

ALFIE LAMBE 1932 - 1959

From humble beginnings

Alphonsus Lambe was born in Tullamore, County Offaly on June 24th 1932. Alfie, as he was known, entered the Novitiate of the Irish Christian Brothers on September 8th, 1948. However he suffered fainting attacks and it was decided that he should return to his family in Tullamore for a time to see if he could build up his strength. Alfie was heartbroken. However, one evening in 1950, his brother Jack invited him to a meeting of the Legion of Mary. Alfie never looked back, eventually offering his services to the headquarters (the ‘Concilium’) of the Legion of Mary. On 11th February 1953, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Alfie received a letter from Concilium inviting him to work as a Legion envoy in South America. Although his mother would miss him dearly, Alfie accepted.



KATHLEEN, JOE, ALFIE & MARY LAMBE 1941



ALFIE, THE ABBOT OF ROSCREA AND SEAMUS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE TO SOUTH AMERICA, JULY 1953

“My mother, in replying to my letter in which I told her the news, says that she does not like to see me going so far away, but that I must go because that is what Our Lady wants. She reminds me that Our Blessed Lady’s wishes must always come first.”



Late on 15th July 1953, Alfie boarded a plane to Colombia. Within 6 months he had mastered the Spanish language and went on to work in the countries of Argentina, Ecuador, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia and Brazil. His irrepressible energy amazed all those who witnessed him at work. Languages presented no barrier to Alfie; he learned Quechua, the predominant indigenous language in Ecuador. In 1956 he began learning Russian with a view to eventually being posted in Russia.



“I tell them that my native language is the only one in the world that has a special name for the mother of God.”

[The Gaelic for Mary is ‘Máire’ but for Mary when referring to Our Lady it is ‘Muire’].

Alfie’s health deteriorated during the latter half of 1958. He was diagnosed with a virulent form of cancer which had attached itself to all his vital organs.



LA RECOLETA CEMETRY



He died on January 21st 1959, the feast of St Agnes, often depicted in religious art holding a lamb, a reference to the Latin for lamb “agnus”, fitting for one known affectionately as ‘El Corderito’ (the ‘Little Lamb’).

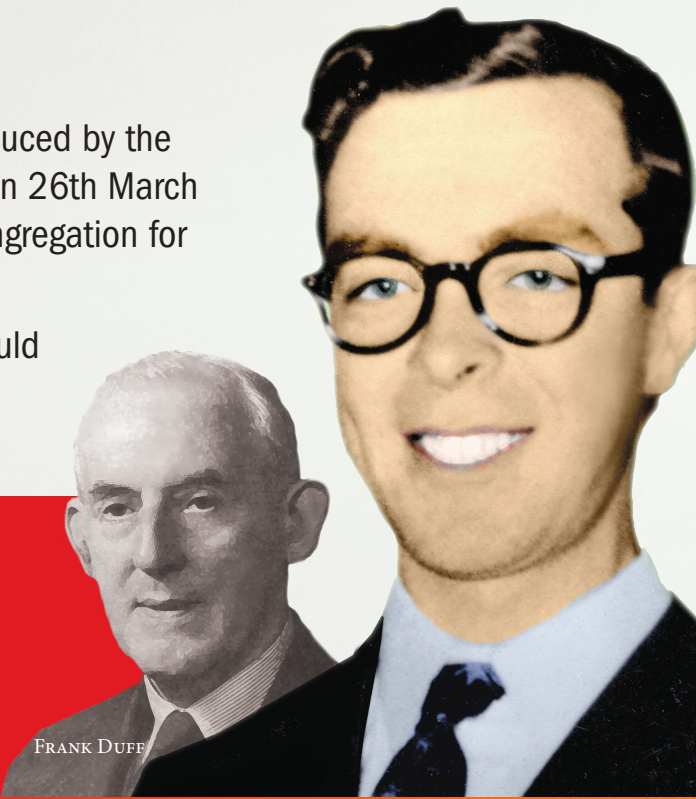
He was buried in a vault in La Recoleta Cemetry in Buenos Aires; the vault was owned at that time by the Christian Brothers, a fitting recognition of the special place he held for them in his heart.

The Cause for Beatification

The Cause for the Beatification of Alfie Lambe was introduced by the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires in 1978 and closed there on 26th March 2015, after which the papers were transferred to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome.

Favours attributed to the intercession of Alfie Lambe should be reported to: Concilium Legionis Mariae, Morning Star Avenue, Brunswick Street, Dublin 7.

One miracle is needed for his beatification and one more for his canonisation.



FRANK DUFF

ALFIE ‘El Corderito’ LAMBE