

Maria Legionis



*For thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bear
a son, and shalt call his Name Jesus*

(Luke 1:21).

Maria Legionis

The Voice of the Legion of Mary

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'The Annunciation'

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Peregrinatio Pro Christo to Ukraine

A wonderful time of grace

By Elizabeth Kriss

When in August 2021 we arranged the PPC for 2022 with Fr. Anatoli, the parish priest of Chernovets, nobody could have guessed that in July 2022 everything would be completely different. When the war broke out in February, the responsible legionaries in Austria decided to continue the project, unless it became too dangerous at the last moment.

The preparations began: praying for it, inviting the legionaries, getting the tickets and the material for the apostolate. But already here, difficulties arose constantly and always anew, and also the anxious question of whether it would not be better for the peregrini not to travel to Ukraine. It was then that I understood that this was a very important matter, and that

therefore we could not give up under any circumstances. At the time of our departure in Vienna, we were only four legionnaires from Austria and one from Ukraine.

Then, when the first meeting took place in the evening of July 15th in Chernivtsi, the legionaries of the local praesidium and the first peregrini gathered around the altar of the Blessed Mother. When we asked Father Anatoli what his intentions were for this PPC in his parish, Father gave us the goal: conversion to God of the people of Chernivtsi! And our conversion also because a PPC is always like a practical retreat, or like fasting in the sign of love of the lived community with fifteen other legionaries.

Every day we prayed Lauds together (mixed language in German and Ukrainian), participated in the Holy Mass in the parish, held our praesidium meeting in the time of the greatest heat, and of course we walked the streets and squares of the city for four or five hours every day to meet the people that God would send us our way. We gave people our time, our ear, our heart, and often the Miraculous Medal or a prayer, an encouragement or explanation of the faith, or an invitation to Sunday Mass. In the evenings, we all brought our encounters before the Lord in Adoration.



When we met people at the apostolate who needed help, not only in the spiritual field but also in the medical field, we were able to cooperate with the parish group of Kolping. This is how talents and charisms complement each other; this is how the Church lives.

This year, only Our Lady knew beforehand how many legionaries would ultimately respond to her call. And because there were so many

legionaries, we were able to give only a few medals in the last days, but much of our time and heart. The many legionaries included seven from the local praesidium, one from Kiev, one from Berdichev, five from Kamenets, three from Lviv, two from Shargorod and two from Veliki Mosti.

Unfortunately, this time no legionaries from Harkov could be there, although they had been looking forward to it for a whole year. And why were the legionaries from Chernivtsi absent? They did not go on PPC, but on extension. Congratulations!

On our free afternoon we went to Dawidenzi, a village where we had been previously, and on the way there a legionary invited us to lunch at his home. As always in Ukraine, it was wonderful, beautiful, good, and a joyful fellowship. Thanks also to the chauffeurs who took us there.

Thanks also to Father Roman, with whom we celebrated Holy Mass in the parish church of St. Rosa, and then to the Legion of Mary. Afterwards we had an information meeting about the Legion of Mary, especially through experience. May Our Lady soon give him a praesidium!



These were days of special grace!

For us legionaries ourselves: the fellowship, the exchange (we already had to cancel the summer school for three years), the formation, the school of Our Lady through the meeting, the apostolate.

For the people of Chernovets: there were many wonderful meetings with people from the city or from the eastern parts of Ukraine. The situation of threat and uncertainty made the hearts of the people very open to the streams of God's grace. There were extremely warm encounters with people whom we did not know at first and then became friends; for the praesidium and the parish in

Chernivtsi, because every praesidium is a special presence of Mary.

So our thanks go first of all to God and to the Blessed Mother, but also to Fr. Anatoli for his faith which made the PPC possible, to the Senatus Austria who sponsored the trips, to all the legionaries who spared neither time nor effort, and this time also to the families of the Austrian legionaries who, in spite of terrible images on television, had the faith and confidence to let their loved ones go to a country where there is war.

But what can you do when Our Lady cares for her children 365 days a year! You just have to help, no matter where!



Our Lady - Protector of the Ukraine

Legion Centenary Celebration in Mumbai, India



By Carlton D'Souza - President, Star of the Sea Senatus, Mumbai, India

The Star of the Sea Senatus of Mumbai, India held its Legion Centenary Celebration on 5 November 2022. The celebration day included a Concelebrated Holy Mass, followed by refreshments and an evening of social activity which included dancing, fun, and a Legion Quiz.

Yes. Come, let's celebrate as the Legion of Mary has completed 100 years of its apostolic work, on 7th September 2021!

Owing to the pandemic, this great and memorable event was celebrated on 5th November 2022 at St. John the Evangelist Church, Marol, commencing with a Prayer Dance by two juniors of Goregaon East praesidium

His Lordship, Bishop Barthol Barretto, who has the Legion very close to his heart, was the main celebrant at the Holy Eucharist which was concelebrated with Fr. Anthony Fernandes, the spiritual director of the Senatus, and three other spiritual directors.

Homily

In his homily, Bishop Barthol expressed his delight to mark the concluding centenary celebration.

The Legion of Mary began as a

small group under the leadership of Frank Duff and has spread its wings throughout the world, growing from strength to strength.

Both readings of the day were apt for the centenary closing. St Paul states: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Who can say we can do without Christ's support? None of us can do anything without Christ. The Legion has a two-fold goal – to promote spiritual growth and development and to be witnesses to God through its apostolic service. Jesus says we cannot serve God and money. Money and the secret bag collection are secondary to all legionaries. Uppermost in their hearts is to be first to God through the intercession of Mary. Yes, I feel proud of you, who work in so many parishes at the deanery level. I sincerely salute and appreciate every legionary - active or auxiliary. You are missionary disciples of Jesus, spending your valuable two hours every week visiting the sick in their homes and hospitals, both Catholic and other Faiths – helping in regularising marriages, etc.

Your apostolate is not limited to the local, but extends to Nepal and Bangladesh, as well! You work selflessly and silently - not to gain recognition. Your spiritual activities include conducting the Rosary in communities in May and October, helping out in RCIA classes and catechising little children through the Sunday School. It gives me such joy to see 85 children legionaries, at the deanery level, here this morning. As Parish Priest at I.C., I remember the five units of the Legion, helping out in the various projects.

While we celebrate the Holy Eucharist, on the occasion of the closing year of the Legion centenary, we salute and appreciate you all and plead with you to continue this ministry - so that we can say as St. Paul said: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!"

Celebration

Immediately after the Holy Eucharist, we all gathered in the Hall to enjoy the evening with fun, games and dancing, while we were treated to sandwiches and tea... and, of course, Sharol a member of Goregaon East praesidium, and a compere for church activities, was there to welcome us all with her pretty smile.

The opening dance by the legionaries

of Goregaon East, compelled us all, young and old alike, to join in. Bishop Barthol once again said a few words expressing his joy and appreciation and categorically promised to be with us.

Then we presented Bishop Barthol, Fr, Anthony and Fr. Reuben each with a gift. We were requested to be seated in groups, as Sharol introduced us to a game of Legion Quiz. Oh! There was so much fun and excitement, as we spelt out the answers, much to the disappointment of the group that was eliminated.

After the excitement of the game had died down, a skit, enacted by members of the I.C., Poinsur and Don Bosco praesidia, set the stage alight with their presentation of a 'REAL LIFE' Legion Apostolate. It was really a surprise to see our very own members enacting the various roles that we come across during our apostolate. Of course, it was packed with fun as well as with emotional scenes. All hidden talents were brought to the fore!

Sr. Shalina, the Vice-President of the Star of the Sea Senatus, Mumbai, then presented a PPT on the governing areas of the Senatus and their works.



After the Catena, we were all treated to delicious and sumptuous snacks.

Fr. Anthony, our spiritual director, then took over the stage as he addressed all assembled.

Address

Frank Duff, the Founder of the Legion of Mary, was an active member of the SVP. But, guided by the Holy Spirit, he realised that though many people needed material relief, there were many who needed spiritual inputs and, so, he thought of starting a spiritual organisation. The Legion began with fifteen members, fourteen women and one man, with no idea on how they would proceed. Little did they think that the Legion of Mary would spread so wide, covering more than 160 countries all over the world! The official Handbook of the Legion has been published in more than 50 languages. In 1965 Frank Duff, was invited by Pope Paul VI to attend the Second Vatican Council as a lay observer!

Fr Anthony then told us how he got his vocation through the Legion. Having joined the Legion at the age of twelve, he went on to be the Vice-President of the Junior Council. Later on, he went to Abu Dhabi, where he became the President of the Council, there. He gave a list of all the apostolic works that the legionaries performed –visiting bereaved families, hospitals, institutes, other faith families, organising a Mass for the sick. He told us that the priest

who knows what the Legion does, depends on them for all the works of the Church. The Cardinal and Bishops are appreciative of the legionaries and their commitment to the Church and to community activities.

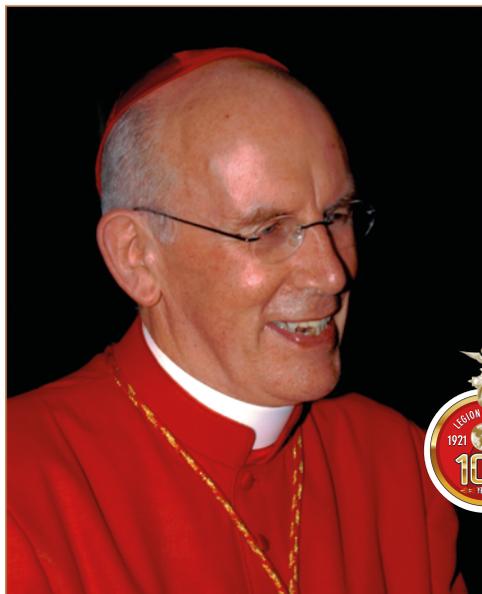
Fr. Anthony expressed his sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the executive team of the Senatus, whom he has witnessed working very hard, especially for this great occasion! He said our motto should be: KNOW THE WAY, GO THE WAY AND SHOW THE WAY!

This motto, he said, was followed very diligently by the entire executive team. He also thanked some of the senior legionaries, who were part of the centenary committee, for their constant support to the executive team.

Sr. Jyothi, the secretary of the Star of the Sea Senatus, Mumbai, then proposed the vote of thanks. She sincerely appreciated and thanked all those who contributed in some way or other towards this great event.

Finally, it was such a joy to meet so many legionaries – some after 25 years! Yes, they were our junior members, who continued their membership by joining the senior praesidium.

With the concluding prayer, prayers for the beatification of Frank Duff, and Fr. Anthony's blessing, the memorable event came to an end at 8.30 p.m.



Homily at Concelebrated Mass for Close of the Centenary

By Cardinal Emeritus Seán Brady

The official close of the Centenary of the Legion of Mary was marked with a Concelebrated Holy Mass in St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral Dublin on Saturday 19 November 2022.

Before a capacity attendance of legionaries from Ireland and abroad, with several Bishops and clergy, and with the Palestrina Choir adding an extra and beautiful dimension to the occasion, the following homily was delivered by the Chief Celebrant Cardinal Emeritus Seán Brady.

Brothers and Sisters,

Today, we offer thanks to the Lord for this great association which we call the Legion of Mary and for its apostolate. It is an apostolate which is nourished by a life of intense prayer, sustained by unshakeable faith in the Triune God and an animated loving devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

We have come to the end of another Church Year, and you have come to the end of a wonderful year, a year of prayer, reflection, and celebration. Celebration of that precious legacy, which the Servant of God – Frank Duff – has left us.

What a joy to welcome you all – coming as you do, from the ends of the earth. Your presence is a powerful witness to the esteem in which the Legion and its apostolate are held.

- Today we rejoice that when he was about to leave us, Jesus entrusted to his Church, his mission of making disciples of all nations.
- We rejoice in the gift and talents given to accomplish that mission.
- We rejoice in the re-awakening of the laity to an awareness of their role – conferred at Baptism – as announcers of the Good News.

HOMILY

Today we rejoice in the huge number of new ecclesial movements that sprang up in the Church in the final decades of the last century. They display many wonderful gifts and charisms and can recruit committed members. The main actors in this development are lay people – many of them young people.

At Pentecost 1998, Pope St. John Paul II invited representatives of fifty-six such communities to a meeting in Rome. One well-informed observer commented: “They are a gift of God and a sign of the times.”

Yet 33 years earlier, the founder of the Legion of Mary, Frank Duff, received a standing ovation from the Bishops of the Second Vatican Council – when he was appointed as a lay observer.

Today we rejoice that Frank Duff was ahead of his time in highlighting the role of the laity. He was influenced by the writings of St. John Henry Newman, who was concerned with creating within the



laity an active force that would be at work in the Church and in the world at large.



Frank Duff was also influenced by the teachings of St. Louis Marie de Montfort – on ‘True Devotion to Our Lady.’ That true devotion aims essentially at unity with Jesus under the guidance of Mary.

We also know that Frank Duff was greatly influenced by his work with the St. Vincent de Paul Society and of their frequent quotation of the words of Christ: “As long as you did it to one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it to me.” These words moved him greatly.

And so, reflecting on all of this, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, Frank Duff founded the Legion of Mary on 7th September 1921 in this city in the parish of St. Nicholas of Myra.



The world-wide esteem for the Legion of Mary dawned on me only when I went to Korea to attend the priestly ordination of a student from the Irish College in Rome. On the day of my return, at Seoul International Airport, I was pleased to meet the Head of the Legion of Mary in Korea. She had travelled quite a distance to greet me, simply because I came from Ireland – the land which had given the world the Legion of Mary.

In the Gospel today we hear how Mary set out and went, as quickly as she could, to a town in the hilly country of Judea. Today that town is called Ein Karem – a lovely town about five miles west of Jerusalem; it would have taken Mary about four days to get there from Nazareth.

I had the privilege of going there a few years ago on pilgrimage. On a bright sunny morning we visited the Church of the Visitation which was also bright and beautiful – filled with paintings and icons of Mary and Elizabeth, and many of the other wonderful women of the Old Testament. It was easy to pray the joyful mysteries there. Mary and Elizabeth greeted each other with great emotion and great joy and Elizabeth pronounced the blessing with the words:

“Blessed are thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.”

How many times have these beautiful words been said down through the centuries. She added another splendid

tribute to the Mother of her Lord:

“How happy you are to believe that the Lord’s message to you will come true.”

Christian joy is one of the FRUITS of the Holy Spirit – one of those perfections which the Holy Spirit forms in us as first fruits of Eternal Glory. Mary rejoices in God, her Saviour. Her deep, deep joy is the response of her heart to the self-giving love of God – that was, at that moment, being made flesh in her womb.

A few years ago, Pope Francis began his document on holiness with the words: “Rejoice and be Glad.” He goes on to say that joy is one of the signs of holiness. Far from being morose or melancholy or putting on a dreary face, the saints are joyful and full of good humour. Mary recognised the newness that Jesus brought and said: “My spirit rejoiced.” Today, our hearts are filled with joy as we recognise the great things which God has done through the Legion of Mary over the past 100 years. We give thanks and praise to God.

GRATITUDE

“He who is mighty has done great things for me”

Mary recognises that God has worked a wonderful miracle when she conceived the Son of God and remained a virgin.

HOMILY

Gratitude and thanksgiving are both gracious responses to life as a gift to another. During the four days of her journey from Nazareth, Mary must have given thanks to God over and over again as her appreciation of the gift that had been given sunk in.

The Legion is a gift of God and a sign of the times.

On the inside cover of your mass booklet the Legion of Mary, with typical generosity, thanks many people. But we have today to thank God for the gift of the Legion and to thank the members of the Legion throughout this country and beyond for all the graces and favours bestowed through them on the world. We can vaguely imagine the millions of sick, imprisoned, poor, lonely, abandoned people who would want us to thank God and the Legion for the comfort

and consolation received from the Legion of Mary.

I recently asked a priest friend whether he had been a legionary before entering the seminary. He confirmed that in fact he had been and went on to reminisce what a happy and helpful experience it had been. He had gone along initially more out of curiosity and solidarity with some of his peers rather than out of devotion. He recalled with enthusiasm the delight he found in hearing of the achievements of great legionaries like Venerable Edel Quinn and the Servant of God Alfie Lambe. It had given him a stronger faith and possibly sown the seed of his vocation. Many vocations to priesthood and religious life have emanated from membership of the new movements.



CELEBRATIONS

‘Behold, henceforth, all generations will call me blessed’

With these words, Mary previews the glory and the praise that will be bestowed upon her down through the ages.

It celebrates

- Birthdays
- Anniversaries
- Days that honour achievements
- Days of hope
- Days of new beginnings.

Today we celebrate the fact that the noblest actions that people can do are the works of mercy towards their neighbour. Those who wish to give glory to God are called to be single-minded and tenacious in all their practice of the works of mercy. Today we salute and celebrate the remarkable zeal of the Legion of Mary – typified by people like Venerable Edel Quinn and the Servant of God Alfie Lamb.



St. Teresa of Calcutta once said: “If we are too concerned about ourselves we will have no time left for others.” The members of the Legion of Mary always manage to find time for others.

This is a day of hope and new beginnings. Pope Francis has chosen the theme of ‘Hope’ for the Jubilee Year of 2025. That choice was dictated by the search for meaning and purpose which characterises modern society.

When we are faced with suffering and anguish, hope gives us strength. We turn to God with hope and ask that the Legion continue to be blessed and abundant.

My own hope is that, here in Ireland we will, once again, rediscover the potential of the Legion of Mary. It can become a precious gem in the New Evangelisation.

As we give thanks for all that has been, we ask Our Lady – Star of the Sea – to help us put our trust in Her Son Jesus Christ – the Sun of Justice.

AMEN





ALICE CREATON

- REST IN PEACE -



By Síle Ni Cochláinn

Alice Creaton came to Dublin to take up a post in the Civil Service, in the course of which she was invited to join the Legion. In 2008 she retired from the Central Statistics Office after 30 years' service. She was a member in Ancilla Domini Curia and served in several officerships. She then became an indoor sister for a year in Regina Coeli hostel after which she became a member of one of the hostel's praesidia, Light of Nazareth, being a member there for 23 years. She was very generous in the time she gave to the Hostel and for many years she helped prepare, cook and serve lunch for the residents on Christmas Day.

From 2011 to 2017, Alice served as a Concilium officer first as Assistant Secretary looking after visitors and hospitality. She was then elected Assistant Treasurer from 2017 to date. She became a familiar figure to many legionaries throughout Ireland and elsewhere dealing with English literature orders and sales. She would have concluded her 2nd term in July 2023.

In May 2022, Alice was admitted to St. James Hospital and diagnosed with cancer. She bore her illness with dignity; her immediate response being that she was ready to go. And if anyone was

prepared to go, it was certainly she. A week before she died she was on the phone to ask us to pursue some items she was unable to complete.

Alice was an extraordinary person: she didn't own a TV; she was an avid reader; a great proof reader; she participated in many pilgrimages and retreats; she was a Praetorian member and had a wonderful memory. She never asked questions but people seemed happy to share their life-stories with her. She was an organiser for the Legion Pilgrimage to Knock, and we all recall her here telling us to fill the buses. With boundless energy, she was a great colleague helping out in many ways. Despite not having a car, she made her way to wherever she was going and arrived there before many of us!

Alice would have been 76 years of age on Saturday 15th October 2022 but the Lord had other plans for her. Her funeral Mass took place in St. Brigid's Church, Cloon Bonniffe on Friday 14th October with burial afterwards in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon. Some twenty legionaries gathered to recite the Legion Prayers at her grave.

*Ar dheis Dé
go raibh a anam*

The Birth and Growth of the Legion of Mary in Australia

By Michael Walsh

Archbishop Daniel Patrick Mannix, born on 4 March 1864 at Deerpark, Charleville, Co. Cork, Ireland, played a major part in the establishment of the Legion of Mary in Australia, and in augmenting its image worldwide. He approved the establishment of the first praesidium and later granted the 'Imprimatur' to the Official Handbook of the Legion of Mary. This action had such far-reaching positive consequences for the organisation that the Concilium conferred upon him the title of 'Laureate Member of the Legion of Mary.'

Daniel Mannix became Archbishop of Melbourne in 1917

The founding of the Legion in Australia came about in a roundabout manner. The 31st International Eucharistic Congress took place in Dublin, between the 21st and 26th June, 1932. This event was scheduled to coincide with the 1,500th Anniversary of St.

Patrick's arrival in Ireland. Amongst the visitors to Dublin for the Congress was Father Henry Bakker, Parish Priest of Ascot Vale, Victoria, Australia. Father Bakker met Frank Duff, who spoke to him about the possibility of setting up the Legion in Australia. As a result of this conversation with Frank Duff, and before returning to Australia, Father Bakker attended several meetings in Dublin and realised the potential of the Legion. On return to Australia, he immediately set about starting a praesidium and with that in mind approached Archbishop Mannix of Melbourne for permission, which was granted.

Mrs. Gavan Duffy, of Mt. Eliza, Victoria, also visiting Dublin in 1932, 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 begun the first praesidium in his own parish. Encouraged by this news, Mrs. Gavan Duffy lost no time in establishing the Legion at Frankston and, by the following June, a Curia was formed



to govern the existing branches and carry on the work of extension.

Father Bakker became Spiritual Director of this Curia and Mrs. Gavan Duffy took on the role of President. Extension was a priority and quickly bore fruit.

The first diocese outside Melbourne to adopt the Legion was Sandhurst, with its inaugural meeting at Bendigo in January 1934. Melbourne Curia was raised to Senatus level in June, 1934. Adelaide adopted the Legion the same year; Tasmania and Broken Hill followed in 1935, and Queensland in 1936. Perth established its first praesidium in 1940 and Sydney followed in 1942.

In July 1944, when the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Senatus was celebrated, the Legion had extended to every State in Australia and to New Zealand. By that year the Legion had 643 branches, with an active membership of 5,470 and 35,000 auxiliaries.

Fast forward to 2022: we read the following report from Australia to Concilium: **Melbourne Senatus:** Visitation to all councils has recommenced after Covid. Mass for Frank Duff was celebrated on 12th November. Adelaide Comitium reported with nine senior praesidia and one junior praesidium, three Curia and 200 members. The Vietnamese Curia had 60 attend the Acies. Noumea Comitium in New Caledonia in the



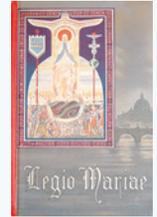
Archbishop Daniel Patrick Mannix was a major ecclesiastical figure of the Irish diaspora. Born on 4 March 1864 at Deerpark, Charleville, Cork, Ireland, he passed from this life on 6 November 1963 and was laid to rest in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne after a long and fruitful life dedicated to the promotion of the Good News of the Gospel.

Pacific Ocean held their Centenary Mass and also gained the Plenary Indulgence. They have eight Curia and a total of 55 praesidia, including three junior praesidia. Six praesidia in the outlying islands are attached to the Comitium. Hobart Curia in Tasmania has three praesidia with nineteen members. They bring Holy Communion to the sick, do door-to-door and pilgrim statue visitation, and recite the Rosary. One Curia held a Retreat and a Reunion. **Sydney Senatus:** With an attendance of 1,400, Mass was celebrated by Bishop Terry Brady on 10 September to close the Centenary.

A week-long Marian exhibition was held in the Legion house. Mass was celebrated for Frank Duff on 12th November. An Indonesian praesidium reported with seven members. They started a new praesidium in Marayong. Blacktown Comitium reported works of teaching religious education in the state schools, preparing parish children for the sacraments of Penance, First Holy Communion and Confirmation, and had involvement in the RCIA programme, baptismal preparation and many other works in the parish.

A Day Retreat was held for auxiliaries. Visitation to the homes and nursing homes was done. Two new praesidia were set up. The junior Curia has twelve praesidia.

The foregoing reports represent but a fraction of the reports to Concilium received annually from the many councils throughout Australia. The groundwork for all this work was laid in 1932 and 1933, and thanks is given to the founder members, Fr. Bakker, instigator of the first praesidium, Mrs. Gavan Duffy, first Curia President, and Laureate member of the Legion of Mary, Archbishop Mannix, who approved the establishment of the first praesidium in Australia, promoted the Legion throughout that vast country and granted the Imprimatur to the Legion of Mary Handbook.



1. *imprimatur*, (Latin: "let it be printed"), in the Catholic Church, is a permission, required by contemporary canon law and granted by a bishop, for the publication of any work on scripture or, in general, any writing containing something of peculiar significance to religion, theology, or morality.

2. (The Collins dictionary definition of the word Laureate is 'a person who has been honoured for achieving distinction in a particular field or with a particular award').

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader

Welcome to the first issue of Maria Legionis for 2023. With your generous help and continued support, we look forward to a wider expansion of readership in 2023.

We rely on each of you to help in our efforts to increase the circulation of Maria Legionis. We would like to hear of your efforts to build up the readership. Please let us know and we will pass on the good news to others to do likewise.

May we suggest that you consider sending an acceptable gift to a friend in the form of a year's subscription. If you send name and address and €10 to the address on the inside cover, we will be delighted to post Maria Legionis quarterly. By so doing you will be making a significant contribution towards the dissemination of Catholic literature and sharing with the Legion in the apostolate.

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you in anticipation.

Tracing the Footsteps of Edel Quinn

By Ronald Maria Sebuwufu -
President Lugazi Comitium

"You are welcome my friend, how are you? Have you eaten any lemon today!" These were the words that woke me out of my awe of meeting up with one who had personally met the Venerable Edel Quinn. Sr. Bahamas is her name, as her fellow sisters from the Nkokonjeru convent of Little Sisters of St. Francis called her. She is an elderly nun now over 95 years of age and is very eloquent in the English language.

She continues: "She was a very beautiful lady, with a nice long neck. I wondered why she was neither married nor a nun like us! Even Maama (Mother Kevin) kept telling her to remain and join us, but she had to continue to Tanganyika to tell them about Maama Maria too."

Sr. Nambi Franciska met the Venerable Edel Quinn when she visited Uganda.

Hardly had we spoken much before she led me to a colleague, former president of Lugazi Comitium: Anthony Kisuule. He narrates further: "My teacher told us about Edel Quinn." Anthony was taught by Lucia Batiba at St. Alphonsus Demonstration School – she was one



of the legionaries recruited by Edel Quinn. "Edel always loved the Rosary; she always gave us presents, such as sweets and always loved singing for us."

BIRTH:

Edel was born on September 14th, 1907, in Ireland to a banker, Charles Quinn and a maiden mother Louise Durke Browne. This also marks the day of the Exaltation of the Cross; could it have been a pointer to the cross she was about to carry in the forests of Nkokonjeru, trekking to bring Mother Mary!

ARRIVAL

Edel set foot in Ncarbya on July 22nd, 1938, where she was directed to meet a fellow friend and also the founder of the Litter Sisters of St. Francis in Nkokonjeru-Mother Kevin.

ELECTION OF FIRST OFFICERS

She moved using the hardest of transport means until she reached Namilyango around October to meet with the Mill Hill Fathers, but later on reached Nkokonjeru on September 12th, 1938. On that very day she met up with students of the then Holy Ghost Normal School, which is now Sancta Maria Primary Teachers College, sharing about Mother Mary and the Legion of Mary.

On 24th and 28th September 1938, Edel convened the first and second meetings respectively in the Holy Ghost room, which now houses the PTC staffroom. This meeting was attended by Edel as President and Ioannina Namakula as Vice-President (a village girl) and members Maria Namuddu and Batiba, among others.

The praesidium was named 'Our Lady of Mercy.' At this meeting, Mother Kevin suggested visiting St. Francis Hospital and cleaning the parish church; its location was near the tree which Mother Kevin had cut down on her arrival in the village, which had been considered a god in the area. Nkokonjuru (the native translation of white hen). The cutting of the tree began the transformation of the area from acts of witchcraft and cannibalism. Many natives, who had seen the white woman fell the tree, had thought she was going to die because of cutting down a god!

On October 5th, 1938, the first officers of the praesidium were elected, with Edel and Juliana Namuddu as scrutineers. The officers chosen were President – Ioannina Namakula; Vice-President – Rosa Namatova; Secretary – Vitrina Namagembe; and Treasurer - Maria Namuddu.

With the leadership in place and formed, Edel temporarily left to continue with the Legion work in other areas, such as Kamuli. Meetings continued to take place on 15th, 21st and 29th October. Legion work such as visiting the hospital, cleaning the church and visiting the village were done and these yielded results. A man once visited, also a blacksmith, promised to come and teach the girls how to make backcloths. Two new members - Elizabeth Namirembe and Elizabeth Bisirikirwa from year 3 and 2 respectively also joined the praesidium. On November 5th, 1938, Sr. Carmel was appointed Legion caretaker and Sr. Agatha her assistant. On November 18th, 1938, Edel returned to the school in which four girls – Veronica, Anna, Agutti Maria, and Amusara Maria – joined the praesidium.

In December 1938, when the school broke off for a two-month holiday, Edel moved to another village called Nyenga where there was also a convent and hospital for the community.

TRACING THE FOOTSTEPS OF EDEL QUINN

Here at the end of January 1939, Edel formed a praesidium of old women. These however could not read or write; it took them a long time even to learn the Catena Legionis. This was the second praesidium whose formation was linked to the Venerable Edel Quinn.

EDEL LEAVES FOR KENYA

February 25th, 1939 was a beautiful day, but it was the last day the diocese would see Edel Quinn. Edel came back to the school and gave her final allocutio to the girls and later said goodbye to the legionaries. She had stated that she would move to Kenya and Tanganyika to spread the Legion



work. The girls were very sad and said goodbye after a rosary recitation at a grotto at the school.

Many events are remembered about this mysterious young lady in the villages that she had trekked. Many Legion praesidia have started within the diocese, especially among the youth; fruits that have their roots in the tremendous work started by the Venerable Edel Quinn. What started as a single praesidium has now transformed into over 40 Curiae and two Comitia, in Lugazi Diocese alone.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our sister Edel. As Rev. Fr. Tamale Peter Lawrence always reminds us ... *“we should always pray for her that one day she may be announced a saint.”*

Edel Quinn liked Strong Tea and Cream Buns!

By Fr. Claudio Rossi, S.J.

When Fr. Rossi was Spiritual Director of the Clifton Diocese Curia, Bristol, in 1993, he sent the following letter to Concilium which was published in Maria Legionis. It is reprinted hereunder.

In my first parish after ordination in Harare, Zimbabwe, I met Mrs. Yolande Le Clezio who told me that as a young girl in Mauritius she had known Edel Quinn. While she remembered her for her great goodness, all she could remember in any detail was being taken by Edel to a tea room when Edel had said: “We Irish like our tea strong.” It was in 1976 that I met Mrs Le Clezio.

Now in 1993 who should I meet in Bath, England, but her sister Mrs. Marie Please. Mrs. Please informed me that she was the first president of the junior praesidium commenced by Edel Quinn. She remembers above all Edel’s “lovely bright shining eyes” and the “peace and incredible joyfulness” she radiated. She remembers Edel exhorting the young legionaries to be generous, kind and compassionate in their legionary work. She, too, recalled being taken to tea by Edel, and Edel’s remark: “We are going to have lovely cream buns!”

Yes, the saints are lovable because they are human.

Legion Centenary Celebration in Thailand

By Ichaya Methasate

The Legion of Mary of Thailand celebrated the closing of the Centenary on Saturday, 19th November 2022 at the Chapel of the Miraculous Medal. His Eminence Cardinal Michael Michai Kitbunchu graciously presided, together with Rev. Fr. Peter Chavalit Kitcharoen, our Spiritual Director, and many priests of the Archdiocese of Bangkok. What a coincidence! our celebration was held on the very same day, i.e. Saturday, 19th of November 2022, as the celebration of the Concilium in Dublin.

It was really a blessing for us to have the presence of our beloved Cardinal Michael Michai at our important milestone event.



Cardinal Michael Michai Kitbunchu, the main celebrant, gave his homily to the congregation.



Fr. Peter Chavalit Kitcharoen, Spiritual Director, delivered a keynote address to welcome His Eminence Cardinal Michael Michai Kitbunchu.



Sr. Marie-Therese Suphannie Kitcharoen, Senatus President, presented a garland and a gift to Cardinal Michael Michai Kitbunchu.

Aedan McGrath

By Fr. Brendan Comerford, S.J.



I grew up about five miles from Dalgan Park (near Navan), the former seminary of the Columbans. I used to walk with my father in the grounds, and we would often visit the community cemetery. It was a tranquil spot where there were hundreds of crosses, marking the graves of Irish Columban priests who had been missionaries, especially in the 'Far East.' One of these crosses marked the grave of Fr. Aedan McGrath, about whom I knew absolutely nothing. I did some research and discovered a really heroic and saintly man.

Aedan was born in Drumcondra, Dublin in 1906. After his secondary schooling he joined the Columbans (the Maynooth Mission to China). In 1929 he was ordained priest; he was only twenty-three in 1930; Aedan was sent to China.



Aedan arrived in Shanghai in August 1930. One day his bishop Edward Galvin (1882-1956) sent for him



and said: "Aedan, I'm sending you to Tsiensiang, a parish that no priest has been in so far. I'm sorry to say there's no church there. I'm even sorrier to say there's no house there... I don't know what you'll do or where you'll live but do your best. In God's name go!" Quite a challenge for this young priest! In this tiny place in the centre of China he was to live for the next sixteen years. He never had a house or church. Bishop Galvin was never able to visit him. Aedan was all alone. The nearest priest was so far away that they rarely got together. Taking stock of his parish, Aedan found some 500 Catholics scattered among sixteen outlying missions.

Aedan lived with a Chinese family for seven years and thus became quite fluent in Chinese. As there were no cars, no roads to speak of, no electricity, it took him two months to walk around his outlying missions. In each village he stayed for three days in a little straw hut.

He baptised, instructed, heard confessions, officiated at marriages, blessed graves, then moved on to the next mission.

One day Aedan received the official Handbook of the Legion of Mary from Bishop Galvin with the instruction: “Start that”! So, Aedan started the Legion, certain that it would not work! He began with six uneducated men. It worked!

Aedan said that these men did more in a few weeks than he would have done over a couple of years. Soon, he had five praesidia (groups of men and women) with some 135 members. They prepared candidates for baptism, witnessed marriages, visited the prisons and led the burial rites for the dead.



Archbishop Antonio Riberi, the papal nuncio to China, asked that Aedan be taken out of parish ministry and be freed to

establish the Legion of Mary all over China - “before it’s too late!”

In 1949 Mao Zedong proclaimed the founding of the People’s Republic of China. A communist state, it launched an all-out attack on the Legion. Aedan became a public enemy. Chinese newspapers told the story that the Legion of Mary was a secret organisation set up by America!



Aedan was arrested on 7th September 1951 and was thrown into cell number twelve in a police station. There were two other prisoners sitting in the dark against the wall. They were forbidden to speak, to cough, to laugh, to sing, even to sneeze! Through the long day, they would sit against the wall in silence. They had no rosary beads, no books, no paper, no pencils. They were required just to sit there in the dark and think of their ‘crimes against the state.’

Aedan would be brought out of the cell for interrogation. He had to stand for hours, answering questions. For one stretch of two weeks, he was questioned nearly every night and every day. The punishment for falling asleep was an order to stand in the cell.

Aedan describes the police station as “a house of brain-bludgeoning interrogation.” The guards were always gruff, shouting and barking. Even during the night, they would come into the cell and kick the prisoners awake.



Aedan was then sent to a huge prison – Ward Road Prison. His cell was seven feet by five feet. In his cell there was no bed, no mattress, no table, no chair, no window. He described it as “the most awful place of misery you could imagine.” Every week there would be a broadcast given over a loudspeaker to the whole prison, given in the harshest of tones. Each broadcast was just communist propaganda.

In mid-June 1953, Aedan was moved to a cell on the top floor. His cell was exactly his own height - five feet, three inches. When he lay down his feet would touch one wall and his head the other. The width of the cell was that of his outstretched arms. The cell burned like an oven from the middle of June until the middle of September. He had no books: he had nothing.

In these horrendous conditions, Aedan was ever faithful to prayer

in the mornings; he would ‘begin the Mass’ by joining himself with the priests who were offering Mass throughout the world. When he got to the Communion, he would make a spiritual Communion. Every day he said three rosaries and the Legion of Mary prayers. He would make the Stations of the Cross and in the evenings he ‘attended’ Benediction in spirit. He spent thirteen months in isolation.

After two years and eight months, Aedan was brought before a court and charged with being an international spy who tapped out messages to America and tried to turn the people of China against the government. He was found guilty on all charges and expelled from China.

Returning to Ireland in 1954, he was greeted upon arrival by President Sean T. O’Kelly, Taoiseach Eamon de Valera and opposition leader, John A. Costello. Afterwards he worked to spread the Legion of Mary in England, the United States, Japan, Korea, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

Aedan died on Christmas Day 2000. He was one month short of his ninety-fifth birthday. In his obituary The Irish Times called Aedan ‘one of the luminaries of the Missionary Columban Fathers.’

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Centenary Talk - The Spread of the Legion of Mary

By Paddy Fay

Beginnings



As we celebrate the Centenary of the foundation of the Legion of Mary in September 1921 in Myra House, Francis Street, Dublin, we take a look at how it spread around the world. It is interesting to note that during the first three years of its existence, just four branches were commenced, and

these were all based in Myra House. They did have a big membership as you can see from the photograph (below) taken on the first anniversary of the Legion. You can see also that it was composed of women, except for Frank Duff. Those first few years saw the opening of the Sancta Maria Hostel, in 1922, less than a year after the foundation of the Legion, for girls rescued from 'life on the streets.' Soon after came the extraordinary apostolate in Bentley Place which resulted in the closing down of that area of prostitution and the conversion of many women caught up in it.

With four branches, a central council was formed in 1924. By 1926 there were thirteen branches in Dublin. The organisation was known as the 'Association of Our Lady of Mercy' during the first years of its life. In November 1925, the name 'Legion of Mary' was adopted. In December 1930, the title praesidium was introduced for the basic group and at the same time the term Concilium for the central council. The year 1927 saw the first branch set up outside Dublin, in Waterford. That year also saw the opening of the Morning Star Hostel in Dublin, which led to men coming into the Legion, as men were recruited to run the hostel.

In 1928 the first branch outside Ireland was formed in Glasgow, Scotland. A branch was formed in London, England, in 1929.



First Anniversary Meeting 1922



The Regina Coeli Hostel opened in Dublin in 1930. An English lady brought the Legion to India, setting up the first praesidium there in 1931. The Legion spread widely in India and to neighbouring countries.

The year 1931 also saw foundations in the United States and Canada. Following the establishment of the first praesidium in England, many Irish legionaries went to England on extension work. One of these was Venerable Edel Quinn, who went there with Muriel Wales. When Edel came home she offered to go back to England, get a job there and devote herself to doing extension of the Legion in her free time. As you may know, she was asked would she go to Africa.

The International Eucharistic Congress took place in Dublin in 1932. One of its fruits was the impetus it gave to the spread of the Legion. There were many bishops and priests among those who came from various countries to attend the Congress. Many of them were introduced to the Legion during their stay and brought it back with them to their own dioceses. Among these were the

Archbishops of Saint Louis and Los Angeles in the U.S.A. and a Bishop from South India. An interested pilgrim to the Congress, Mrs. Gavan Duffy, of Melbourne, brought the Legion back with her to Australia and was delighted to find that a Melbourne Priest, Father Bakker, who had also attended the Congress, had just founded the first branch there. The Legion reached New Zealand in 1933. It is interesting to note that the president of the first branch of the Legion in Myra House and the first president of the central council, later to be known as the Concilium, Mrs. Elizabeth Kirwan, was born in New Zealand. The Australian and New Zealand legionaries helped to develop the Legion on many of the islands in the vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean. Today the Legion is established in Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Guam, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, East Timor, American Samoa, Western Samoa, Cook Islands and Tonga. Australian priests brought the Legion to Japan after the war had ended in 1945. In 1950 Agnes Orlebar, a legionary in Melbourne, but who had migrated to Australia from Liverpool, England, was appointed Envoy to Japan. An Australian legionary, Robert Menner served as an Envoy in Japan in the 1970's.



Mrs Kirwan

The 1930's saw the first Legion Envoys being sent out. An American Catholic businessman, Mr. Bartley Oliver, in San Francisco, wanted the Legion established in San Francisco and all over the U.S.A. He asked for a 'field worker', offering to pay all the expenses of whoever volunteered. A legionary, Celia Shaw, was sent from Dublin to San Francisco and did successful extension work for three months. After her return to Dublin, Mary Duffy was the first Envoy sent in 1934. Her successful work led Mr. Oliver to repeat his offer asking for two more volunteers. These were John Murray and Una O'Byrne. Thus, two years later, three Envoys were at work in the United States and Canada. John Murray visited Mexico and the Philippines also. Una O'Byrne spent three years as Envoy. Mary Duffy returned home in 1946 and John Murray in 1947, having continued their extension work throughout the duration of the Second World War.

Dr. Charles H. Helmsing, an American Bishop and a great supporter of the Legion wrote '... the Legion appeared here and there from east to west with such rapidity that it was hard to trace the origin of each new development.'

He also said: "Since the early days of the Legion it would have been impossible for Mary's army to make progress without the wholehearted support and endorsement of the hierarchy. In addition to that, it goes without saying that the Legion would not have made progress in the United States without hundreds of devoted priests who grasp the genius of the Legion, especially the unique place of the spiritual director in the Legion system."

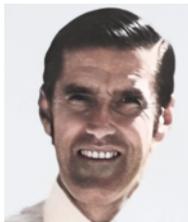


Bernardo De Nardo

It is worth noting that over 90 legionaries served as Envoys. A majority were Irish, but a good number came from other countries. Envoys served in countries in Europe, Africa, North, Central and South America, and Asia. The most recent Envoy was appointed in 2008 and served until 2011. He was Bernardo De Nardo, from Argentina. He served in Armenia, Kazakhstan and Nepal. He is now a priest. Three other Envoys, one American, Dick Soulliere, one Australian, Dan Hourigan, and one Irish, Terence McGuckin, were also ordained priests.



Agnes Orlebar



Robert Menner



Mary Duffy



John Murray



Una O'Byrne

Africa

In 1933 the Legion started in Africa. Father James Moynagh, of St. Patrick's Missionary Society (Kilteegan), later to be made a Bishop, set up a praesidium in Calabar, Nigeria, in West Africa. The first president was Michael Stephen Eking, who had been a slave and was a convert to the Catholic Faith. Later he did extraordinary work in extending the Legion. Today the Legion is spread all over Nigeria. It was reported in 2010 that there were more than 230,000 senior and 120,000 junior members in Nigeria.



Michael Eking

In 1933 a foundation was made also in South Africa. I should mention that Irish missionaries, priests and religious sisters and brothers made a big contribution to the growth and development of the Legion in many countries. And it was not only Irish missionaries but French, Belgian, Dutch, Italian, German, Portuguese, Spanish and probably others who supported the Legion. The Legion is grateful too to the African bishops, priests and religious, and to those of other countries and continents, who welcomed and supported the Legion.



Edel Quinn

In 1936 Venerable Edel Quinn went as Legion Envoy to East Africa. Her heroic work saw the Legion established in Kenya in 1936, Tanzania

in 1937, Uganda and Mozambique in 1938, Zimbabwe (formerly Southern Rhodesia) in 1939, Malawi (formerly Nyasaland) and Mauritius, in 1940. Edel died in Nairobi, Kenya, on 12 May 1944. Her Cause for Canonisation was introduced in Nairobi some years after her death; she was declared Venerable in 1994. In the 1940's at least twelve more African countries received the Legion, and it was introduced into another twelve or so in the 1950's. Legionaries from the Luanda Senatus in Angola set up the Legion in the country of São Tome e Principe just a few years ago. Some 32 Envoys worked in Africa. Today Africa has hundreds of thousands of legionaries.

EUROPE

The spread of the Legion in Europe outside of Ireland and Britain took place mainly after the end of the Second World War, although an Irish Envoy, Veronica O'Brien, commenced the Legion in France before the end of the war. An Austrian Envoy, Hilde Firtel, spread the Legion in Germany soon after the war. Two Envoys from the Philippines, Joaquina Lucas and Pacita Santos served in Portugal and Spain respectively.



Veronica O'Brien

Joaquina Lucas went on to work in South America. In the twenty years or so after the war, Envoys went to several countries in Europe.



Joaquina Lucas



Alfie, The Abbot of Roscrea and Seamus prior to departure to South America, July 1953

In Ireland, the growth of the Legion led to the establishment of six Curiae in Dublin in 1938. A big extension campaign to set up the Legion in more places in Ireland was organised in the late 1940's and early 1950's with carloads of legionaries going to various places and spending short periods there. Seamus Grace of Annunciata Curia was the chief organiser of this enterprise. One of the legionaries who took part was Alfie Lambe, from Tullamore, Co. Offaly. In 1953, Seamus, and Alfie shortly after his 21st birthday went as Legion Envoys to South America. They did wonderful work there.

SOUTH AMERICA

Seamus worked for three years mainly in Colombia and Venezuela. Alfie worked in several countries including Ecuador, Brazil and Argentina. In 1959 he died in Buenos Aires, at the age of 26 years. Alfie's Cause for Canonisation was introduced in Argentina.

The 1950's and 1960's saw a big expansion of the Legion in Latin America where some 28 Envoys worked Including Seamus and Alfie. Like Africa, Latin America has hundreds of thousands of legionaries.

ASIA

In Asia, before the war, a small number of praesidia were established in the Philippines. There was no news of them during the war but when the war ended news came that there were 100 praesidia established. The Legion spread extensively throughout the country. The Philippines is predominately Catholic; in most other countries in Asia, Catholics are a minority. It is good to note, however, that the Legion has developed well in many of the Asian countries. India has been mentioned already.

After the Korean War had ended in 1953, the Columban Fathers introduced the Legion there. Its growth has been quite extraordinary. South Korea has a population of about 50 million. There are nearly six million Catholics and a much larger number of Protestants. There are about a quarter of a million active legionaries and about the same number of auxiliaries. Vietnam has many legionaries: and so have many other Asian countries, such as Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong.

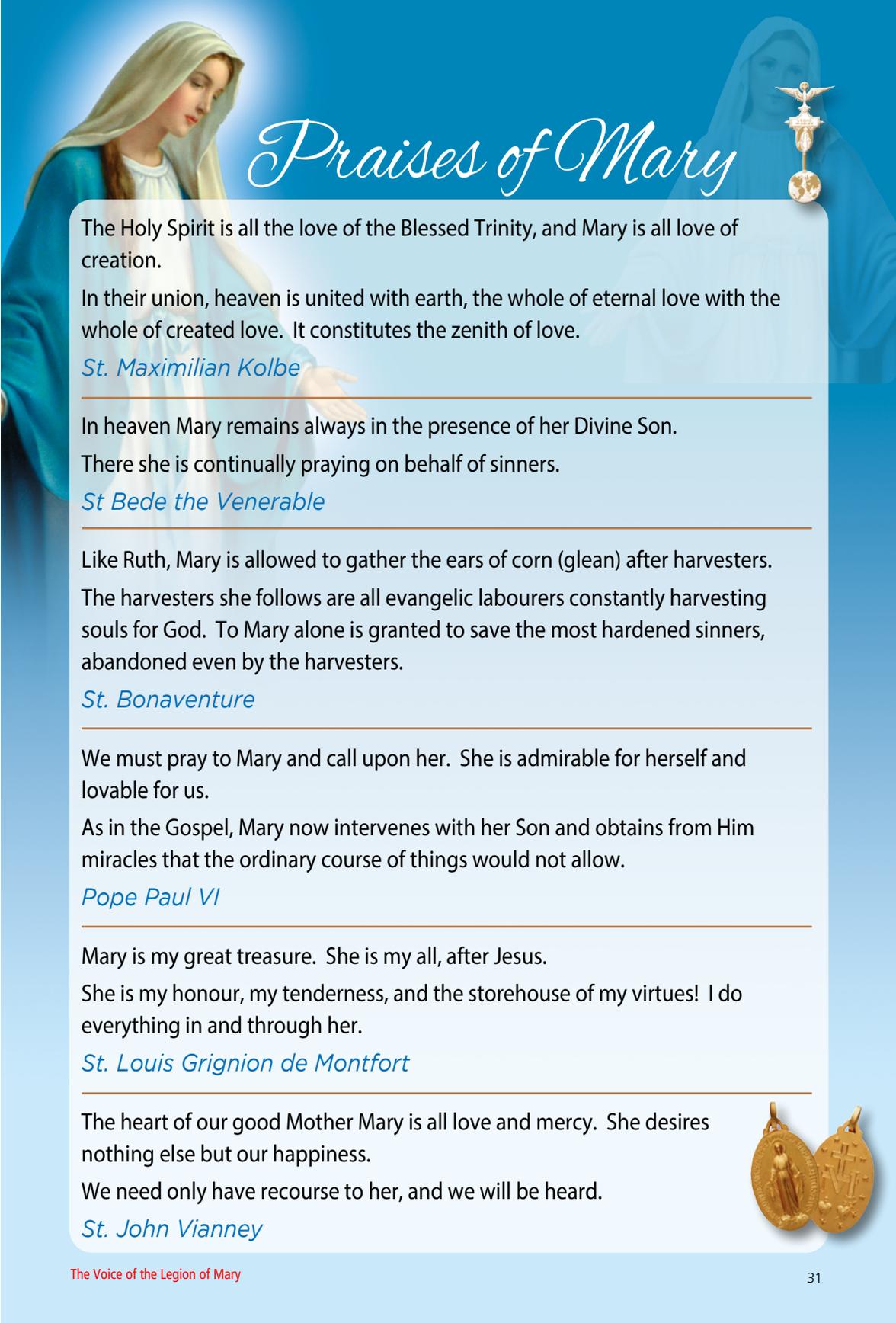
Eastern Europe

Most of Eastern Europe had to wait for the Legion of Mary until after the fall of the communist governments in 1990. Several legionaries, including Tommy McCabe, and Patricia O'Hara, both former presidents of Annunciata Curia, and Joe Fitzgibbon from Liverpool, and a Scottish couple, Morag and Bill Mitchel, gave great service in bringing the Legion to Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Belarus, Albania and Ukraine. Caroline Gray, current Secretary of the Annunciata Curia, also took part in that extension work. A legionary in Chicago, U.S.A., Maria Smilga, whose parents migrated to the U.S.A. from Lithuania, served as Legion Envoy in Lithuania from 1995 to 1998. Austrian legionaries did great work also in several Eastern European countries, such as Poland, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia and Hungary. An Irish Envoy, Sr. Clair Connolly Pater worked in Poland, and even before the fall of communism, Peregrinatio Pro Christo was carried out to Poland from Ireland, and to Albania by German legionaries. Austrian legionaries went also as extension workers to Russia and did great work getting the Legion established there. Father Robert Bradshaw also helped in establishing the Legion where he was working in Russia and where he died. Father Bradshaw led many Peregrinatio Pro Christo teams to Russia from Ireland for about twenty years before that.

We rejoice at the Centenary of the foundation of the Legion of Mary in Dublin in September 1921 and at its spread throughout the world. We know that all of this depended on the grace of God, and the will of the Father, on the Redemption won by His Son Jesus Christ, on the action of The Holy Spirit and on the maternal care of Mary Mother of God and Our Mother, and in obedience to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, and loyalty to the Holy Father. We know too that very little could have been accomplished without the tremendous support of the prayers, works and sacrifices of active legionaries and the generous prayers of an army of auxiliary members and of many sick people and others. We have much for which to be grateful.

Paddy Fay, former Envoy to Mozambique and former President of Concilium, delivered the above address to Annunciata Curia at a Centenary Celebration in 2022.





Praises of Mary



The Holy Spirit is all the love of the Blessed Trinity, and Mary is all love of creation.

In their union, heaven is united with earth, the whole of eternal love with the whole of created love. It constitutes the zenith of love.

St. Maximilian Kolbe

In heaven Mary remains always in the presence of her Divine Son.

There she is continually praying on behalf of sinners.

St Bede the Venerable

Like Ruth, Mary is allowed to gather the ears of corn (glean) after harvesters. The harvesters she follows are all evangelic labourers constantly harvesting souls for God. To Mary alone is granted to save the most hardened sinners, abandoned even by the harvesters.

St. Bonaventure

We must pray to Mary and call upon her. She is admirable for herself and lovable for us.

As in the Gospel, Mary now intervenes with her Son and obtains from Him miracles that the ordinary course of things would not allow.

Pope Paul VI

Mary is my great treasure. She is my all, after Jesus.

She is my honour, my tenderness, and the storehouse of my virtues! I do everything in and through her.

St. Louis Grignion de Montfort

The heart of our good Mother Mary is all love and mercy. She desires nothing else but our happiness.

We need only have recourse to her, and we will be heard.

St. John Vianney



Explanation of Front and Back Covers – *The Editor*

Front Cover-

The picture on the front cover is a contemporary icon painting of **'The Annunciation.'** The painting relates to the biblical account in the Gospel of Luke (1:26-36) of the Angel Gabriel announcing to the Virgin Mary that she was to be the Mother of God.

"Mary do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! For thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bear a son, and shalt call his Name Jesus."

.....

Back Cover -

The picture on the back cover is **'The Visitation'** by the fifteenth-century Flemish Renaissance artist Rogier van der Weyden. It is an oil on panel and was painted in 1445. It is on display in the Museum der Bildenden Kunste in Leipzig, Germany.

The painting depicts the biblical account in the Gospel of Luke (1:39-45) of the Virgin Mary visiting her older cousin Elizabeth at Ein Karem in the hill country of Judea. Mary is dressed in traditional blue while Elizabeth is dressed in contrasting red. Each woman is depicted placing her hand on the womb of the other: each woman is with child.

The winding road and landscape behind Mary suggests she has travelled a long distance to be with her pregnant older cousin Elizabeth. The door of Elizabeth's house is open which suggests she has rushed out to greet her cousin Mary on the road. Behind Elizabeth we can see Elizabeth's husband Zachariah playing with a dog. We also note the advanced age on the face of Elizabeth which suggests that her pregnancy was miraculous as foretold by the Angel in Luke 1:11-14).



The Virgin Mary as seen through the Eyes of the Orient

By Frank Holohan

In the Western World our image of the Virgin Mary is largely influenced by depictions of the Virgin in the paintings of the great Italian Renaissance artists. For that reason, we have become accustomed to viewing her as a white European. And while artists such as Raphael, Titian, Fra Angelico and Leonardo Da Vinci have produced works of surpassing beauty, people of the Orient, such as those of China and Japan, view the Virgin Mary in a completely different light. Their image of the Mother of God is significantly different but equally valid and equally beautiful. Since all our concepts of beauty are determined by our own history and culture, this accounts for the differences in the depictions of Mary the Mother of God.

Hereunder are two images of the Virgin Mary, which may seem strange to Western eyes but should remind us that Our Blessed Lady is Mother of all Mankind-irrespective of race or culture.



Our Lady of China



Our Lady of Japan



SOUTH AMERICA

CHILE: Many councils in the **Senatus of Santiago** organize processions and public rosaries to encourage Catholics to come to the church for Mass and the sacraments. A Chilean lady and her Peruvian husband joined the Legion when they lived in Dublin. They now live in Sweden and have started a new Spanish-speaking praesidium there.

COLOMBIA: A praesidium, attached to the **Senatus of Medellin** visited a prison to celebrate the Easter Vigil with inmates. In **Bogota Senatus**, works include contact with metro users, migrants, taxi drivers and business owners.

PARAGUAY: Asuncion Senatus: The main Centenary Closing Mass was celebrated on Sunday October 16th in Asuncion Cathedral presided over by Cardinal Adalberto Martinez. On October 3rd there was a special Centenary Closing Ceremony at the seminary where the five seminary praesidia attended.

PERU: Lima Senatus: Priority is given to starting junior praesidia and Frank Duff Prayer Groups. There are three prison praesidia.

URUGUAY: The vice president of **Montevideo Senatus** went to Buenos Aires at the behest of the Senatus there to present his book on Alfie Lambe; the Irish ambassador was among the attendees.

VENEZUELA: Senatus of Caracas: Two attached councils reported one new praesidium each. A young man who was prepared for Baptism is now receiving instruction for First Communion and Confirmation.

EUROPE

BELGIUM: The closing Centenary Mass in **Antwerp Regia** was concelebrated by Vicar

General Ikeobi Emmanuel and two other priests.

CYPRUS: Limassol: Our Lady of Immaculate Conception praesidium celebrated 25 years of legionary service during Mass in St. Catherine's Church on the 11th of December 2022.

ENGLAND: Birmingham Senatus: outreach to those of other faiths and none was reported. Exploratio Dominicalis featured in reports from Coventry and West Birmingham Curiae with good contacts in both. In **Liverpool Senatus** works include crowd contact, home and hospital and care homes visitation and promotion of Enthronement of the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart. Night fever with Mass and Confession is carried out on 1st Fridays. A praesidium in **Brentwood Regia** reported that three of its auxiliaries had become active members. The Spiritual Director of a praesidium in West Middlesex Curia encourages evangelisation and sometimes accompanies legionaries on this work. A former legionary in **Southwark Comitium** has been ordained to the priesthood. **Central London Curia** has been divided with a new Curia in East London. **Manchester Comitium** reported the starting of a new praesidium and with plans for four others.

FRANCE: Paris Senatus works from one praesidium include visitation of the sick at home, in nursing homes, and of the elderly; teaching catechism to children is also undertaken.

GERMANY: Frankfurt Senatus: a book-barrow apostolate is carried out and regular street contact is undertaken by praesidia in Bonn, Oberhausen and Dartmund. A Ghanaian

praesidium in **Berlin Comitium** is progressing well. **Darmstadt Curia** has a young adult praesidium with seven members. The **Comitium of Freiburg** carries out an intensive street apostolate.

ITALY: Rome Senatus: closing Mass for the Legion Centenary was celebrated with a good attendance.

KAZAKHSTAN: The country has six praesidia totalling 30 members. All are active in their parishes. Visitation of the sick is undertaken.

MALTA: Malta Regia: During their summer outings two Curiae had a talk on Alfi Lambe and distributed his prayer leaflet. An attached Curia has a good outreach to those of other faiths and none. A Hindu and a Syrian were instructed by the legionaries and have received Baptism and Confirmation.

THE NETHERLANDS: A praesidium reporting to the **Amsterdam Regia** does home, auxiliary and elderly visitation, and also runs a *Patricians* meeting. The Cape Verde Curia in Rotterdam does home and prison visitation and encourages those lapsed to return to the Church.

NORWAY: In **Tonsberg** the Legion Centenary was celebrated with Holy Mass. A new member has been instructed in the faith. The Curia of Bergen has seven praesidia. The Missionaries of Charity are Spiritual Directors and the legionaries assist them in ministering to drug addicts, prisoners, the elderly and infirm. In **Drammen** the works of the praesidium include visiting those who are sick and mentally ill and those who are seldom seen in Church.

PORTUGAL: Lisbon Senatus: legionaries teach catechism and run literacy classes, accompany people to medical appointments, and have daily evangelisation for Jehovah Witnesses. **Coimbra Regia** reported a new praesidium has been set up in the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima.

RUSSIA: The Curia in Siberia has five praesidia; works include visitation of the sick and delivery

of parish newsletters.

SCOTLAND: Senatus of Scotland: the Wayside Club had a Mass of Thanksgiving offered for 90 years of existence.

SPAIN: Pat O'Donoghue and Noel Lynch, Concilium Correspondents, attended the Centenary Closing Ceremony of the **Madrid Senatus**. The Cardinal concelebrated the Mass with over fifteen Spiritual Directors. Among many messages the Cardinal said: "Come back, the people are waiting for you." Among other things, the visitors spoke about recruiting for the Legion amongst the huge South American immigration, many of whom are now legionaries in Spain. The Spanish legionaries have a wide-ranging apostolate including street contacts in the 'red light' area and an Apostolate to seafarers.

SWEDEN: The Curia has six praesidia attached. A very successful Congress was held in September.

SWITZERLAND: In 2022 almost all praesidia in **Zurich Comitium** undertook *Exploratio Dominicalis*. Extension efforts are ongoing. Legionaries in Neuss set up a Legion stand at the Christmas market.

WALES: Swansea Curia has six praesidia with membership ranging from three to eleven. Much help is given to newer praesidia by the Curia.

AFRICA

ANGOLA: Luanda Senatus: a novena was organized to celebrate the 8th anniversary of the Senatus. In **Benguela Senatus** a Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated for the Legion of Mary centenary. Several new praesidia were established including a praesidium with twelve members; all seminarians, who took the Legion promise under the guidance of the Senatus Spiritual Director, Fr. Daniel Gomes.

CAMEROON: Douala Senatus: The reports mentioned well over 100 converts. A Congress and three Exploratio Dominicalis projects were organised over the period. The plenary indulgence has been widely promoted. **Yaoundé Regia** have over 60 new active members and sixteen juniors.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO: Brazzaville Senatus: a wide range of works is undertaken. In Pointe-Noire, reports included contacting 6,000 people, with the result of 63 returns to the sacraments and 37 people enrolling in catechesis.

EGYPT: Senatus of Egypt: A celebration of Our Lady's birthday was held with over 200 in attendance, including six priests.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA: Malabo Comitium reported that a new praesidium was set up.

GAMBIA: Banjul Curia is making great efforts to establish or revive the Legion in various parishes.

GHANA: Senatus of Accra: many praesidia and Councils organised very successful Brown Scapular Investitures. Many areas organised Legion weeks in September. A successful students conference was held with 150 in attendance.

GUINEA: A Comitium in **Conakry** has four adult Curiae and seven attached praesidia with 1016 active and 305 auxiliary members. Home and hospital visits are being undertaken.

KENYA: Senatus of Kenya: the Centenary Closing Mass was held in St. Teresa's Church, Eastleigh, which is the parish where Venerable Edel Quinn died. A recruiting drive was held in advance in that parish and 100 new members were enrolled.

LESOTHO: A praesidium reports 41 lapsed Catholics returned to practising their faith and 20 marriages took place.

MALAWI: Senatus of Maula: an attached Comitium helped five cohabiting couple

regularize their marriages. A Curia in the **Senatus of Blantyre** reports visiting an orphanage. Other works include marriage counselling and encouraging cohabiting couples to receive the sacrament of matrimony.

MOZAMBIQUE: Quelimane Comitium continues to attract new members and 1,345 members were recently recruited. Nine new praesidia were set up. Their works include visiting the sick and needy and a women's prison, Three prisoners recently received the sacrament of Baptism. **Nacala** Centenary celebrations took place on 30th of October. It was a joyous occasion, attended by the bishop and many legionaries, including legionaries from Nampula.

NIGERIA: Abuja Senatus: there have been numerous conversions to the Catholic faith, including a man who received the Sacrament of Baptism and died the following day. R.I.P. Several legionaries were recently ordained to the priesthood. A Comitium attached to **Enugu Senatus** reports seven legionaries were ordained to the priesthood. One legionary took her religious vows, 61 adults were received into the Church, while 29 lapsed Catholics returned to the sacraments. **Annunciata Regia** attached to the **Senatus of Ibadan** reports visitation of homes, hostels, brothels, hospitals and a prison yard. Mass migration and attacks on Christians are some of the challenges they face. In **Ikot Ekpene Regia** a Comitium established three new praesidia - including one in a female correctional centre. A Comitium attached to **Jos Regia** has 2,376 senior members, of whom 276 are probationers, and 174 junior members. **Lagos Regia:** Celebrations to mark the closing of the Centenary took place in Abeokuta. The Bishop encouraged legionaries to keep up the good work saying that the Legion is a gift to the church. In **Onitsha Regia** a Curia has twenty senior praesidia, including three praesidia

at the Blessed Iwene Tamsi Major Seminary, together with a Junior Curia and two college praesidia at All Hallows Minor Seminary with 60 members.

SENEGAL: Three new praesidia were set up in **Dakar Comitium** and fifteen prisoners were converted. They also organised a visit between the parents and an inmate, whom they hadn't seen for ten years. A Marian concert to celebrate the Centenary was also organised.

SOUTH AFRICA: Cape Town Senatus: Legionaries recently visited Nababeep, a copper - mining town, to conduct a workshop for a newly formed praesidium of 25 enthusiastic young men. Centenary Celebrations to coincide with the 85th anniversary of the Legion of Mary in South Africa took place on the 7th of August. The Chief Celebrant was the Archbishop of Cape Town Most Reverend Stephen Brislin.

TANZANIA: Dar-es-Salaam Regia: In August seventeen legionaries visited twelve parishes in Dodoma Archdiocese and enrolled 222 people in active membership.

TOGO: Lomé Senatus: Many councils report on doing week-end evangelisation work in various parishes; in addition, numerous Exploratio Dominicalis projects were organised. The Legion plenary indulgence was also widely promoted and availed off. Several abortions were prevented and nine conversions took place.

UGANDA: The **Senatus** reports Centenary celebrations have taken place in all nineteen dioceses with good attendance. Hioma Diocese held a Spiritual-Directors Conference in August with 26 priests in attendance. Kotido Diocese were experiencing famine, and Senatus members supported them.

ZAMBIA: Lusaka Regia commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Lusaka Regia. Holy Mass was celebrated at the Cathedral of the Child Jesus, with more than 1500 in attendance. A

document detailing the history of the Legion of Mary in Zambia was produced.

ZIMBABWE: Hwange: Works reported include visiting the sick, catechesis, marriage counselling, prison visitation and encouraging lapsed Catholics to return to the sacraments. The Council reports 350 active members and eight junior groups.

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA: Sydney Senatus: Mass was celebrated by Bishop Terry Brady on September 10th to close the Centenary. 1400 attended. A weeklong Marian exhibition was held in the Legion house. Mass was celebrated for Frank Duff on 12th November. An Indonesian praesidium reported with seven members. Blacktown Comitium reported teaching religious education in the state schools, among a great many works. **Melbourne Senatus:** Mass for Frank Duff was celebrated on 12th November. The Vietnamese Curia had 60 attend the Acies. Hobart Curia in Tasmania has three praesidia with nineteen members.

NEW ZEALAND: Auckland Senatus: Among works reported were visits to nursing homes, to the sick and housebound, and doing street contact. Seven non-Christians were received into the church last Easter and five from other dominations were received in the Catholic Church.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: The Regia of Rabaul reported that the Legion exists in 76 of their 82 parishes consisting of seventeen senior praesidia, nineteen senior Curiae and nineteen Comitia.

PACIFIC ISLANDS: Noumea Comitium in New Caledonia held their Centenary Mass. There are six praesidia attached in the outlying islands. Guam Comitium has ten parishes with the Legion. They have a Korean Curia with five praesidia, Saipan Curia has fourteen praesidia and one praesidium in Palau.

WEST INDIES

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Santo Domingo

Senatus reported local legionaries in San Pedro Santana were uplifted by a project involving ten legionaries from the USA accompanied by the **Senatus Officers. Santiago de los Caballeros Senatus:** works include catechesis, prison visitation and rosary recitals in homes and in the open-air.

HAITI: They suffered much as a result of earthquakes in 2010 and again in 2021 as well as Covid19. Despite the loss of some praesidia, they persevere. Due to their excellent planning, their Closing Centenary Celebration in September was a wonderful spiritual and cultural occasion. They now plan their own 75th anniversary in 2025.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: The **Regia** had an excellent article on their Centenary Children's Art Competition which was published in the latest *Maria Legionis*.

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA: Legionaries visit centres for the elderly and an orphanage and do street contact and home visitation.

EL SALVADOR: San Salvador Senatus: An attached Regia reports two new praesidia were set up and 118 couples regularised their marriages. A young Protestant converted and is now a legionary.

HONDURAS: The **Senatus of Tegucigalpa** held an Advent Retreat.

NICARAGUA: Regia of Managua: A praesidium reported losing two members during the pandemic. May they rest in peace. The Regia congratulated young legionaries for the great outreach work they are doing. A Curia report highlighted the testimony of a Protestant person who has found in the Blessed Virgin Mary the love and protection of a mother.

PANAMA: The Regia organised the closing

of the Centenary with an attendance of 420 legionaries. It was a joyful occasion with music and exchange of experiences, and with the celebration of the Eucharist. A number of priests have requested a praesidium in their parishes.

ASIA

ARMENIA: Fr. Bernardo De Nardo, two officers and one member of the Curia in Yerevan came to Dublin to participate in the closing Mass for the Centenary. They were uplifted by all they experienced and commented on the warm welcome they received when they reported back to the Curia. They organised a Mass in December at which the Irish Consul for Armenia and the Ambassador for Argentina attended. The Curia is in contact with priests and former members in **Georgia** and hope to re-establish the Legion there.

INDIA: Chennai Regia: Coimbatore Comitium carried out visits to 17,000 homes of Catholics, Hindus and Moslems. 136 homes were Consecrated to the Sacred Heart and 377 conversions to Catholicism took place.

Visakhapatnam Regia: People of all creeds are visited; people are prepared for the sacraments and catechism is taught. **Calcutta Comitium:** The Legion is working in eight parishes

LEBANON: Legionaries prepare children for First Communion and train altar servers. In one curia many of the children have now become junior members. A wide variety of works are done in Beirut by legionaries among the poor, the sick and the elderly.

THAILAND: (See article on page 21) Bangkok **Senatus** reported: Another blessing we had on the occasion of the closing of the Centenary was the establishment of 24 new praesidia in Chiang Mai. In addition to the above, four couples received the Sacrament of Matrimony, ten persons attended catechism classes, four received the anointing of the sick, fourteen

lapsed Catholics returned to practicing, and Enthronement of the Sacred Heart took place in two homes. A special mention is made of a family of six children whose mother was the only person with Catholic faith. With our perseverance and caring frequent visits, after their mother's passing, all the six children had Baptism and are now practicing our faith.

VIETNAM: Myo Tho Comitium works in an area where just 2% are Catholics. They arranged 107 Baptisms (adults and children) and assisted 57 couples to have their marriages blessed in Church. 40 new active and 58 new auxiliary members were gained. Saigon Curia works in six parishes in an urban area with complex social needs, having twelve praesidia with 124 active, 50 praetorian and 571 auxiliary members. They recruited 25 new members.

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA: **Toronto Senatus:** Ottawa had 100 on a Retreat and plan a door-to-door project throughout the city. **Mississauga Comitium:** In one Parish, 56 persons contacted were invited back to Church. Their Pastor is very supportive of the juniors and takes part in their contact work. **Montreal Senatus** affiliated a new praesidium of seven members. The five attached Curiae include a Korean Curia and an English-speaking Curia. **Edmonton Comitium,** which also supervises the Legion in Calgary, has four attached Curiae: two English and two Korean speaking. **Vancouver Comitium:** A Columban Drive in August resulted in six new active and 34 new auxiliary members. In their Centenary Closing Mass in September, Archbishop Miller described the Legion of Mary as a gift.

USA: **Boston Senatus** has two new praesidia, one in New Bedford and one in Providence. New Bedford Curia hosts a weekly book barrow and did home visitation in three towns. **Chicago Senatus:** The Spanish Comitium has two Curiae

attached. Catechesis in parishes, assisting at funerals and Pilgrim Statue visitation are the predominant works. In one Curia, they had four returns to Church. The Korean Comitium has 207 members. They prepare parishioners for the sacraments; seven were baptised.

Cincinnati Senatus: Extension efforts in Ohio, Nashville, Detroit and Knoxville gave a total of five new praesidia. **Houston Senatus** celebrated the 90th anniversary of the first praesidium in the USA, in Raton, New Mexico. One praesidium recruited nine new auxiliary members and two active members at the parish ministries fair.

Los Angeles Senatus reported on a Peregrinatio Pro Christo project. **Philadelphia Senatus** had many good reports. In one Curia, they have five adult and ten junior praesidia, who work successfully together. The Lebanese Curia in Harrisburg Comitium host a *Patricians* group and took part in their St. Patrick's Day parade. Legionaries in Trenton organised a Corpus Christi procession as a powerful witness.

San Francisco Senatus: New praesidia are being formed in Anchorage, Alaska, and Santa Rosa.

St Louis Senatus reported on Hospital and Nursing Homes Visitation; one lady received the last rites before she died. All praesidia care for a good number of auxiliaries. Some fruits from a wide range of works included two Baptisms, five returned to the Church after long absences and three new praesidia were formed. A junior praesidium strung miraculous medals and made 9,000 Rosaries.

Arlington Regia had a Centenary closing ceremony in October and a Peregrinatio Pro Christo to Banica in August. They had 472 contacts at Arlington Fair. The Spanish version of 'Insights of a Legion of Mary Priest' was printed. **Miami Regia:** St. Petersburg Comitium, with eight praesidia and four Curiae attached, did home and hospital visitation, crowd contact, and prayed at wakes and funerals.



*When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,
the child leapt in her womb*

(Luke 1:39-45).



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