

*Maria Legionis*



# Maria Legionis

*The Voice of the Legion of Mary*

Edition 2 of 2023

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**INVITATION** The Editor and Board of Maria Legionis invite readers of Maria Legionis, and other legion members, to submit articles and other contributions with a view towards publication in future issues of the journal. Ideally, submissions should be made by e-mail attachments (Word Documents or jpg images) to: [concilium@legion-of-mary.ie](mailto:concilium@legion-of-mary.ie) and marked ‘Maria Legionis.’

Hard copies of articles, marked ‘Maria Legionis’, may be sent to: Legio Mariae, De Montfort House, Morning Star Avenue, Brunswick Street. Dublin 7. *Thank you, The Editor.*



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# The Early Years of the Legion

By Mary Duffy

*Mary Duffy was the first Legion Envoy from Ireland, going to the USA in 1934 and returning in 1946. In the following article she recalls the development of the Legion of Mary in its early years - Editor.*

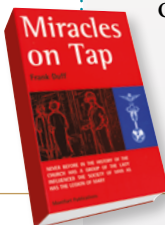
I came into the Legion on the crest of an enormous wave of grace – the closing down of “Bentley Place”, which had been described as an area enveloped in evil (The story is told in Frank Duff’s book – ‘Miracles on Tap’).

The organisation was then known as the ‘Association of Our Lady of Mercy’, but I recall that in November 1925 all legionaries were asked to begin a Novena on the Feast of All the Irish Saints (November 6th) for guidance in the choice of a title for the new movement. Frank Duff expressed the opinion that, while it might be presumptuous to anticipate a wide expansion

of the organisation, it might take place and that, therefore, the title chosen should be without a national tag. Following much deliberation, the title ‘Legion of Mary’ was eventually decided.

It was in 1925 also that legionaries were required to recite daily the Magnificat; it was also decided that members arriving late for their meeting were asked to kneel and say (silently) the opening prayers.

The priest’s blessing at the end of the praesidium meeting was first introduced in London and was then adopted by the governing council. Likewise, a consecration of legionaries to Our Lady was also introduced in London and was adopted in the form of the Acies by the governing body. The first Acies was held in Regina Coeli Hostel on 29th March 1931 and had an attendance of 700.



Tribunes were a part of the Legion from the beginning; Frank Duff being the first.

The first meeting of the first governing body, called the Central Council, was held on 2nd November 1924 with four praesidia represented. Fr. Michael Toher of the Archdiocese of Dublin presided. The next month Elizabeth Kirwan was appointed President; she held that position until 1930 when Frank Duff was elected to the office. The other officers of the Central Council were Sr. Scratton, Vice President; Sr. Molly McCarthy, Secretary; and Sr. Sally McNamara, Treasurer. In November 1925 Sr. Celia Shaw was elected Secretary. In May 1927 the title 'Curia' was given to this Body.

It was in 1927 also that a radical change was made in the Legion prayers with the introduction of the concluding prayer. It was also decided that the proper prayers for the feast of Mary Mediatrix of all Graces should be recited after the Magnificat.

The invocation, Mary Mediatrix of all Graces, was then selected as the chief invocation of the Legion. Fr. Michael Toher expressed the opinion that the linking of the Legion to devotion to Mary Mediatrix of all Graces would be attended by new and special graces for the Legion.

In 1929 the Vexillum was added as part of the altar equipment. In the same year the question of having a

Journal was discussed with the name 'tessera' being suggested as title, but later it was decided that this was a more appropriate name for the prayer leaflet.

Up until June 1930, the Legion was a women's organisation. At that time a group of men, with Tom Cowley in charge, met weekly following the Legion system and used the title 'Our Lady of Light.' They visited the Metropolitan Hall weekly in an attempt to stop the proselytising there. Anxious to be accepted into the Legion, they were accepted as the praesidium of Our Lady of Light and became the first Men's praesidium in the Legion.





A minimum age of eighteen years for membership was agreed upon as far back as 1925 when it was also decided that the permission of the president of the praesidium was necessary if a legionary desired a transfer to another praesidium.

The question of approval for the Legion Handbook was initiated in 1929 when a copy was sent to His Grace Archbishop Byrne with a view to seeking the approval of the Vatican. Rev. Dr. Magennis, Father General of the Carmelites, also promised to help in this area. In May 1931 Mgr. O'Brien and Frank Duff went to Rome where the Secretary of State, Cardinal Eugene Pacelli (later Pope Pius XII) expressed his intention of interesting the Holy Father in the request. An audience with the Holy Father took place on 23rd May. His Holiness listened very attentively, asking a series of questions about the rise and growth of the



Fr. Michael Toher

Legion, discussed Catholic Action in Italy and gave the Legion his cordial benediction. He indicated his belief in the Legion and expressed regret that Frank Duff could not remain in Rome to inaugurate the Legion there.



A major step forward for the Legion occurred in 1932 when the Eucharistic Congress was held in Dublin. During the Congress the Legion welcomed Cardinal Joseph McCrory, ten Archbishops, fifteen Bishops, two Abbots and two Princes.

In December 1932 the decision was made to have the Legion promise taken at the end of the period of probation.

Finally, October 1940 brought the death of a great Legion stalwart when Mrs Elizabeth Kirwan, the first President, died. The month's mind Mass was offered by her priest brother in the Chapel of the Regina Coeli Hostel. Born in New Zealand of Irish parentage, she brought the first international element to the Legion of Mary.



Elizabeth Kirwan

# Saint Martha of Bethany

*By Michael Walsh*

Bethany, locally known as Al-Eizariya or al-Azariya, is a Palestinian town in the West Bank, located on the south eastern slope of the Mount of Olives. The township is situated about 3.4 km. from Jerusalem. Walking from the Old City of Jerusalem to Bethany as Jesus did, would take about 40 minutes. Bethany is 22.2 km. from Bethlehem. The place-name al-Eizariya refers to the New Testament figure Lazarus of Bethany.

In one of the visits to her house in Bethany, Martha mirrors the cornerstone for which the Legion of Mary stands: faith demonstrated by action: (John 17-22). 'Jesus therefore came and found him (Lazarus) four days in the tomb. Now Bethany was close to Jerusalem, some 15 stadia distant. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to comfort them on account of their brother. When therefore Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary remained at home. Martha therefore said to Jesus: "Lord, if thou hadst been here my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever thou shalt ask of God, He will give it to thee." Here we see Martha as the one who 'goes



out' to meet Jesus in person. When legionaries 'go out' to do their work, they go to meet people, on behalf of the Saviour of the World, seeing in those they meet the person of Jesus.

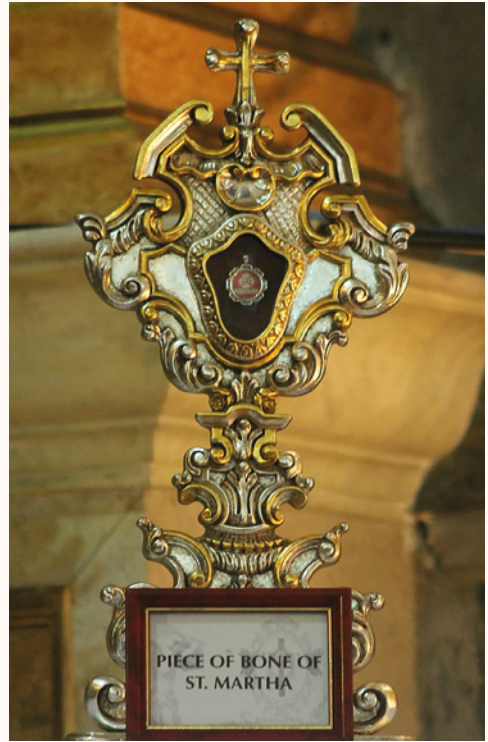
Martha demonstrates firm faith in Jesus in the following quote: (John 11. 23-32) Jesus said to her: "Thy brother shall rise." Martha said to him: "I know he will rise at the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her: "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, even if he die, shall live; and whoever lives and believes in me, shall never die. Dost thou believe this?" She said to him: "Yes Lord, I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, who has come into the world." And when she had said this, she went away and quietly called Mary her sister, saying: "The Master is here and calls thee." As soon as she heard this, she rose quickly and came to him, for Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.

## Relic of Saint Martha

A relic from the bones of Saint Martha of Bethany is venerated in her Diocesan Shrine, Pateros, Metropolitan Manila, Philippines.

The tomb of Lazarus is located in Bethany. Nearby, a sanctuary built upon the remains of Byzantine and Crusader structures, stands on top of a pre-existing structure. This is believed to be the location of Martha's house. The Church, with its sanctuary in the form of a Greek-cross, is embellished with mosaics, which portray the episodes related in the Gospel that refer to Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. The traditional site of the Tomb of Lazarus and the house of Martha in Bethany is a place of pilgrimage.

A tribute to Saint Martha's faith and power of intercession is demonstrated by the townspeople of Villajoyosa, Spain, who annually celebrate in her honour a Festival of Moors and Christians during the last week of July. The festival commemorates the thwarting of an attack on Villajoyosa in the 16th Century by Berber pirates led by Zalé-Arraez. The festival recreates an epic battle fought in 1538 when Berber pirates attacked the coastal town. At the start of this festival two 'armies' dressed in their traditional costumes march to the beating of drums and the sounding of horns around the streets to commemorate the event. During the historic battle in 1538,



the intervention of Saint Martha is believed to have saved the town from plunder as the pirates failed to reach the shoreline.

Through the example of Saint Martha, the world has been left a powerful witness of faith. Her response to Jesus' questions after the death of her brother Lazarus, is commendable, a proof of complete belief, without doubt or hesitation. Martha trusts in God, even in the face of impossible odds. From her profession of belief, we learn that faith in God can result in phenomena thought on a human level to be impossible - a theme which runs right through the pages of the Legion of Mary Handbook.

*Saint Martha's Feast Day is celebrated on 29th July.*

# Becoming an Active Legionary: A Personal Journey



By Lóirín O'Leary

*In this article a legionary recounts her personal journey from initial skepticism to becoming eventually an active and dedicated member of the Legion of Mary. It is a prime example of the power in praying the Catena Legionis and the importance of perseverance in the face of adversity - Editor.*

I have two very clear memories of my first Legion of Mary meeting which took place thirty years ago. Both memories relate to my emotions. My memory of my physical surroundings is vague: I think the room was average sized and somewhere between six and twelve people were present. I know there was a Legion altar, but I do not remember it. I could not tell you what day of the week or what time of the day the meeting took place. All these details are now indistinct.

The first memory I can recall is of a very strong feeling of discomfort - not quite panic but verging on it - which manifested itself as an overwhelming desire to get out of that room and not come back. My discomfort was exacerbated by the fact that I knew I could not escape. Firstly, it would have been rude to leave while people were speaking. Secondly, I would have to

explain why I was leaving, and I could not think of a plausible excuse: the truth not being an option. Defeated, I decided there was nothing for it but to endure the meeting.

I sat there pondering how I would handle my departure at the end of the meeting. Three options presented themselves to me: 1) I could say goodbye and never come back; 2) I could say goodbye and make a phone call during the week explaining that I would not be back....busy with the children....it just wasn't my thing, etc.. 3) I could explain as I left the meeting why I would not be back the following week..... or ever. As I mulled over my options, I became aware that everyone had risen to their feet. I was handed a Tesseris, and everyone said in unison:

*Who is she that comes forth as the  
morning rising, fair as the moon,  
bright as the sun, terrible as an army  
set in battle array?*

My second and by far my most abiding memory of that first meeting is the impact of that prayer, The Catena Legionis, on my soul? my spirit? my mind? my heart? - I am really not sure what part of me was affected, but what I am certain of is that something changed dramatically and suddenly.



A transformation occurred. On later reflection, I came to realise that I had received a powerful Grace, for which I thank God and Our Lady, the Mediatrix of all Graces. I put aside all thoughts of not returning. I received a work allocation at the end of the meeting (I think!). I took my promise within a few months. I became a legionary of Mary, and I have loved every minute of it since.

I remained an active member only for two years. I took leave in 1996, following the birth of my fourth child. By 2000, we had moved house and my fifth child had been born. When occasionally asked if I would ever return to active membership, I would always respond with a vague 'maybe someday.' My life was busy, and the Legion was the furthest thing from my mind.

About the year 2010, I was confronted with an enormous personal and spiritual challenge. It could be resolved only by a miracle. I mean that literally - no earthly powers could resolve my situation. I turned to Our Lady, and I promised her that if she would ask God for a miracle, I would rejoin the Legion.

In early 2013, God granted me the miracle I had requested. I was very grateful to God, but I had completely forgotten my promise to Our Lady.

Towards the end of Mass, one Sunday, the priest invited a member of the Legion of Mary from a neighboring parish to address the congregation. The parish priest wished the Legion of Mary to establish a praesidium in the parish and he was seeking members. As I listened, I reverted to my usual thought 'maybe someday.' It took some time for me to remember my promise to Our Lady, but eventually I did, and I rejoined the Legion of Mary in June 2013.

Since that date, I have never looked back. The Legion is now an integral part of my life; it has allowed me to make many wonderful friends; it has deepened my prayer life; it has



prompted me to contribute to the Legion apostalate at many levels. Twice Our Lady called me to her Legion and twice, through the Grace of God, I responded. I pray that when she calls you also, you will receive the Grace to say 'yes.'

# The Legion of Mary anticipated the Vatican Council

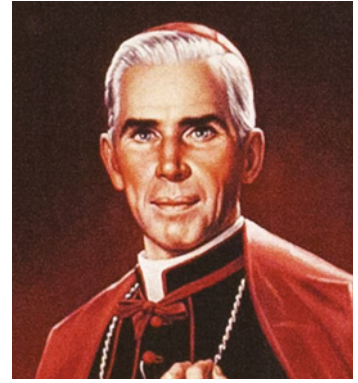
By Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

*(Speech given at the Legion Annual Council Officers' Meeting in Rochester, N.Y.)*

You are the only organisation in the world today that ever anticipated the Vatican Council. The only one! You just go through your works and see how far ahead you are of the Council and with the Church. You are Pre-Council, Pro-Council, and Post-Council.

First, you are a lay organisation devoted to the apostolate - though the apostolate was reserved for the clergy. So, you swept back about twenty centuries. Read over the list at the close of the Epistle to the Romans, members of the Legion of Mary, so that you will see that you have brought up to date the apostolate of the early Church. Also, in the Acts of the Apostles, it is in the third Act whereby the Church becomes established in a certain house; first a catechist works among the group and finally the Church itself. That is the first way you anticipated the Vatican Council.

The second and more important



still is that you belong to the 'out-ministry.' We priests belong to the 'in-ministry.' That is not what God intended, but that is what happened. We wait for people to come to us and we build bigger rectories. We are failing because we are an in-ministry, waiting. You were from the beginning an out-ministry, commissioned to do the same sort of thing as Our Blessed Lord did -walking up and down alleys.

Third, you anticipated it even in relation to the Blessed Mother. This may seem strange, but it is true. Your service is dedicated to building up the Church. It's not just merely the devotion to Our Lady; it's a devotion to Our Lady as the Mother of the Church. At the Council, we voted on the question of whether or not to give a new title to Our Lady. Our Lady has many as you know. It was decided not to give her another title. But two weeks later Pope Paul read his Encyclical Letter on the Blessed Mother as the "Mother of the Church." We gave her a new title. That is the Mother you love and who is your patroness.

You are a small group - you have to be. Remember this! The Holy Spirit never works with the majority: only with minorities. You are the only present effective apostolate that we have in the world.

My good legionaries, this is what you are. From what I have told you, you know how much esteem and affection I have for you. I say you have anticipated the Vatican Council - the

future apostolate of the Church, and you are only at the beginning, just the beginning. Pray often to the Holy Spirit that your zeal will spread and that others will have the courage to do it. I consider it an honour, really an honour, to be in the midst of you. Just as sometimes oil gets outside of a bottle by osmosis, so too, by being near you, I hope to get some of your spirit.

## Explanation of Front and Back Covers – *The Editor*

### *Front Cover-*

The picture on the front cover is a painting of the Virgin Mary with the Child Jesus. It is painted in bright attractive colours and is a prime example of modern religious art.

### *Back Cover -*

The picture on the back cover is the painting 'Our Lady of La Vang.' The apparition of Our Lady of La Vang appeared to a group of Vietnamese Catholics in 1798.

At that time Catholics were being persecuted for their faith by the Emperor Canh Thinh and many Catholics took refuge in the rain forest of La Vang. They would gather each night to pray the Rosary. One night Our Lady of La Vang appeared as they prayed. She appeared as a young woman in traditional Vietnamese dress with a small Child and accompanied by two angels.

The shrine of Our lady of La Vang is situated in the Basilica of Our Lady of La Vang in Quang Tri, Vietnam. The Vietnamese hierarchy has not given official approval to the apparition but the elevation of the Church to Basilica status and the visit of Pope John Paul II has given it implicit approval.





# The Centrality of Mary in Everything

By Fr. Paul Churchill

Spiritual Director Concilium

*The following allocutio was given by Fr. Churchill to Concilium in February 2023.*

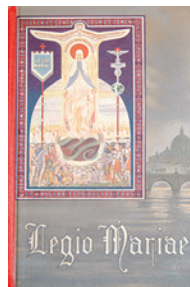
There are two main reasons given to explain why the Son of God came among us. Both views have a basis in Scripture. The first is that he has come in response to the sin of Adam and is operating a rescue mission. The other is that it was already God's plan to unite with his Creation. The Word was coming anyway when the sin of Adam added an extra dimension to his mission, something for which God had already made allowance.

If in fact God had already determined to unite himself with his Creation and to take it to himself as a spouse would his bride (*note Rev 21*), if that has been the divine objective of the creation, then the way we look at Mary must be enriched because the whole of Creation has to be built around that place and event of God's uniting with his Creation. Where and how God would unite with his Creation becomes pivotal to how he creates because God first had to

conceive and draw up the design of both the God-man but also of Mary and then, with that great event of the Incarnation decided, build up everything else from that and around that, both backward in time but also forward in time. In this way Mary becomes the first of Creation even if historically she will appear only in the Creation "at the appointed time."

This would seem to be the view of Frank Duff, Louis de Montfort, and many others. Indeed, the Handbook of the Legion says: "From the first the idea of Mary was present to the Eternal Father along with that of the Redeemer of whose destiny she formed part ... thus from all eternity Mary

was in a position exalted, alone among creatures ..." To be that point where the divine would unite with Creation had to be unique.







The late Pope Benedict XVI, possibly one of the finest theological minds among Popes, recognised that God might be operating his plan through an evolutionary process. The Pope of course wisely did not canonise such, but insofar as current theory allows for a beginning and a process of unfolding which connects all creatures across time, we can see how it could fit into St. Francis' vision of all creatures being brothers and sisters, or into St. Paul's saying that "the whole of Creation is crying out for the revealing of the sons of God."

As St. John says: "The Word was God ... All things were made through him and without him was not made anything that was made" (*Jn 1:1-2*). And St Paul will say: "For in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible... all things were created through him and for him" (*Col 1:16*). The letter to the Hebrews also speaks of the Son "through whom also he created the world!" (*Heb. 1:2*). It is not unfair to say that given the primacy of that moment when the divine unites with

the creature everything that precedes the moment of the Incarnation and everything after has had to take its design from the prototypes that are, on the divine side, the Word and, on the side of creatures, Mary. Mary so is blessed not just among women but every female takes her design from her. And the prototype of the Word made flesh and of Mary are the design from which are made Adam and Eve. We can even say that she is not just the "New Eve"; she is the "First Eve."

And it is not just from the earthy matter of the universe (molecules, atoms, cells etc.) that she is made. Her spiritual side (mostly not considered by modern science) is also creature. How God would create that aspect of her also had to take precedence among the designing of all spiritual creatures. The Letter to the Hebrews is clear that the angels were made to serve those who are subject to salvation (*Heb. 1:14*). This utterly galled Satan who stood before the woman to try and end God's project *ab initio* (*Rev 12*).

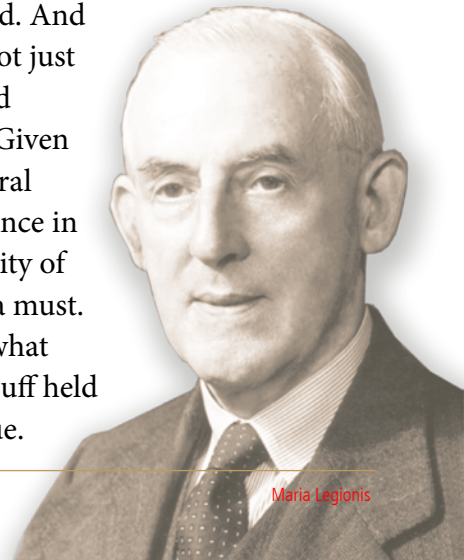


‘No eye has seen, nor ear heard the things God has prepared for those who love him’ (1 Cor 2:9). We only have a vague idea of where God’s plan is leading since: ‘we see only in a glass darkly’ (1 Cor 13:12). But if we listen again to the Book of Revelation we hear about a new heaven and a new earth: ‘And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband’ (Rev 21:2). The first uniting of God with his Creation through Mary is just a prelude to what is to come. How utterly central is Mary in the next few lines! ‘Behold the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them and they shall be his people and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes and death shall be no more ... for the former things have passed away’ (Rev 21:3-4). It is through Mary he came into this world. By her reality the new dwelling of that New Jerusalem must happen. She is Queen of Heaven and Earth. Indeed given her place then she is the Queen of everything in the Creation.



No wonder we call her Veneranda: she who is to be venerated. She is not just some extra bit added to Creation - however good and pure. She is, as Frank Duff insists, at the very centre of what God is doing from the start and in some way has also been present at the final moment.

I wish to add one other thing here. Such a vision of Mary might seem to make her inaccessible to us. But let us not stray. The humble maid we see in Nazareth just going about her affairs before the Annunciation, the tired woman in the manger just after giving birth to Jesus, the distraught mother looking for her lost son of twelve years, the woman who interceded for the couple in Cana, the woman whose suffering on Calvary is inexpressible, that is the true Mary, the woman God wants us to see because that is precisely what she was made to be, for God and for the rest of us. Let us have a real relationship with her. Let us befriend her. Let us get help from her who has a special connection with God. And that is not just an added option. Given her central significance in the totality of all, it is a must. That is what Frank Duff held to be true.





# Establishing a Junior Praesidium

By Ciara Kavanagh; Ronan Hayden; Ray de Clar

*Ciara Kavanagh wrote:*

We held our 21st Meeting of **Muire na nÓg praesidium** last Saturday, and a question posed during Handbook Study was: “What sort of thing could stop us from undertaking the apostolate?” One member said: “Traffic lights or crowds!” The praesidium burst into laughter. On reflection, the red traffic light of fear or not being supported by crowds of practising Catholics is possibly one reason we would hesitate to establish a junior praesidium. I prayed to Our Lady for many months and I knew that in her own good time, the door would open. With a little support and a nudge, thanks be to God the praesidium was established. I was blessed to have two other families who were willing to support the fledgling praesidium, and to this day they have been very faithful to the weekly meeting and work.

I felt for some time, that I was busy driving my children here and there, to sports, social, religious and music activities. I understand that these activities are important and provide for a wholesome lifestyle for the children but, in this ever more secular

world, I believe it is very important for the children to have friends who will support and encourage them in their faith. For us parents, it is certainly not business as usual.

When I was a child, my father brought me to Sunday Mass in the Morning Star hostel. I really think that the faith was caught there. I have great memories of Sid Quinn, Tom Doyle and Roger Grogan amongst many other fine legionaries. Roger would show us his new kittens and we were always treated to biscuits and sweets.

Our praesidium is composed of a joyful group of children where the rules are adhered to and laughter can erupt again and again. As I have recently re-joined the active ranks of the Legion, I know that this has been a great blessing in my life.







We undertake various works such as distribution of Catholic papers, nursing home visitation, Church gate collections, movie nights and Family Adoration. We helped organize a wonderful day trip to Dublin, where we visited the Moving Crib, Morning Star and Regina Coeli hostels, Concilium and Frank Duff's house. We were met with joyful smiles of stalwart legionaries.

We will attend our first Acies this year and we'll offer these children to their heavenly mother. May she guide them in the path that will lead to her Son. *Muire na nÓg, guí orainn.* (Mary of the Youth pray for us).

*Ronan Hayden wrote:*

It had been our intention for some time to commence a junior praesidium here. My sister informed me of a friend of hers living near Navan who was interested, along with two other families, in starting up a

junior praesidium for their children. We made contact and set a time, Thursday evening 1st September in the parish Legion room, for our first meeting.

**Our Lady of Nativity Junior Praesidium** now has eleven members in total. The meeting structure is roughly the same as the senior meeting. The allocutio is usually an explanation of the spiritual reading that preceded it, and any questions or comments are taken. Our works include public rosary, distributing miraculous medals to friends or family, distributing of literature, attending to neglected graves, leading the rosary, assisting with music or tidying up at the monthly family adoration, helping with online nightly rosary, or preparing miraculous medals and rosary beads for distribution, among other works. All is done with great enthusiasm and joy.



Two parents currently run the meeting, (with constant liaison with the other parents, and the blessing of the parish), and other senior legionaries have expressed interest in helping with the running of the meeting. We are also advertising for new members, as well as networking with other junior praesidia throughout Ireland.

*Ray de Clar wrote:*

For a number of years, I wanted to establish a junior praesidium of the Legion of Mary. It just didn't seem to happen for various reasons but thank God our band of juniors in **Our Lady of the Morning Star Junior Praesidium** have been going from strength to strength since we set up almost six months ago in Mullingar. When we started the praesidium, lack of a room or a time that suited everybody stopped us senior legionaries from moving forward with the idea, but we just decided to go ahead. Sometimes Our Lady wants you to take a leap of faith and just do it.

We are committed to various works around the Mullingar area, including contact work while distributing miraculous medals. We also deliver Catholic papers and literature to homes around the town. Recently, we went to a local cemetery and cleaned some neglected graves. One work that we really want to pursue is involvement in highlighting the famine graveyard in Mullingar. We had a public rosary there amongst our other public rosaries that we have had at various shrines around the town.

Frank Duff says in his essay 'Thy Children as Olive Plants' that the Legion "aims to expand the character of its members, among whom are your children, and in this and every other way to enable them to achieve their Christian destiny." With the help of Our Lady we can stay focused on the prize.



# Senatus of Uganda undertakes work at the Islands

*By Muwanika Patrick*

Following the visit to Senatus of Uganda by Fr. Benedict Kato, Assistant Parish Priest of Bukasa Parish in Masaka Diocese in Uganda, we were made to realise a group that we had not given attention to evangelise the Islands.

Bukasa Parish under Masaka Diocese takes charge of Ssese Islands with 84 Islands on the North-western part of Lake Victoria (Largest freshwater lake in Africa).

The main economic activity on the Islands is fishing. Most of the time, people are busy preparing and mending their nets. There are periods when fish disappear, and the residents migrate from the Islands to the mainland.

A team of legionaries from Kimaanya Comitium (that takes charge of the Parish) made their first visit and discovered that the work was very demanding in terms of finances and extension workers. Senatus had to come to their aid.

The work to be done was to carry-out evangelisation and catechising as there was a number of cases of dualism, worshipping of objects, and

very low attendance for sacraments.

In co-ordination with the Parish Priest of Bukasa Parish, Rev. Fr. John Fisher Kiyimba, dates of the visit on the Islands were scheduled from 28th March – 8th April 2022.

A team of ten legionaries who offered to take on the work was catechised on the 27th of March 2022 to prepare them for the work they were to undertake on the Islands.

On 28th March 2022, the team started their journey from Masaka district (Approximately 200Km from the Capital, Kampala) to Bukakata and boarded a ferry. They then travelled to Mwena from where they got a boat to Bukasa Parish.



Legionaries travelling to the Islands

The first experience of travelling on water was somewhat difficult for some members of the Team. Sometimes the water would turn rough and members would seriously call out to Mother Mary by saying the Holy Rosary. They later got familiar to the travel and were able to receive and make phone calls as they travelled.

Homes, schools and places of work were visited by the team. In the course of their work, they found some active Catholics receiving sacraments. A praesidium was established in one of the sub-parishes Nkose and was named 'Mary Ark of the Covenant.'

The second phase of the work lasted one and a half weeks from 18th-27th August 2022. The team was composed of twelve legionaries - perfect number as Jesus had 12 Disciples who evangelised the whole world! The group comprised of a religious nun. As before, a preparatory training session for the team was conducted.

The team visited homes. They made

person-to-person contacts, identified Catholics for Baptism, catechism instructions, and couples for the Sacrament of Matrimony. Seven sub-parishes were visited, and the total number of people visited was 508. The number of people baptised was 120, both adult and infant. This was an over-whelming large number since no such baptisms had ever previously taken place on the Islands. The Christians were visited in the morning and afternoon and Holy Mass was conducted in the evenings.

The team encouraged couples to take the Sacrament of Matrimony. Those who pledged to get the sacrament were 116. They were told to prepare in advance and receive the sacrament on the occasion of the Parish-Day Celebrations - 25th March 2023. The few Catholics who receive sacraments were given time for Confession before the celebration of Holy Mass. During the visit, the legionaries also distributed sacramentals such as medals and Holy Rosaries.



Legionaries with Fr. Kato and local parishioners



The third phase of the work of evangelisation took place from 7th-18th October 2022. The team comprised of twelve legionaries, and unlike the previous phases, the twelve divided themselves into two groups, each headed by a priest.

Visits were made in the morning, and in the evening the Christians would come together for Holy Mass which was preceded by the Sacrament of Confession. During the Mass, Baptisms would take place.

A total of 1209 Christians were visited, 55 couples received the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, and 178 Baptisms were conducted. An early fruit of the work was a couple in their 20s who wedded

in October 2022. This was the very first couple to wed in Bukasa Parish.

The Christians on the Islands face many challenges. Transport is one of them. The boats used to travel to the Islands are very expensive-one would rather fuel a car on road than a boat on water. There are few priests on the Islands. Only two priests are in Bukasa Parish looking after 26 sub parishes. Some chapels end up receiving a priest once a year. There are also many traditional shrines and sites on the Islands. As a result, Christians are tempted to take their problems to the shrines instead of the Church. The work on the Islands needs many prayers. The New Parish on the Islands is not yet constructed.



Legionaries during visitation





# Our Lady's Radio Station

By Mary Stenson

*In Redemptoris Missio*, (1987) St. Pope John Paul II writes: “the moment, *ad gentes*, has come to commit all of the Church’s energies to a new evangelisation and to the mission. No believer in Christ, no institution of the Church can avoid this supreme duty: to proclaim Christ to all peoples.”

Here Pope John Paul called for the collaboration of all believers to accomplish together the new evangelisation in view of the third millennium.

In response to this call initiatives were undertaken by lay people and priests and many of them had already set up small parochial radio stations and started to participate in mass media. One of these radios was set up in 1983 in the town of Erba, Como in Italy.

It is customary for parishes in Italy to organise spiritual events and catechetical seminars for several weeks, every five years. In the parish of Arcellasco, the local parish priest, in order to be as inclusive as possible, had an antenna erected on the bell-tower for everyone who wished to participate in the Church events, including the sick and others who were unable to attend. The parishioners welcomed it with

open arms and because of its success, decided to continue broadcasting programmes thereafter. The fledgling radio station did not distinguish itself in terms of style and organisation but it was already called Radio Maria because of its special devotion to Our Lady. Mass and the Holy Rosary were central to its mission and a greater space was given to praying the Rosary throughout the day’s broadcasting together with special attention for the suffering.

So, in 1987 the Radio Maria Association was set up to bring together lay people and religious to offer generously their personal, spiritual and professional experience to serve this small and humble communication medium. Gradually it became apparent that Divine Providence was indeed guiding this project. They put prayer and catechesis at the centre of the programming schedule, mindful of the call to every Christian at Baptism, to spread the Gospel in communion with the doctrine and pastoral instructions of the Catholic Church, with loyalty to the Holy Father.



Mary Stenson at the mixing desk

This new line of action was so successful that it allowed Radio Maria to spread quickly throughout Italy in just three years thanks to the extraordinary participation of listeners with prayer and donations. The next step was to reach the Italian diaspora, firstly in New York via satellite, followed by Canada and then throughout Europe. Soon listeners multiplied outside Italy causing Catholic radio stations to join the Radio Maria project. The spread of Radio Maria would see the development of stations in many countries in Africa, South America, Asia and Oceania.

Radio Maria worldwide is a gift of Mary at the service of the Church. It has become a beacon of evangelisation carrying the name of Mary. Pope John Paul II called Mary “the Star of Evangelisation” in the prayer he wrote for Radio Maria. Lay people and Religious are volunteering their time and professional expertise at the service of Mary, and out of love for Our Lady, the listeners have financed

nationwide expansion in Italy and the pattern continued worldwide.

Through its programming schedule Radio Maria staff and volunteers announce the essential truths of the Gospel through catechesis, the explanation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, programming on the history of the Church, social doctrine of the Church, pastoral issues, ecumenism and real-life stories of conversion.

The goal of Radio Maria is to bring reconciliation and peace to hearts, promote family values and link in parishes through Mass and Devotions. It addresses its attention in a special way to those suffering in body and spirit, the lonely, the elderly, the poor and the prisoners. It gives the testimony of God’s love and the hope of eternal life.

“Give and you will receive” (*Lk 6, 38.*) The Radio Maria Project is based on the irreplaceable contribution of voluntary service in its broadcasting. This is the desire to help Our Lady in accomplishing her maternal mission for her Divine Son. Each year fundraising is structured with an appeal going out called a Mariathon i.e. a few days of specially focussed programmes where established stations make a financial appeal to start up new Radio Maria stations.

Today, with 90 stations now established, Radio Maria is broadcasting in 82 countries around the world.

Here in Ireland, Radio Maria is based in Dublin. It is a place of friendship and welcome. The atmosphere is palpable as soon as you walk in the door. Everybody has one aim: to serve Our Lady - whether full-time employed at the station or helping out as a volunteer. Advertising or sponsorship is not permitted. Radio Maria Ireland is not subsidised or funded by the Catholic Church. It relies totally on its listeners and friends. Our Priest Director is Fr. Eamonn McCarthy assisted by the Board and the Radio Maria Association.

Fr. Eamonn says it is not unlike running a parish, caring for the needs of parishioners. Programming is lively and interesting with ever expanding variety and uplifting music to various tastes. Some priests and religious have come on board as Programme Presenters or as guests on programmes and it illustrates just how much work is being done in the Church going unnoticed by the secular media. Representatives from various groups promoting pro-life, addiction counselling services, parish workers and Catholic journalists can drop in to chat about their work. Fr. Eamonn has a very personable approach and he encourages the listeners to interact on air by text or phone and to send in their suggestions for programming. He encourages them to drop in to attend Mass or take a tour of the station by appointment.

The station can be very busy with

visitors and people coming to Adoration in the Oratory which can be 24 hours at certain times of the year. The idea being that this Catholic radio station belongs to the faithful. It is necessary as an educational tool for catechesis and to bring hope and joy to people, thereby building up the Church in Ireland. It is the opposite to cynicism and negativity and people who live alone really appreciate the company of the radio. This being the kernel of our work – scratch the surface in discussion with many Irish people - and you will find a Catholic faith on which to build.

And yet our mission is urgent in today's society but that doesn't faze our Priest Director, as thankfully there is a great network of like-minded people who appreciate our work and encourage it with financial contributions. This is the essence of Radio Maria broadcasting, to motivate parishioners all over Ireland and to introduce the Gospel in a new fruitful way, to push the boat out for a catch!



# Pontificia Academia Mariana Internationalis

Civitatis Vaticanae



The Pontifical Marian Academy International based in Vatican City is honored to welcome The International President of the Legion of Mary, Signora Mary Murphy as a new member of this Academy with all the rights and privileges attached to this appointment.

The Pontifical Marian Academy was established in 1946 with a Pontifical mandate to promote Mariology, that is the theology of the Blessed Virgin Mary and to promote true devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary through consecrations and popular piety. The Marian Academy is also responsible for organising scientific debates and conferences and caring for the publication of the Bibliotheca Mariana. On the 8th of December 1959 Pope Saint John XXIII gave the title 'Pontifical' to the Academy in a motu proprio called 'Maiora in Dies'. More recently Pope Saint John Paul II, who was also a Member of the Academy, approved the statutes of this august Marian Academy. Pope Francis on the 5th of June this year placed this same Academy under the Dicasteries

for Culture and Catholic Education.

Saint Augustine once wrote that: 'when man co-operates with the grace of God, the marvels of history are worked.' The marvels of history were indeed worked in the life and virtues of Frank Duff, and of Edel Quinn, and Alfe Lambe who went out as envoys of the Legion to various parts of the World. The Legion of Mary is not just a global phenomena but an Apostolic medium whereby Christ is proclaimed to the world at each moment of each day in various languages.

In July 1917 following an apparition to three children in Fatima a whole new dimension opened up for the world when the Blessed Virgin Mary revealed through little children that God wishes 'that She be known and loved.' To be known in this context requires a theology of the Virgin Mary and Her role in salvation history from Genesis to the present day. To be loved in this same context is through authentic devotion to Her by way of personal and collective consecrations to Her, through popular piety such as





Congratulations to Concilium President Mary Murphy on her appointment to the Pontifical Marian Academy International

the recitation of the Holy Rosary, by the wearing of the scapular and the hyper dulia veneration due to Her. Fatima with its twenty specific appeals is a tender Mother's urgent call to the world to turn back to God, to believe, to adore and to love Him, thus Fatima is a message of hope, and in fact, it is a light shining on world history in order that we do not despair.

We can all look at the Mariologists of the past for inspiration, men and women who have prepared the groundwork for the study of the theology of the Blessed Virgin Mary for us and who have recognised how

powerful Her prayer is before the majesty of God who can refuse Her nothing. The focus of the Marian theology of Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe OFM Conv, for example, is summed up as follows when he writes that: 'We have to win the universe and each individual soul, now and in the future, down to the end of time for the Immaculata, and by Her for the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Further, we must be on the watch so that nobody tears any soul away from its consecration to the Immaculata; we should strive rather that souls may

constantly deepen their love for Her; that the bond of love between Her and these souls may grow ever closer, and these souls may henceforth be one with Her and with Christ Jesus.

Likewise Father William Faber a priest of the London Oratory of Saint Philip Neri wrote about the demise of the Catholic faith especially in England when he said: 'Jesus is obscured because Mary is kept in the background. Thousands of souls perish because Mary is withheld from them. It is the miserable unworthy shadow which we call our devotion to the Blessed Virgin that is the cause of all these wants and blights, these evils, and omissions and declines. Yet, if we are to believe the revelations of the Saints, God is pressing for a greater, a wider, a stronger, quite another devotion to His Blessed Mother. I cannot think of a higher work or a broader vocation for anyone than the simple spreading of this peculiar devotion of the Venerable Louis Grignon de Montfort. Let a man but try it for himself and his surprise at the graces it brings with it, and the transformations it causes in his soul, will soon convince him of its otherwise almost incredible efficacy as a means for the salvation of men, and for the coming of the Kingdom of Christ. Oh, if Mary were but known, there would be no coldness to Jesus then! Oh, if Mary were but known, how much more wonderful would

be our faith, and how different would our Communion be! Oh, if Mary were but known, how much happier, how much holier, how much less worldly should we be, and how much more should we be living images of our sole Lord and Savior, Her dearest and Most Blessed Son!'

I think it would be correct to say that the Illustrious Mary Murphy our newest member of the Pontifical Academy, like Frank Duff and the others, have become a voice of reason and of hope worldwide, to the Church and even also in her own country of Ireland. The Legion of Mary is highly respected by us theologians and on behalf of them I wish to congratulate Mary Murphy on this appointment.

May God bless you Mary in all that you do and may the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Mother, protect you now and always.



William A. Thomas

The Pontifical Marian Academy  
International

Vatican City, 7th of October 2022

(Feast of the Holy Rosary)

# The Frank Duff Library

*By Máire Ní Chonalláin  
and Dolores NÍ Chearra*

In April 2018, Máire Ní Chonalláin, a member of the Muire, Máthair Dé praesidium, a librarian by profession, was asked by Concilium Officers to undertake the task of reorganising the library held in Frank Duff's house. In this she was joined by another legionary from the same praesidium: Dolores Ní Chearra. Here is an account of their work.

The house where Frank Duff lived for the last decades of his life was the former residence of the Chief Medical Officer of the North Dublin Union and is situated at the top of Morning Star Avenue in Dublin 7. The North Dublin Union was later to become the Legion of Mary premises. The house is on the same street as the Regina Coeli and Morning Star Hostels. The head office of the Legion of Mary, De Montfort House, is also on the same street between the two hostels. The house in which Frank Duff lived is a red brick two-storey Victorian house with double bay windows and a garden, and is further up that avenue. Upon entering the house, you sense that you are going into a place of peace and serenity.



The first thing we did each Saturday we were there was to say a few prayers to ask God to bless our work and to pray for the intentions of those for whom we had been asked to pray. We ended each day's work with the prayer for the beatification of the Servant of God, Frank Duff.

It has been a real privilege to take care of Frank Duff's books and to put them in some kind of order. To bring the library up-to-date we reorganised the books so that all the items on the same topics would be grouped together. We managed to achieve this to a large degree.

The principal subject of the books in the library is Our Lady, Mary, the Mother of God, under all her many titles and many attributes. Most of them are in English, but quite a few are written in French. As is well known, Frank Duff read the 'True Devotion to Our Blessed Lady' by Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, and that changed his life.

It is awe-inspiring to see all the books that are in his collection that have been written about Our Mother Mary, the layers and layers of insight and meaning to her life, a simple woman who is Queen and Mother of the whole world. It must be one of the largest collections of books about Our Lady in all of Ireland!

This library includes the libraries of Frank Duff's father and grandfather, as well as his own. His grandfather was Master at the Trim Model School in County Meath, and this explains the large number of nineteenth-century schoolbooks. There is one book inscribed by the author to Frank's grandfather. The author was none other than William Rowan Hamilton of the Dunsink Observatory, a famous mathematician who solved the quaternions equation while walking along by the Royal Canal in Dublin. Afraid he would forget the formula, he scratched the equation with a stone on Broom Bridge over the Royal Canal.

The books are spread out between the dining room, which has an impressive green marble clock on the mantelpiece, a family heirloom, which was the inspiration for the green marble globe symbolising the world on the Legion of Mary Vexillum or standard. The bookcase there has travel books about places all over the world, some of which Frank Duff had visited; a small number of books about politics, government and finance, books about the Legion of Mary itself written by

Frank Duff and others, some of the handbooks translated into several languages; dictionaries and other reference works, and of course Our Lady.

The sitting room then has devotional works such as small prayer books some of which had belonged to the Venerable Edel Quinn and to Frank Duff's mother; Butler's 'Lives of the Saints,' biographies of many saints, including several on Saint Thérèse, the Little Flower, more books about Our Blessed Mother, a set of Encyclopedia Britannica, bibles and breviaries, books about the Mass, about Jesus himself and about the Eucharist, the Body of Christ.

Finally, the storeroom downstairs has the Capuchin Annual and other journals and books that couldn't be fitted elsewhere. They will get a proper bookcase in due course.

There are four bedrooms upstairs. One of them is being used as an office and has three bookcases in it. The first one has history books: Irish, British and European history for the most part as well as the history of other countries, and books on geography and the sciences. The second case has literary works, and the third has theological and philosophical works, some classical literature, textbooks in Latin, French and other languages.





Frank Duff's beloved bicycle is in the large room where the exhibition is situated, along with memorabilia such as his spectacles, a family passport, prayer books, a rosary that belonged to him, and a hat. There are two bookcases in this room, one with the lives of holy men and women, along with a complete set of the Waverley novels by Sir Walter Scott, as well as a collection of mystery and detective stories. This room was his mother's room. She and some of his siblings lived here with Frank for a number of years. Probably the room people are most taken with though is Frank Duff's bedroom, the room where he died. There is definitely a sense of recollection there. It contains a bed, a picture of the Sacred Heart over the mantelpiece, along with a wardrobe containing his dress suit and some other garments belonging to him.

There are some 2,250 books in the library. He accumulated a considerable number of books himself, either by his own means or as gifts. In addition, Frank collected many books about Our Lady in French, which form a large part of the collection.

There is a collection of 'whodunnits' by Erle Stanley Gardner that seems to have been in circulation in the Morning Star hostel, judging from the wear and tear on them and the initials of various readers at the back of these books. They are a bit of light relief and have the most entertaining of titles.

They may have arrived by post on a subscription basis. It seems that Frank Duff was something of a polymath, interested in everything. However, the main theme running through the collection is books about Our Blessed Mother.

In order to preserve and take proper care of the books, we obtained acid-free phase boxes to house some of the pamphlet volumes that required additional protection, as it was important to attend to the physical condition of the books so that they will be available to future generations of users as well as to our own generation. Once we had the books in some kind of order, we began to list and number them, so that they would have their own unique place on the shelf and thus could be easily retrieved and returned to the same place.



**FRANK DUFF'S ROSARY BEADS**  
*Note the tiny Miraculous Medal and emblem of the Holy Spirit attached by Mr. Duff to the reverse of the crucifix.*



We assigned running numbers to them, from FD1 to FD2250 or thereabouts. We were fortunate in that a huge amount of work had previously been carried out on the library by legionaries over the years and this has helped us greatly. The books were already neatly shelved and while they were very tight on the shelves, we were able to loosen them up by creating an overflow shelf downstairs in the storeroom.

No doubt further work will be done on the library in the future. The books have been cleaned – the dust removed – and they have also been stamped with a Frank Duff Library stamp and given a call number. The spreadsheet has been enhanced with subject headings to identify the content of the books where it was helpful to do this. Many of the titles give us a good idea of the main theme of the books. It is apparent that a considerable number of the books were gifts to Frank Duff from various people who held him in high regard, and we have made a record of the inscriptions in case this is of interest in the future.

Frank Duff was no stranger to writing and he wrote several pieces about the work of the Legion and how it is Our Lady's work we are aiming to do: notably 'Can we be saints?' and 'Miracles on Tap.' He would likely have got inspiration for his contributions to the Legion of Mary Handbook *Legio Mariae*, and to the journal *Maria Legionis*, from the many books about Our Lady in his library. He appears to have been able to read French as there

is a considerable number of books in French on Mary in the collection. He was also a reader of the lives of the saints and of the lives of many outstanding lay and religious men and women. It would have been impossible for him to read all the books in his library from cover to cover but he definitely read and re-read many of them and inscribed the ones of which he made particular use with his signature and a tick on the title page.

We never thought it would take so long to complete the work, but Rome wasn't built in a day and it has worked out well in the end: the spreadsheet is suitable for conversion to an online portal, should a decision be made to do that in the future.

Many legionaries and visitors to Dublin, and indeed local people, have visited Frank Duff's residence and it is useful that the library is listed now and that the books are easy to find. It has been a labour of love to carry out this work and it has given us an insight into the kind of man Frank Duff was and his many interests and abilities.

Muire Máthair Dé praesidium can be translated from the Irish language as the praesidium of Mary, the Mother of God, and is the title of one of Ireland's only Irish-speaking praesidium.

**Legionaries are invited to visit the The Frank Duff Library. Please note books are part of the Archive and may not be borrowed.**



# Legion developments in Thailand

*By Ichaya Methasate*

On January 29, 2023, Our Lady of Mercy Comitium, Chiang Mai, set up a new Curia, i.e. Our Lady of Angels Curia, Baan Din Khao, Mae Jam, Chiang Mai, with 29 praesidia of 350 members. The Comitium has been blessed with the help of St. Paul de Chartres Sisters. The Sisters are their spiritual directors, and each Sister takes up to six praesidia under her care. Each praesidium is very distant from each other. However, they are all strong soldiers of our Lady. As they are all in remote areas, whenever the priest is unable to come to celebrate Holy Mass, legionaries will take the

lead and gather parishioners to pray together. Members also regularly visit the sick in their area. This is quite prominent how the grace of Mother Mary works in each individual.

Our Lady of Mercy Comitium, Chiang Mai, also set up another new Curia - Mother of the Church Curia having the center for monthly meetings at St. Michael Garicoits Church, Jom Thong, Chiang Mai. This new Curia comprises of nine praesidia, two youth praesidia and three probationary praesidia, with a total of 90 members while other 25 members are probationary.

## €50 Book Token

Identify the buildings below



Identify this Church (A) in Ireland, this medieval Cathedral (B) and this modern Cathedral (C) and send your answers to:

Maria Legionis, Presentata House, North Circular Road, Dublin 7.

First correct answer opened will receive a book token for €50.

# Commemoration for the Anniversary of Alfie Lamb



*By Nazareno Gonzales - Buenos Aires Senatus*

The Legion of Mary in Buenos Aires commemorated the anniversary of the death of the Servant of God Alfie Lambe on January 21st with a series of events. The activities began on Friday, January 20th at the first parish where Alfie Lambe founded the Legion of Mary in Buenos Aires. A special contingent of legionaries from Peru and Paraguay attended a Mass, followed by a presentation of a book about Alfie Lambe in Paraguay, written by Father Pedro Gennaro, the spiritual director of the Senatus of Asunción, who was also present.

On January 21st, the day of Alfie Lambe's death, the legionaries commenced with the recitation of

the Legion prayers at the Recoleta Cemetery, where Alfonso Lambe's remains rest in a vault. A Holy Mass was then celebrated at the Basilica of Recoleta, attended by several priests and legionaries from across the country. The events concluded with a talk by Brother José Luis, a member of the committee for the cause of the Servant of God Alfie Lambe of the Senatus of Buenos Aires.

Gratitude was expressed to all those present and those who helped make the event a success. The call to continue increasing devotion to the Servant of God Alfie Lambe was made, with the hope that he will soon be declared a saint.







# Praises of Mary



*It is your Heart, O Mary, that is pierced with the steel of the lance.*

*Much more so than the Heart of your Son, who has already breathed His last.*

*St. Bernard*

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*Mary is the arsenal of graces, and she rushes to the aid of her children.*

*She sustains, strengthens and renews them by means of the heavenly favours she heaps on them.*

*St. Paulinus*

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*May the Blessed Virgin Mary help me to live a holy life and die a holy death.*

*Then at the last instants of my life, may she come to my assistance and lead me to heaven.*

*St. Dominic Savio*

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*Mary is the vessel and tabernacle containing all mysteries. All that was hidden from preceding generations was made known to her.*

*Even more, most of the wonders of the Divine plan of salvation depended on her.*

*St. Gregory the Wonder Worker*

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*Place yourself in Mary's hands, she will think of everything and provide for the needs of soul and body.*

*Therefore, be at peace, be at complete peace, with unlimited confidence in her.*

*St. Maximilian Kolbe*

---

*Mary is the Virgin most truthful, the soil from which, in the words of the Psalmist, Truth shall spring.*

*May she grant us the grace to be truthful in heart, word, and deed in all things.*

*St. Joan of Valois*



# Legion world news



## EUROPE

**Austria:** A praesidium in the **Senatus of Austria** undertakes park and street contact, home visitation and arranging Confession. One person went to Confession shortly before her death after many years away from the sacraments. Another report shows 87 people made the 33 days preparation and Consecration to Jesus through Mary.

**Belarus:** Minsk praesidium helps people to prepare for the sacraments and does many other works of service. **Baranovichi Comitium** reported many returns to the sacraments. A praesidium prepared a 72 year-old man for the sacrament of Baptism.

**Bosnia Herzegovina:** **Sarajevo Curia** reported the Centenary was celebrated with Mass by Archbishop Tomo Vuksil where all present could gain a plenary indulgence.

**Croatia:** **Petrinja:** The church in Kravarski was demolished in the earthquake so the legionaries invited parishioners to gather at the church site each Saturday when the Rosary was prayed. The junior Curia has five praesidia with 33 legionaries. A youth festival was organised with a mix of spirituality and fun with 30 in attendance. In **Zagreb Regia** the apostolate includes home visitation and street contact in parks and train stations. Six persons received the sacraments after long periods.

**Cyprus:** The Acies took place in Limassol on the 26th March during Mass which was celebrated by the Vicar General Fr. Bruno Variano OFM.

**Italy:** The Spiritual Director of the **Rome Senatus** Senatus Mons. La Rosa has invited the seminarians in the major seminary to set up a praesidium.

**Lithuania:** **Telsiai Comitium:** Great apostolic work is being done in hospitals, which is a huge help for the priests. Each week the legionaries visit patients, encouraging and helping them to prepare and to receive the sacraments.

**Malta:** **Malta Regia** Prison visits and outreach to refugees is done. Legionaries reported that where the Pilgrim Virgin Statue was accepted in homes miracles of grace resulted for those people. Two Peregrinatio Pro Christo projects took place to Lourdes in July. Many nationalities were contacted including some of other faiths. Miraculous medals were offered to all. **Gozo Comitium:** Sunday Mass is celebrated in the Legion House for the Filipino Community. Legionaries are teaching them Maltese.

**Poland:** **Warsaw Praga Comitium:** Works include an outreach to those away from the Church for many years and living in non-sacramental relations. The homeless and those with addictions are visited. The Miraculous Medal is widely promoted. **Warsaw Comitium:** Works include help in their parishes, aftercare of auxiliary members and street contact. **Lublin Comitium:** On street apostolate 400 miraculous medals and 300 rosaries were offered and accepted and two people were brought to Confession. Some 30 apartments were visited, resulting in eight returns to the sacraments. 14 legionaries did a Peregrinatio Pro Christo to Ostrava in the Czech Republic.

**Portugal:** **Lisbon Senatus** held a Spiritual Retreat in Fatima on 10-12 March 2023. A legionary helped an elderly Ukrainian woman and a mother with two children for four months. In **Coimbra Regia** contact was made with three priests to establish the Legion of

Mary in their parishes. Legionaries in **Porto Regia** give support to young mothers and refugees who have been referred to social service institutions. Drug addicts were visited. Four new praesidia were set up.

**Spain:** In **Madrid Senatus** there are a good number of husbands and wives in praesidia. One such couple prepared a young man who was baptised and received the Sacrament of Matrimony. Mother of Students praesidium has been meeting and working with university students for over fifteen years. There was great interest in Radio Maria Ireland's interview with Alfie Lambe's cousin, which should help promote his cause. The long serving Spiritual Director of **Barcelona Senatus**, Fr. Josep Gendrau OFM, was present and delivered very encouraging allocutios at the November and December meetings. Sadly, he died on 28th of December. May he rest in peace. **Bilbao Senatus** reported a public Rosary along a pedestrian thoroughfare in Burgos each Friday during the summer months.

**Turkey:** The apostolate being done is home visitation with the statue of Our Lady, promoting the Rosary, Hospital visitation with an outreach to the poor, the sick, and the vulnerable and many other works of service. The annual pilgrimage to Our Lady's house in Ephesus was combined with the Synodal Conference in October. The Legion of Mary was represented at the Conference by the Vice President of the Curia.

## AFRICA

**Angola:** The **Luanda Senatus** celebrated 101 years of the Legion of Mary in September and 71 years of the Legion of Mary in Angola was celebrated in October. **Benguela Senatus:** Works reported include home and hospital visitation, visitation to sick people at home.

**Burundi:** **Bujumbura Regia** carry out regular recruiting of new and lapsed members,

inviting people to the Catholic Church and inviting back the lapsed Catholics. Regular evangelisation focuses on the essentials such as Baptism, Rosary, Confession, Mass, the Bible, but also addresses all the other situations met. A great many works of consolation to the sick, the old, the bereaved and to prisoners are carried out.

**Democratic Republic of Congo: Senatus of Butembo:** Two new praesidia were set up in the parish of Kinyavuyuri by the students of the Catholic University of Graben. Another praesidium was set up for deaf and hard of hearing people by a community of religious brothers. The sick, widows, orphans, prisoners, pregnant women and war refugees were helped morally and spiritually. Young people were helped out of bad situations and couples in long term relations got married after counselling. **Senatus of Lubumbashi:** Exploratio Dominicalis, organising of Legion retreats, and home visitation were some of the works mentioned in the minutes. The Senatus of Butembo has finished the translation of the handbook in Swahili. Lubumbashi has received a copy of the new translation and a commission has been set up to see if that translation can be used in Katanga, Lubumbashi. **Senatus of Kinshasa:** For the Legion Centenary Mass was celebrated by the Archbishop with many Spiritual Directors present. **Senatus of Kisangani:** 89 Legionaries organised and took part in 2-day retreats of prayer and formation for 321 drug addicts (smokers of hemp) and separately of 156 young female prostitutes, to help them give up their habits and change their lives. 125 members visited a total of 2,765 detainees in the Central Prison of Kisangani, where they prayed with them. Legionaries gave instruction and training in the rearing of poultry and goats and soap making to 35 widows to help them make a livelihood. **Senatus of Kananga:** The governors of the Kananga Prison requested the



Legion to undertake the spiritual guidance of the prisoners for the Easter Sunday ceremonies. A retreat was organised for members in the camp of the local military police. 215 people who were being instructed for the Baptism of their children later took on Eucharistic Adoration as a result.

**Egypt: The Senatus of Egypt** celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in December. Patriarch Ibrahim Isaac, Archbishop Thomas Adly, the spiritual directors and a number of other clergy participated in the Mass which was attended by a large number of legionaries from Cairo. A Retreat for Juniors was organised by the Senatus of Egypt in January 2023. The three-day Retreat was attended by young legionaries from all over Egypt. The theme of it was “Here I am, Send me” (Isaiah).

**Gambia: Banjul Curia:** A praesidium reports home and hospital visitation. They also helped three individuals to receive the sacrament of Baptism and were very active in the radio programme the Legion organised during the Centenary celebrations.

**Ghana: The Senatus of Accra:** Star of the Sea Comitium are working to revive dormant praesidia; they had a successful Legion month of celebrations.

**Kenya: Senatus of Kenya:** The annual Mass at Venerable Edel Quinn’s grave was due to take place 13th May. About 50 people attend the monthly prayers at her grave each month. Approximately 20 attend their monthly Frank Duff prayer meeting. A number of new praesidia and Curiae have been set up. A youth rally for young legionaries was held on 15 April.

**Lesotho:** Mother of the Church Comitium reports visiting 440 families over a four-month period.

**Malawi: Senatus of Blantyre:** Attached councils report home and hospital visitation,

visiting the elderly, counselling cohabiting couples, and teaching catechism classes. Legionaries help the elderly by doing minor home renovations and maintenance as well as helping with household chores and fetching water. **Maula Senatus:** 25,000 legionaries attended a Mass to mark the opening of the Centenary. The national Centenary closing Mass was held on 3rd December. All attached councils held retreats before the opening and closing of the Centenary year.

**Mauritius: Rodrigues Regia:** Works include spiritual formation of Junior members, promoting the Rosary at homes and grottos, preparing children for the sacraments and organising retreats.

**Mozambique: Tete Comitium:** To facilitate the work in the Diocese, organization of Pastoral Zones was made, with the support of the spiritual directors. The difficulties reported are the great distances legionaries must travel. A workshop on the formation of Curia and praesidia officers took place in March. **Beira Comitium** organised formation workshops for Curia officers. Nampula Curia held its annual planning meeting with discussion on the program for the year ahead.

**Nigeria: Lagos Regia:** The Archbishop of Lagos has given the Legion an assignment to work with the committee of the Annual Praise and Worship event organised by the Catholic Church. Many attached councils report home, hospital and maternity hospital visitation, teaching the Catechism, care of children during Mass, care of junior praesidia, crowd contact and marriage classes, visiting brothels and motels and helping to prepare hundreds for the sacraments. **Onitsha Regia:** A Comitium comprising sixteen senior Curiae, nine attached praesidia and five junior Curiae helped prepare many candidates for the sacraments. 36 couples had their marriages blessed and 59 sick calls were arranged. **Jos Regia:** Legionaries

in Bauchi Comitium visit a remand home, engage in home and hospital visitation, and crowd contact. **Abuja Senatus:** The legionaries are greatly active in their parishes where they assist in preparing the candidates for the sacraments, particularly baptism and matrimony. Thousands of contacts are made through hospital and home visitations. Conversion and bringing back lapsed Catholics are notable achievements for many councils. In the past year 105 new praesidia have been established. **Senatus of Ibadan** has many catechists who helped prepare hundreds of candidates for the sacraments. All attached councils and praesidia took part in the National Rosary Procession.

**Rwanda: Senatus of Kigali:** The pilgrimage of the legionaries of Mary to Kibeho in Rwanda took place on October 16, 2022, where more than 25,000 members made the trip. The Legionaries met in Kibeho, southern Rwanda, a place of pilgrimage following the apparitions of the "Mother of the Word" (28-11-1981 to 28-11-1989) officially recognized by the Catholic Church. It was organized by the Kigali Senatus and brought together active and auxiliary members of the Legion from all the dioceses of Rwanda under the leadership of Bishop of Gikongoro, accompanied by more than 50 priests and other religious (spiritual directors). Nearly 10,000 legionaries had made this trip on foot, for three days, in a coordinated succession of prayers, the Rosary and liturgical hymns.

**South Africa: Cape Town Senatus:** Works reported include home and hospital visitation, visiting the sick, the bereaved and the elderly. Work on documenting the history of the Legion in Cape Town is ongoing.

**Tanzania:** Since Covid the **Dar-es-Salaam** Regia is working hard to rebuild the Legion and visiting the Legion in distant areas. **Hai Moshi Comitium** reports home and hospital

visitation, encouraging couples to marry in Church and preparing adults and children for the Sacraments.

**Uganda: Uganda Senatus:** In **Kabale Regia** works include visiting homes, schools and institutions, hospitals and prisons and catechism instruction. Many souls were converted to the Catholic faith and received the sacraments. **Regia of Western Uganda** reported on work done in refugee camps. Extension work on Ssesse islands (84 islands on Lake Victoria) is ongoing. The room where Venerable Edel Quinn held the first meeting of the Legion of Mary in Uganda and started the first praesidium, was handed over to the Senatus. A committee has been formed to plan how best to preserve this room and make it a place of pilgrimage for legionaries to commemorate the start of the Legion in Uganda.

**Zambia: Lusaka Regia** The Legion in Ndola diocese reports strong growth in the copper belt towns. A Comitium reported visiting 70 prison inmates and giving catechism lessons in their parishes. Other works include consoling the bereaved, home and hospital visitation.

**Zimbabwe: Harare:** Mediatrix of all Grace Seminary praesidium in Chishawasha has 40 active members. They report visiting the sick, the elderly and the bereaved.

## OCEANIA

**Australia: Melbourne Senatus:** A praesidium in **Perth Comitium** visited three parish schools and over 1,000 Miraculous Medals were distributed. Western Suburbs Curia conduct a Rosary in the schools and over 1,150 Miraculous Medals were distributed. Parents much appreciate this apostolate. **Sydney Senatus:** Works include: bringing elderly to Mass; teaching Catechism in the schools; Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults instruction (RCIA); assisting parishioners during funerals

and follow up to bereaved. One Curia had sixteen homes consecrated to the Sacred Heart. An Indonesian praesidium has fifteen members and a junior praesidium attached.

**New Zealand: Auckland Senatus:** Home and retirement homes visitation was done, Pilgrim statue and RCIA apostolate were conducted and two people were received into the Church. Auckland Korean Comitium has fifteen senior praesidia of 116 members and two junior praesidia. Christchurch Korean Curia has seven praesidia with 51 members. Christchurch English Curia has eight senior and two junior praesidia. One English and one Samoan praesidium were set up.

**Fiji: Namosi Comitium:** Works include Door-to-door visits, taking Holy Communion to the sick and elderly, plus church cleaning. Fr. Donal McIlwraith has translated the Handbook into Fijian, but it is not yet printed.

## ASIA

**Japan: Osaka Senatus:** The legionaries organized a successful Faith and Light meeting in the church with the handicapped, their parents and legionaries.

**Korea: Seoul Senatus:** Three Regia in the Seoul Archdiocese gave reports. With a total of 28,464 senior active members, 622 juniors and 51,879 auxiliaries, they undertake an extensive apostolate which includes recruiting and mentoring catechumens, encouraging returns to the sacraments and home and hospital visitation. The Senatus Spiritual Director, together with the Senatus Officers, met with Cardinal Yeom Soo Jung, Archbishop Emeritus. He received them warmly and praised the work of the Legion of Mary which was introduced to Korea in 1953. He reminded the legionaries that he too was a member of a junior praesidium before he entered the seminary. "I am here thanks to your prayers," he told them. **Gwangju Senatus:** Council reports show a great variety of apostolic works being

undertaken. Many baptisms and returns to the sacraments are reported. The Senatus plans to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Legion of Mary in Korea in May 2023.

**Philippines: Senatus of Northern Philippines:** In the **Regia of Lipa** two new senior praesidia were set up. A junior praesidium conducted catechism classes, and a *Patricians* meeting started in August. The Comitium of Novaliches had eleven conversions to the faith. Four junior praesidia and one senior praesidium were established. **Bicolandia Senatus: Labo Comitium:** The Major Seminary Curia has 12 praesidia with 78 full members and 26 on probation. The Minor Seminary Junior Curia has twelve praesidia with 61 members. **Western Visayas Senatus:** Kabankalan Comitium was greatly affected by Typhoon Odette; the Legion house was destroyed and some documents lost. Despite all that, they continue to work and facilitated the Baptism of three teenagers. A seminar was conducted for 592 parents of children who received Confirmation. Apostolate to tricycle drivers, visitation to a home for elderly priests and some former Spiritual Directors was reported.

**Singapore:** A Curia had a stall at the University at the start of the Academic year and many students took copies of the Penny Catechism and Legion literature. The Rosary was prayed daily for three weeks during exam time.

## NORTH AMERICA

**Mexico: Mexico City Senatus:** Street contact has resulted in preventing a number of abortions. A young man, who was away from the faith was contacted, went to Confession and received the Eucharist three months before he died. May he rest in peace. His family was very grateful to the Legion. **Merida Senatus.** Three Comititia reported widespread home visitation with positive results, 690 baptisms and large numbers returned to the practice of the faith. One Comitium has a praesidium in the men's jail. Approximately 1,500

homes of families who have changed to another religion or sect are visited regularly. **Monterrey Regia** report the Frank Duff prayer is promoted among friends and on visitation. **Guadalajara Regia:** A new praesidium was set up in the jail. Legionaries help teaching catechism in the parishes. Four adults who have no faith are also being instructed at their request. homes of families who have changed to another religion or sect are visited regularly. **Monterrey Regia** report the Frank Duff prayer is promoted among friends and on visitation **Guadalajara Regia:** A new praesidium was set up in the jail. Legionaries help teaching catechism in the parishes. Four adults who have no faith are also being instructed at their request.

**U.S.A.:** Reports to **Boston Senatus** cited apostolic work such as promoting Adoration and Mass, catechesis of children for sacraments and prisoners, conversion of an elderly lady and a mother with her new born triplets. **Chicago Senatus** has a Spanish Comitium with 200 active members. A Spanish Curia in Rockford with 98 active members helped three young people to convert. There is a Korean Comitium with 185 active members. There is a Curia of 25 active members in Minnesota who do weekly recruitment after Mass and Sacred Heart Enthronement. **Cincinnati Senatus** have a letter from the Archbishop recommending the Legion to his pastors when planning extension. **Philadelphia Senatus:** Closing Centenary events included a Mass and a Congress. Work highlights were CCD and RCIA, *Patricians*, thirteen Sacred Heart Enthronements with their priest officiating. A Curia in Delaware with 50 members did two recruiting drives and crowd contact at an Italian Festival and run a Bible study in a nursing home. Scranton Curia started a new praesidium and had one return to Faith. **San Francisco Senatus:** Pilgrim statue visits yielded validation of one marriage, one recovery from cancer and a Buddhist seeking repeat visits due to favours received. Street contact work in San Mateo Comitium resulted in three priests visiting seventeen homebound, five of whom passed away

shortly afterwards. The Senatus attempted three extension efforts and five new praesidia started elsewhere; two in Anchorage Curia, one in North Utah and two in Stockton Comitium. **Arlington Regia:** Home visitation is 90% of the work done by one Comitium which recently started three new praesidia. Eight of their members did Peregrinatio Pro Christo to the Dominican Republic. Congresses, reunions and retreats are mentioned in most reports. Another council gained 25 new senior and twelve new juniors. A praesidium had 150 parishioners enrolled in the Brown Scapular. **Miami Regia** reports from three praesidia. They resumed home and nursing home visitation, crowd contact and public square rosary rallies.

## CANADA

**Toronto Senatus:** A new praesidium does Pilgrim Virgin visitation, street contact apostolate and held a Rosary Procession in their town. North Toronto Curia comprises diverse cultures; Spanish, Portuguese, and Vietnamese. A curia in Hamilton Comitium started Masses in four nursing homes. The Niagara Curia, with twelve praesidia, reported one conversion and one return of a lapsed Catholic. **Montreal Senatus:** A praesidium of six active and 70 auxiliary members held an auxiliary function comprising Adoration and Benediction followed by a light meal. Members organised their Closing Centenary Mass in the Cathedral on 19th November. Curia reports revealed some Centenary Events in St. Hyacinte and Moncton Curiae and resumption of nine of the eleven praesidia in their English speaking Curia. **Vancouver Comitium** reported on an attached praesidium of eight active and 25 auxiliary members who recruited two new members, resumed housebound visits and street contacts, visiting six-to-eight needy persons each month. **Edmonton Comitium:** Visitation of a care home, a detention centre and 42 Pilgrim Virgin statue visits were highlighted. The total Korean membership for here and Calgary is 62 active members who give special attention to newly baptized converts. A new praesidium started in Saskatchewan.



Our lady of La Vang  
*Vietnam*



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