

TULLAMORE - IRELAND 1932 - 1953

His Early Life



Alphonsus Lambe was born on June 24th 1932, the Feast of St. John the Baptist, amidst the euphoria that accompanied the hosting of the 31st International Eucharistic Congress in Dublin (22 - 26 June 1932).



KATHLEEN, JOE, ALFIE & MARY LAMBE 1941

Like St. John the Baptist, Alfie would become “a prophet of God the Most High”.

He was the youngest of eight children born to Timothy and Kate Lambe in their family home on the Arden Road in Tullamore, County Offaly. Alfie, as he was known, was a delicate child, prone to fainting attacks.

The Christian Brothers



Blessed Ignatius Rice



Alfie’s deep faith manifested itself in his desire, at the tender age of 13 years of age, to join the Irish Christian Brothers, an order founded by Blessed Ignatius Rice in Waterford in 1802.

Alfie entered the Noviciate on September 8th 1948, describing it as one of the happiest days of his life. However, as fainting attacks became more regular, it was decided that he should return home for a while. Alfie was heartbroken, fearing his dreams had come to an end.



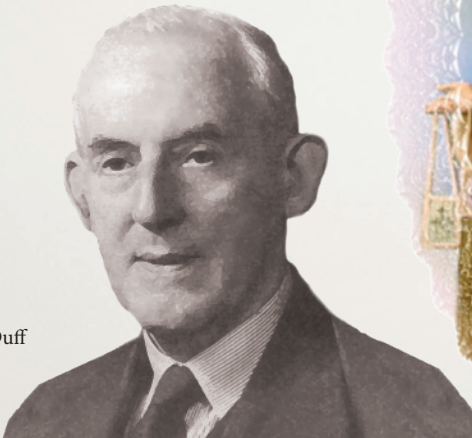
First contact with the Legion of Mary



One evening in 1950, Alfie’s brother Jack invited him to attend a local ‘praesidium’ meeting of the Legion of Mary, an organisation founded in Dublin almost 29 years previously by Frank Duff.

Alfie never looked back, immersing himself more and more in Our Lady’s work for souls.

In the summer of 1951, he took part in the ‘Holiday Extension Campaign’ organised by Seamus Grace, becoming a team leader in the 1952 campaign.



Frank Duff



SOUTH AMERICA 1953 - 1959

Legion of Mary Envoy

He soon offered himself to the headquarters of the Legion of Mary. In those years legionaries termed ‘envoys’ were working for periods of 3 years and more in different parts of the world inviting Bishops and Priests to consider setting up the Legion in their dioceses and parishes.

*‘I have been praying and thinking for a long time about offering my services to the Concilium to do whatever work they should assign me. Of myself I can do nothing, but ... I know that when I am sent by Christ I can do all things.’*

On 11th February 1953, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Alfie received a letter from Seamus Grace, who, on the prompting of Frank Duff, invited Alfie to accompany him to South America as a Legion envoy. Although his mother would miss him dearly, Alfie accepted.



SEAMUS GRACE

*“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.”*



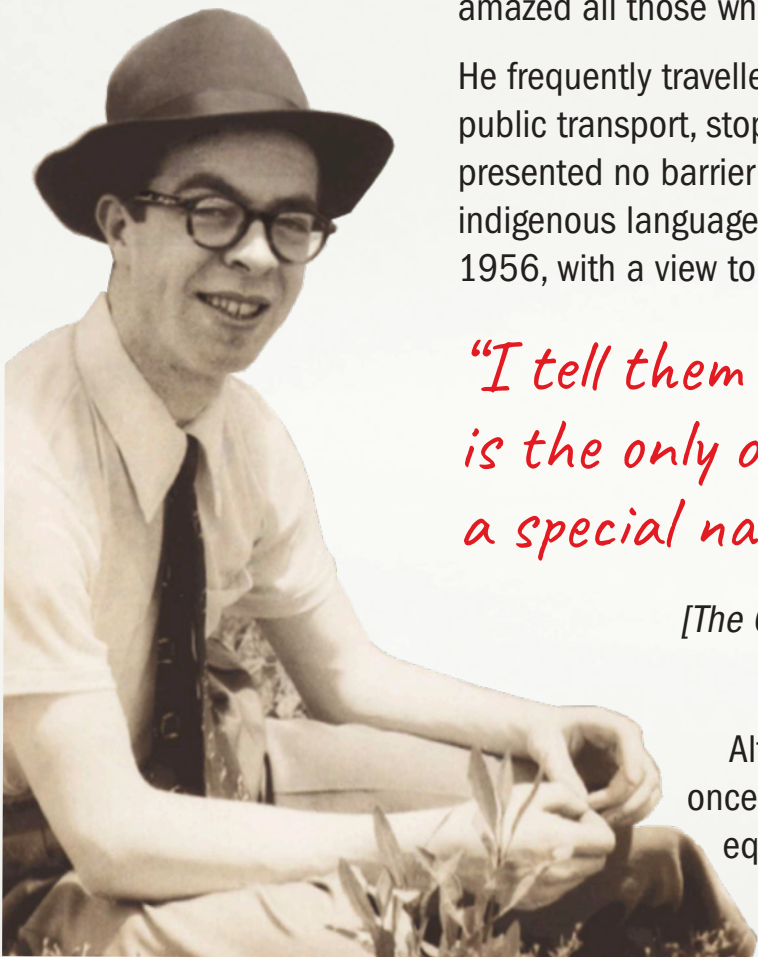
ALFIE, THE ABBOT OF ROSCREA AND SEAMUS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE TO SOUTH AMERICA, JULY 1953



Joaquina Lucas and Pacita Santos.

On 16th July 1953, the two envoys took off for Colombia. They were greeted in Bogota by a host of legionaries including envoys Joaquina Lucas and Pacita Santos. Alfie was to work initially with Joaquina until she was assigned to Brazil. In February 1954, he set off alone to Ecuador to address the Bishops Conference there. After setting up innumerable praesidia, including amongst the native Indians and in the biggest prison in Quito, he set off for Bolivia and from there to Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Chile, Bolivia and Uruguay. His irrepressible energy amazed all those who witnessed him at work.

He frequently travelled from one end of the country to the other on poor public transport, stopping only briefly to take hurried meals. Languages presented no barrier to Alfie; he learned Quechua, the predominant indigenous language in Ecuador. He began learning Russian in March 1956, 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’].*

Although initially referred to as ‘Don Alfonso’, once he revealed that his surname Lambe was the equivalent of ‘cordero’ in Spanish, he became known affectionately as ‘El Corderito’



BUENOS AIRES 1959...

Failing Health

Alfie’s health deteriorated during the latter half of 1958. He was diagnosed with lymphosarkoma, a particularly virulent form of cancer.

He died on January 21st 1959, just 26 years old. It was the feast of St Agnes, often depicted in religious art holding a lamb, a reference to the Latin word for lamb ‘agnus’, a ‘coincidence’ that did not go unnoticed.

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



The Cause for Beatification

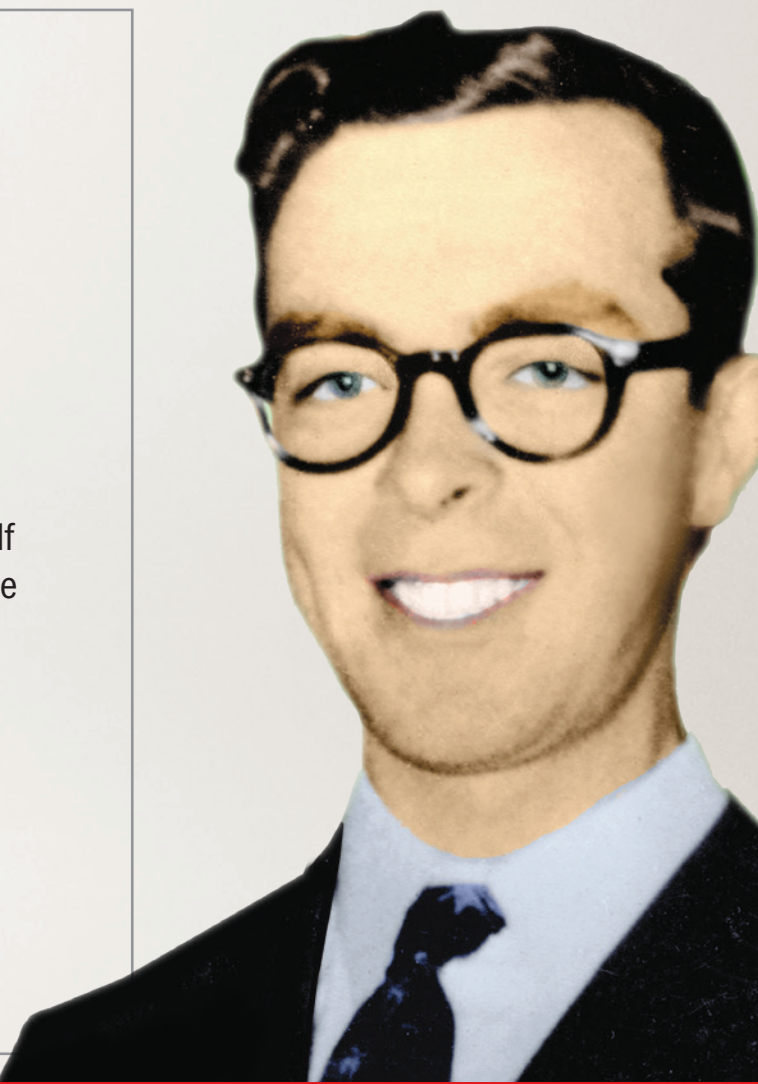


The Cause for the Beatification of Alfie Lambe was introduced by the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires in 1978 and closed there on 26th March 2015, after which the papers were transferred to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome. Favours attributed to the intercession of Alfie Lambe should be reported to: Concilium Legionis Mariae, Morning Star Avenue, Brunswick Street, Dublin 7.

Prayer for the Beatification of the Servant of God, Alphonsus 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

With ecclesiastical approval



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

ALFIE

‘El Corderito’

LAMBE