of the Coronation of "Our Lady of Altagracia" as their Patron.

**Haiti:** A Comitium with five Curiae reported on various apostolic works. Another council set up a praesidium with 17 members. Meetings of the Centenary Committee and the Correspondents' group were mentioned. Please remember the people of Haiti in your prayers.

**Trinidad & Tobago:** The Regia is trying to keep in touch with as many legionaries as possible and are still holding virtual meetings.

Likewise, many praesidia and overseas councils, with the exception of Dominica, are unable to meet in-person but some are keeping in touch on social platforms.

## ASIA

**Holy Land:** In May 2021 a communication was received to say that the Comitium officers, including the Spiritual Director, agreed that praesidia and Curiae could resume meeting as a high percentage of the population have been vaccinated.

**Hong Kong:** Five Comitium meetings were held in 2020. A praesidium has been formed and two are planned.

**India:** The May meeting of **Chennai Regia** was cancelled due to the worsening situation in India. No meetings or outdoor activities are permitted. In **Karnataka** some legionaries and family members as well as many priests have died due to Covid. May they rest in peace. A month-long Rosary was started online every evening to pray for all afflicted with the deadly virus. The President of **Kerala Senatus** was in touch with the correspondent in March to say that some meetings had resumed. February and March 2021 minutes of **Mumbai Senatus** were received. No meetings had taken place for ten months prior to that. A number of Curiae held an Acies ceremony. A Retreat was held for limited numbers. Due to a resurgence of Covid-19 the April and May meetings could not take place. **Pondicherry Senatus** met after a break of ten months.

**Indonesia:** The last physical meeting of the **Jakarta Senatus** was in March 2020, and since then meetings have been held online. Legionaries work in their parishes assisting the parish priests. The legionaries are active in preparation for the Centenary. Their aim is to make Frank Duff better known and to this end they have arranged for 'Can We Be Saints' and

'Frank Duff, One of the Best', to be translated into Indonesian. These books were launched on 7th June with an online seminar. The Canvas banner, mentioned in the last report, continues to be brought to all 17 Dioceses and will return to the Archdiocese for a closing Mass in September. Many praesidia in **Malang Senatus** are still meeting online. The Acies was celebrated by the Senatus with a small number in attendance and was also streamed on YouTube. Rosario Comitium in Makassar set up two new praesidia.

**Kaupang Senatus:** February and March meetings were cancelled due to the pandemic. In April a tropical storm devastated Flores, Timor and other islands, and many legionaries lost their lives. May they rest in peace. The other Senatus are assisting local legionaries to restart their apostolate by providing handbooks, etc.

 **Korea: Seoul Senatus:** Meetings of the Senatus and other councils and praesidia are being held online. **Gwangju Senatus:** As in the Seoul Senatus, meetings are being held online. The 68th report from the Legion in Mokpo, the birthplace of the Legion in Korea, was mentioned in the May minutes.

 **Lebanon:** Despite their difficulties and restrictions some communication was received via social media which included a short video of the Acies ceremony held on 6th May at which 12 legionaries made their act of consecration.

 **Malaysia:** One council reporting to **Kuala Lumpur Regia** in June gave details of membership as eight praesidia with a total of 90 full and 4 probationary members, plus 285 auxiliary and 4 adjutorian members.

 **Myanmar:** In April an email was received to say that no Senatus meeting has taken place since April 2020. Some praesidia in the country and in villages have resumed but none in the cities. Many legionaries and their families died due to Covid-19. May they rest in peace.

 **Pakistan:** The Legion of Mary is still very active in the Archdiocese of Karachi. English and Urdu -speaking praesidia are still meeting when they can but like elsewhere are curtailed. They held their Annual Reunion online.

 **Philippines:** All activities in **Cebu Senatus** were suspended since March 2020. Legionaries were urged to use social media to keep in touch with friends, auxiliaries and fellow legionaries and recite daily the Legion prayers and Rosary. No meeting of **Western Visayas Senatus** was held since March 2020. Acies was held on 17th April with a small attendance. **Senatus of Northern Philippines, Manila:** All praesidia and Curiae continue to meet online to pray the Rosary and undertake Handbook Study. Juniors are helping with Webinars and *Patricians* Meetings. The Senatus organised Zoom Marian Talks, and video/slide presentation on the history of the Legion as a Spiritual preparation for the Centenary. The Senatus take care of Papua New Guinea where there are four Regiae.

 **Taiwan:** Legion Councils continue to meet as permitted by government regulations. The Acies, held earlier in the year included a Mass for the first time.

 **Vietnam:** The November and December 2020 minutes were received. Two Regiae, two Comitua, a Curia and a praesidium reported in this period.

## AFRICA

 **Angola:** The **Senatus of Luanda** reports that a Curia in Mbanza Congo, about 500km from Luanda, was raised to Comitium in June. The **Benguela Senatus** held a meeting in February for young legionaries to listen to their problems. On 21 February a new junior Curia was set up. About 250 young legionaries attended the ceremony to mark this event. The attached **Regia of Lobito** set up a Comitium on 18th April and another one on 23 May.

 **Burkina Faso:** At a meeting last November the Covid problem was widely discussed as well as some other items including the need to remedy the decline of the Legion in some areas, and the marking of the Legion's centenary in a worthy way.

 **Burundi:** Prayers are requested for some members of the Institute of the MSV (Militants of the Blessed Virgin Mary) who are ill. They have three praesidia of novices. The Legion of Mary was started in 1954 in Burundi by Fr. Achille Denis, who also founded the Institute of the MSV in 1959. The first members to join this secular institute were legionaries. One member Marie Rose Horicubonye died on 25/2/2021. May she rest in peace. She was instrumental in setting up a praesidium of civil servants.

 **Cameroon:** Some councils in the **Douala Senatus** are back in operation. The Acies ceremonies have been held mostly at the latter end of the year when activities resumed. **Mbouda Comitium** reported 22 new members made the Legionary Promise since the last report.

 **Central African Republic:** Only two meetings of the **Senatus of Bangui** were missed during the pandemic. Normal apostolic activity is resuming, and they expect to get back on track shortly.

 **Democratic Republic of Congo:** The **Senatus of Butembo** reported a new Comitium was set up in the diocese of Bunia. 30 students in an Institute of Education joined a praesidium. Activities which were entirely suspended during 2020 owing to the Covid-19 pandemic have now resumed in the **Regia of Goma**, which is affiliated to the **Senatus of Bukavu**. On the 22nd May last came the news of the volcanic eruption of Nyiragongo, which brought about a great natural disaster. A huge lava flow covered part of the city of Goma, destroying homes and causing many deaths. The population had to be evacuated and seek refuge elsewhere. We

still await news of the fate of local legionaries. The **Comitium of Kindu**, attached to the Regia of Shabunda, has composed a beautiful prayer in Swahili for the centenary of the Legion of Mary. A report from the **Comitium of Uvira** shows that a flooding during a recent deluge greatly affected the area, and many members lost their homes and belongings.

 **Egypt:** The Acies ceremonies were held during March and April by each Curia in the **Senatus of Egypt**.

 **Ghana:** The **Senatus of Accra** reports that the main Centenary celebration of Legion of Mary will take place at St. Mary Sanctuary, Buoho in Kumasi. A new praesidium was established in **Tema Comitium**.

 **Guinea:** The **Comitium in Conakry** has four Curiae and six attached praesidia. Home and hospital visitation and catechism classes were reported on.

 **Kenya:** Plans are underway for the annual Mass at Venerable Edel Quinn's grave. The new **Regia at Bungoma** was inaugurated on 10th February.

 **Lesotho:** Two Comitias and eleven praesidia presented reports to the **Senatus of Lesotho**. Some home visitation and catechism teaching were included in works done.

 **Malawi:** During 2020 the **Maula Senatus** held nine Senatus meetings. The Senatus and attached councils are busy visiting their attached councils encouraging them to continue in their apostolate following the Covid-19.

 **Mozambique:** In **Maputo Regia** praesidia have returned to their normal meetings. Legion meetings resumed in May in **Quelimane Comitium**. Curiae officers met to evaluate the effects of the lockdown and to plan activities for the coming months. During lockdown Legionaries studied the Handbook for 12 weeks. **Tete Comitium** reports the Covid-19 situation has

improved, with a return to Church services and legionary meetings can resume in small groups. The praesidia in **Beira Comitium** have returned to their weekly meetings and other activities.

 **Nigeria:** In April the secretary of **Ibadan Senatus** reported that almost all councils and praesidia had resumed. The **Lagos Regia** meeting resumed in February - exactly one year since the previous meeting. Following Lockdown from April to September 2020, meetings of the **Enugu Senatus** resumed in October 2020. **Abakaliki Regia** has 100 junior Curiae with a total number of 17,843 junior legionaries.

 **South Africa:** Officers of the **Senatus of Cape Town** held a meeting in May to discuss the Centenary celebrations and a way forward post-Covid. Minutes for the June meeting of the **Matatiele Comitium** were received. The meeting was well attended.

 **South Sudan:** Sister Christine Kinamborisa, Secretary of Yambio Curia visited the Senatus of Uganda in the December 2020 meeting. She reported that the Curia has 18 Praesidia.

 **Senegal:** The **Comitium** in Dakar has eight Curiae and 29 attached praesidia. The report mentions home, hospital and prison visitation, organising catechesis and helping the elderly.

 **Tanzania:** The **Dar-es-Salaam Regia** has visited a number of distant councils which are attached to Concilium. In some areas there are large numbers of legionaries. In **Hai Moshi Comitium** various Acies ceremonies were held in later months of 2020 when some Covid-19 restrictions were eased. **Songea Comitium** has set up a number of new Curiae and the Legion in this area is continuing to grow.

 **Togo.** A conference on Alfie Lambe was held by **Lomé Senatus**. Various works are being undertaken and there is mention of four conversions. The organisation for a Peregrinatio Pro Christo is ongoing.

**Uganda:** Extension is ongoing through Uganda but for the Centenary of the Legion they are concentrating on extension in Soroti Diocese and in the Northern Region. They are praying to Venerable Edel Quinn to help them in this project. **Kabale Regia** recently set up two new Comitia.

**Zambia:** In **Lusaka Senatus** preparations for the Centenary celebrations are ongoing. The activity will centre around the Cathedrals in each Diocese. Lumen TV Zambia (the national Catholic TV station) has agreed to run a 13 series program on the Legion of Mary. The Centenary Mass will also be broadcast on Lumen TV. The **Kasama Regia** had a meeting with the officers of Lusaka Regia to plan the Centenary celebrations in each Diocese.

## NORTH AMERICA

**U.S.A.:** In **Boston Senatus** members are still unable to meet but prepared a quarterly Senatus Bulletin. Phone calls have replaced home visits. One Curia president sends all members a monthly Curia newsletter which includes Allocutios from Concilium and Curia. The Korean Comitium in **Chicago Senatus** has 8 praesidia and 2 Curiae attached, representing 235 active and 380 auxiliary members. A praesidium in the Senatus made phone calls to 60 residents of a nursing home, reading and praying with them. Rockford Curia held a virtual Legion Congress in November also with 18 members in person. **Cincinnati Senatus** continues to meet in person. Some attached councils alternated from virtual to in-person meetings Some held their Acies in person. North West Curia, in **Houston Senatus**, wrote to eight nursing homes gaining approval to visit five and conducting activities consistent with Covid-19 guidelines by praying the Rosary outside with some residents. North Curia Raton New Mexico were planning to have a Mass and reception the last weekend of September to celebrate 90 years of the first USA praesidium

started on 27th November of 1931 at St. Joseph Church, Raton, New Mexico. **Los Angeles Senatus** meet monthly on Zoom. In **New York Senatus** many contacts were made by a praesidium in Manhattan. 15 subway Rosaries were prayed in Times Square. Legionaries on book barrow duty invited people to church on Ash Wednesday. In **Philadelphia Senatus** a Seminary praesidium has eight active and 14 auxiliary members. They still are able to conduct catechism classes and Bible study in catholic schools and bring Holy Communion to residents in a nursing home. Legionaries in the Senatus held virtual men's conferences, bible study and made phone calls to auxiliaries and the sick. **San Francisco Senatus** has been meeting in person since May. Virtual Patricians meetings featured in reports as well as other online activities. **St. Louis Senatus** held a Fatima Public Rosary Rally just before the Pandemic. **Arlington Regia:** In-person meetings are to the capacity allowed. One praesidium arranged for one nursing home resident to get the last Sacraments before death. **Miami Regia:** are unable to meet but are in touch with their correspondent. Their former Spiritual Director Fr. Richard Souliere (former Legion Envoy to Mexico) died in December R.I.P. The Regia contributed to his obituary done by the Archdiocese; they acknowledged his dedicated support to the Legion who helped him promote Brown Scapular devotion in 80 parishes.

 **Mexico: Mexico City Senatus:** The Senatus printed the Spanish version of Miracles on Tap and it has already been widely distributed and they are now planning to print "A Man for Our Times". The Senatus has been keeping in touch with attached councils by Zoom. The **Merida Senatus** continues to hold the Senatus meetings by virtual means. Most of the active legionaries are helping in their parishes with stewarding and cleaning. One Comitium reported very sad news, the death of 130 legionaries from Covid-19. May they rest in peace. **Durango Regia:** With

the exception of a few praesidia in remote areas all meetings are held by Zoom. The bishops in the attached Comitium of Mazatlan area encourage care and caution, they also asked the legionaries to care for the priests of the dioceses. A number of priests have died from Covid-19. R.I.P. The president of the Comitium is very active even though her husband died recently. May the souls of all those who have died rest in peace. **Guadalajara Regia:** The Regia has returned to meeting in person in April. A number of praesidia have also returned to meeting in person. They carried out works which were possible and helpful during the Pandemic such as Rosaries at wakes and funerals, inviting parishioners to take part in parish activities by Zoom and other permitted parish works, helping with the Internet activity in the parish. **Hermosillo Regia:** The Regia and attached councils have continued meeting but mostly by Zoom. Their Spiritual Director outlined the value of personal contact and encouraged return to normal meetings as soon as permitted. The attached Curia of Tijuana is preparing a programme to celebrate the year of St. Joseph. Contact with the sick and house bound is made by telephone. Covid-19 restrictions are observed while reciting outdoor rosaries. **Monterrey Regia:** The Regia have returned to meet in person very recently. Legion works have been reduced and where possible carried out with caution. Some works are praying with the families of deceased, little processions through the streets, encouraging the families to put an altar in the doorway and to receive the blessing of the priest, and leading the Miraculous Medal Novena and distributing the medal.

**Canada: Montreal Senatus** resumed meeting in person in June. Tribute was paid to Fr. Senez their outgoing Spiritual Director who had first joined the Legion as a 17-year-old student. With increase in Covid restrictions, their new Spiritual Director, Fr. Paradis led special prayer events for 

Feasts of Our Lady and World Day of the Sick; these were either online or with limited numbers in-person. **The Senatus of Toronto** celebrated their 1000th meeting in January, 2021. There were 402 Zoom participants in a virtual Annual General Reunion held in December from as far away as Manitoba, Maritimes and all places in between. It was most enjoyable, with actives, juniors, auxiliaries and 12 Spiritual Directors included. **Vancouver Comitium:** Virtual Meetings of Comitium held for January and February 2021. They met in person in June. An attached Curia with 9 attached praesidia began weekly Zoom meetings in December. They now regularly connect with active and auxiliary members by phoning and text message. **Edmonton Comitium:** The Comitium joined by 150 auxiliaries held an online Acies. Calgary Curia had a limited in-person Acies of 110 people while others were online.

## SOUTH AMERICA

 **Argentina:** **Cordoba Senatus** held its Acies on 10th April physically. The Senatus meetings are being held physically too. Some praesidia and councils have started meeting in person again too. A praesidium unveiled a new grotto with an image of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal with the support of the priest; the Bishop came and blessed the image. The legionaries of the Comitium of Rio Cuarto do a version of Pilgrim Statue visitation whereby they bring the statue on a barrow outside each home and people choose to come out or not; passers-by are also contacted. Protocols are observed.

 **Bolivia:** In the **Senatus of La Paz** most praesidia meet virtually every week. One of the many works being done is promoting the family altar, whereby every home has a little altar with holy images and an open Bible. Family prayer is promoted especially during the months of May and June. Legionaries invite people to join them in the recitation of the daily online Rosary.

Many talks have been held on the three Legion causes on WhatsApp and YouTube with large numbers attending. A symposium on the cause of Alfie Lambe was held on Alfie's birthday. The speakers included Guadalupe Morad and Noelia Garcia. Most South American Senatus took part in this very professionally prepared event.

 **Brazil:** **São Paulo Senatus** continues to meet monthly online. Some councils reported on activities being undertaken where it is possible to do so. These include phone calls to the sick and auxiliaries. The Senatus held its Acies online on 27 March. The annual national Legion Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady Aparecida on the first weekend in June was held again this year online as happened also in 2020. The Senatus continues to broadcast Mass and other prayers and programmes each week on Facebook and You Tube. A beautiful prayer to the Holy Spirit for the Legion Centenary has been composed by Dom Edson de Castro Homem, who is the Liaison Bishop for the Legion with the CNBB, the National Conference of the Bishops of Brazil.

 **Chile:** The **Senatus of Santiago** had a Novena in thanksgiving for the foundation of the first praesidium in Chile 70 years ago. During severe restrictions of the pandemic, legionaries kept in contact with each other by phone and social media. Legion works continue online including the distribution of Catholic literature in digital form to many families. People have more time to read and take part in courses of religious formation promoted by the Legion.

 **Colombia:** **Medellin Senatus** sent reports for meetings held virtually in the months of February through May. For the Centenary they participated in radio programmes and a book on the Legion at diocesan level was due to be published at the end of July. A Rosary Marathon is planned and also a Marian competition on the lives of St. Louis Marie Grigñón de Montfort,

Frank Duff, Edel Quinn and Alfie Lambe. In the **Regia of Sonsón Rionegro** most of the work has been virtual, and there has been intense collaboration in the parishes, inviting people to Mass and helping to reopen the churches. They held a Novena in a prison. They organised a Rosary Procession carrying an image of Our Lady through the streets. **Bogota Senatus** had physical Senatus meetings in March and June. Not all councils are back meeting yet but all were able to celebrate an Acies ceremony. Their activities include reaching out to auxiliary members and the sick by phone, holding online Rosaries, Novenas and formation sessions, taking part in radio programmes and personal contact on the streets, in parks and on public transport during which Catholic material is distributed. The **Regia of Barranquilla** celebrated 50 years in August 2020 and their young members participated in the first National Eucharistic Adoration Conference.

 **Paraguay:** The **Senatus** is working well. Sr. Carmen Pozas, a dedicated correspondent for the Senatus with the Concilium, has died. May she rest in peace.

 **Peru:** The **Senatus of Lima** holds its meetings virtually. Many legionaries have died in the pandemic. R.I.P. A virtual Congress with the theme 'Must finish the Race' had 300 young legionaries participate. Other virtual events included the Acies, a national Formation Day and a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The Archbishop of Lima tasked the Legion with the recital of a daily Rosary for the pandemic to end; this is done on the Senatus Facebook account.

 **Uruguay:** The Senatus of Montevideo and some councils and praesidia meet online. Legion work involves telephone calls, including to the auxiliary members.

 **Venezuela:** The Senatus is holding meetings each month but with a restricted attendance..

The Spiritual director Card. Jorge Urosa Savino in his Allocutio spoke about Jose Gregorio Hernández, a Venezuelan doctor who was recently pronounced "Blessed". The message of Blessed Jose Gregorio Hernández was multiple, immense charity, a life of Christian faith and service to the poor and love of God.

## CENTRAL AMERICA

 **Costa Rica:** Normal **Senatus** meeting with a restricted attendance was allowed. However, the virus increased once again and new additional restrictions were put in place.

 **El Salvador:** Meetings of **San Salvador Senatus** have returned to normal after 12 months. Reports show a protestant father converted to Catholicism, he and his daughter were baptised, now he and his wife are doing a marriage preparation course. A woman who contracted cancer and who lost her faith returned and recovered from the cancer. She now takes part in the ministry for the sick.

 **Honduras:** In the **Senatus of Tegucigalpa**, during the Covid-19, the legionaries use the different means of communication including WhatsApp. Family members and friends have died including the president's husband. R.I.P.

 **Nicaragua:** Legionaries in **Managua Regia** are taking part in parish activities since they cannot do home or hospital visitation. In the month of February, the first of a six monthly programme on the Legion of Mary was transmitted. The Spiritual Director, Fr. Idelfonso and a number of officers participated.

 **Panama:** The **Panama Regia** meetings continue by WhatsApp. Contact is also maintained by WhatsApp with the auxiliaries and others who are housebound. Reports indicate nine new adult praesidia and three junior praesidia have been started.

# OUR LADY OF KIBEHO



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