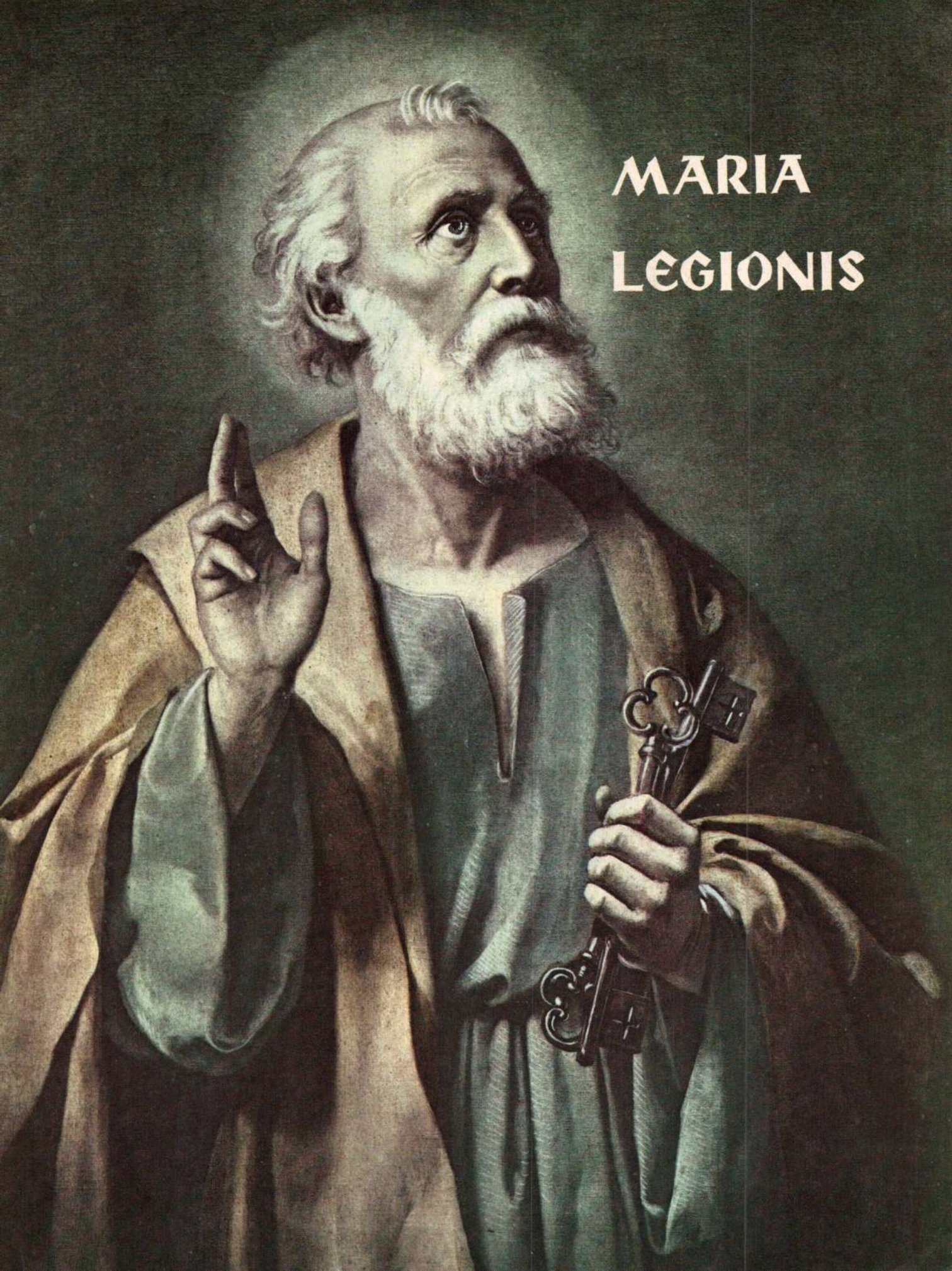


MARIA
LEGIONIS



Maria Legionis

The Voice of the Legion of Mary

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OUR COVER PICTURE

The Cover picture of St. Peter is by the same artist who gave us the picture of St. Paul which adorned our cover of No. 4 of 1971. It has an appropriateness to our article on the Monks of the West in as much as they were alleged to have exhibited an independence towards Rome. This arose out of the dispute over the time of the Easter ceremonies. But those things were regarded as debatable matter at the time and as not entering into the domain of true loyalty to the Holy See. To-day we can view that question from the new perspective of the proposals for a fixed Easter.

The saying of St. Patrick: "As ye are children of Christ, so be ye children of Rome" echoed in the heart of every one of those old monks. They regarded a rigid adherence to Rome as an absolute requirement of Christianity. Our article indulges in the interesting speculation as to what would have happened if Columbanus had gone to Russia as he thought of doing. He certainly would have initiated its conversion many centuries earlier and would have tied it firmly to Rome, so that it might not have gone off in the Great Schism of 1054.

"One Candle"

ONE candle marks the progress of a year
A year of growth in body, soul and mind
But 'neath that air of milky sweet content
I sense a purpose setting You apart.
These dimpled fingers clinging now with love
Shall they acquire the skill with cedar . . . cyprus
Plying Joseph's trade? Or is their aim
Upon a higher plane? Unease besets me
As I now recall Your hour of birth
When rough men from the hills became as lambs
On sight of You, Kings proffered frankincense . . .
With gold and myrrh You were in homage
greeted
And wrinkled crones praised God for their
deliverance
From what . . . fear . . . death . . . life's lack of
purpose . . .
Shall I ever know? Yet awesomely
I have been told that You, my infant son
You are The Word.
Thus musing Mary turned aside and dozed
Believing that the Babe at breast now slept
But infant eyes abrim with deep compassion
In prescient anguish for her . . . Jesus wept.

JEAN ANNE CHAPMAN.

the monks of the west

By Frank Duff

I HAVE heard legionaries confess to their feelings of extreme apprehension when a difficult work was about to start. What they had measured up and cheerfully committed themselves to, now took on the aspect of danger and folly. The temptation rises up in them to seek an excuse for backing out. Panic takes possession, which means that one has become irrational, virtually an animal. We must redeem ourselves from that condition. It is not so difficult; a touch of logic brings the brain into control once again.

A simple reflection is: "What sort of soldier am I? The moment the battle impends I wish to take to flight!"

Secondly, one should always put to oneself this simple question: "What am I afraid of?" Very often that question demolishes the fear. It did in the case of a legionary who was overcome by panic when about to enter Russia. But she asked herself that question and it dispelled the panic. For she realised that the worst that could happen would be that she would be sent home.

Thirdly, it is one of our mental kinks that on the eve of a momentous and carefully planned undertaking misgivings rush in and declare it to be lunacy. Chaos rules where all had seemed so clear. The enterprise is in danger. Dealing with such a situation, Hindenburg, the former German Chancellor, says that we must *never* change plans at the last minute; that history, the great summary of experience, supplies the watchword: "Hold firm".

Fourthly, and here I become more positive, more in line with legionary thinking and with Peregrinatio idealism. Do you want to go off on something with no formidable or disadvantageous aspects? A P.P.C. project offers excitement, congenial company, new and strange experience, a certain glamour. If it meant no more than that to you, it would be a cheap programme.

It is a vital consideration that the attraction of the ancient Peregrinatio lay just in features of an intimidating character. That Peregrinatio was *not* a pure missionary enterprise. It was a pursuit of souls plus other ingredients. Those indomitable monks did not intend their pursuit of souls to be a mere picnic—to use Edel Quinn's word. They wished it to be not only an uncompromising response on their part to the command of Our Lord on Mount Olivet but also to His other one that we

take up our cross daily and follow Him; and also to His startling injunctions on the subject of heroic faith.

Previously I have discussed with you that wonderful moment of the Ascension. He Whom they now know to be God delivers that Commission that they ransack the whole world for souls. Then, as they gaze in stupefaction, He raises Himself up and finally a cloud receives Him into itself and they see Him no more. It would be absurd to suppose that they set themselves at once to a deliberate contemplation of that world adventure to which He had bound them. They would be too confused for that. Moreover, between now and the time of that going forth there is to be something else which is so thrilling, so overwhelming as to absorb all their thought. That is the promise of the Paraclete Who is to come and do extraordinary things to them, to fit them for all that lies before them.

That prospect, like a thick veil obscuring everything else, postponed real thinking about the conquest of the world. But the moment that the transforming event of Pentecost took place, they set themselves to their task in the wide world, about which so little was known. That contemplation must have been a most formidable one, even fantastic to persons who had never travelled out beyond their own little country.

It was that same sort of proposition which presented itself to the minds of the Irish monks 500 years later. But of course there were differences. The Christian Faith already had a history. The purely apostolic age was over. The Faith had been announced over much of the known world and had been embraced by multitudes. Many too had laid down their lives for it in the persecutions which raged against the infant Church. Moreover, something which was unbelievable, impossible, had taken place. The supreme enemy, Rome the persecutor, had been converted and had become the arch-supporter. All its paraphernalia of power had been thrown into the work of spreading Christianity throughout the Empire. The triumph had been bigger and quicker than anyone could have imagined. The world seemed to be converted, or practically so.

But no. Things were far from being as good as they seemed. The arch-support collapsed, the Roman Empire fell, and it brought down the Church with

This little chapel near Annegray marks the site of St. Columban's first monastery in France. Excavations begun in 1958 revealed the church foundations and seventh century tombs.



it. Perhaps in this was intended to lie a Divine warning: that God builds His Church with supernatural bricks. These alone last. The human props serve a temporary purpose, but the builders should see them in that light and should not rely upon them. Build away while the help of the scaffolding is there, but do not lag lest the props be taken away before we are ready.

The Roman Empire had played that role of support for the Church at a period when it was necessary. Let us suppose that God had appointed a term of a century or so for the builders of the Church to construct firm fabric, to turn into true Christian cells the half-baked material that flowed in because of the State encouragement? Are we to go on to suppose that the builders were lax? That they relied on the permanence of the Empire; and that they did not impart solidarity to the individual cells?

Whether or not this imagining is precisely justified, there would seem to be a just reasoning in it. It is conformed to the method of God as we see it around us in lesser manifestations. In any case there would appear to be a drastic lesson in that Empire collapse. It is that Church authorities should take unto themselves the wise thought of Shakespeare, which echoes the Psalm: "Put not your trust in princes nor in the faith of men" (Ps. 145).

Unhappily that same lesson had to be repeated many times afterwards. The Church put its trust in governments and in human policies, and these always failed it in the end. And during those spells of confidence it was content with gerry-building. The only safe construction lies in the filling of the individual parts with true faith. If there are circumstances in play which help the Church, such as a favourable government or other external force, it should not be used as an excuse for relaxing one's own effort. On the contrary that favouring climate should be availed of to work the harder and build the better. We can never afford to relax in regard to souls because they relax in unison with us. But apart from this, it must be borne in mind that the friendly government will change its tune after a

while, and so will every one of those other propitious circumstances. Supports will fall away from under us, and the favour of today may be hostility in the next generation.

However that may be, the fall of the Roman Empire laid waste the world. The state, the style, the noble edifice of imperial Rome with its far-extended might, its splendid institutions and culture, its order and dignity, its Pax Romana, and its office as educator of the nations—all dissolved into chaos and dust. Never before had the like existed and we must pray that such may never again come on earth. We might almost compare the resulting situation to the Deluge in which everything of the old world perished except what was carried in the Ark.

The picture of the post-Roman Europe could not be exceeded for desolation. The arts and crafts ceased to be practised. Agriculture was neglected, for who would sow when he saw no prospect of reaping. Europe drifted back into its primeval state of forest-land, in clearings of which lived communities. In the main there were two broad categories of survival: To attach oneself to the retinue of some great baron or to remain savagely independent through brigandage.

Pope Pius XI, summing up that scene, declared that Christianity was humanly speaking a lost cause. It was a sort of re-enactment of Good Friday when Christ Himself appeared to be a lost cause.

But the great Pope goes on to say that God had provided a remedy which would restore Christianity. It was the monks of the West. These poured out from their little Isle into that continental wilderness. They invaded nearly every part of it. They rebuilt the lost Faith, built it better than it was before because this time it depended on conviction and not on State scaffolding. They may be said to have made modern Catholicism. That was the Peregrinatio pro Christo.

They would have viewed their mission in a very different way from that in which the Apostles looked on theirs. Much more was known about the world than in the year 33. Christianity moreover had taken

root. It might have been laid waste over most of the world but those monks would have seen that as a mere temporary calamity which must be repaired. Certainly the Faith was not suffering in Ireland. It was new there and boiling with fervour. The monks were providentially ready for a supreme adventure of that kind.

In one respect the prospect was worse than faced the Apostles. To the latter the world more or less meant Rome. Its hand held or overshadowed the known world and throughout its expanse the Roman civilisation and Roman law and order prevailed. One could travel.

But the Europe of St. Columbanus and his followers was in collapse. Law did not exist. Might was right. Those like the monks who did not carry arms would probably be thrown back for protection on their religious habits. In their missions they would have to penetrate the vast forests in which wild animals lived. So their adventure was as brave as that of the Apostles.

They were taking to themselves in fullness and in literalness the Ascension words of Christ. They were going to do what He had ordered. The dangers or obstacles in the way meant nothing to them. In fact an extraordinary element is observable in their outlook. It was not simply that they saw a star and followed it with a total disregard for the pains and penalties entailed. No, we see from their Annals that those pains were clearly seen and were eagerly desired. They wanted to carry the Cross of Jesus as well as to preach Him.

Another distinctive feature in them was what one would have to call a reckless faith. Such was it that some would allege it as a defect. Because we are not supposed to put care and common caution altogether aside. Prudence has its due place; it is not a vice. But those incredible persons had no room in their make-up for any half-measures. They saw their mission as a way of pure faith and they were determined to apply their faith all along and in every circumstance. Such an uncompromising vision naturally tends to disregard any circumspection as a weakness. In fact they seemed to set at defiance what are now proposed as the rules of prudence. But perhaps those modern rules go too far in the other direction and hamper faith. Much of what is being prescribed today would seem to undo faith. In any case the monks' method built up religion whereas the new sceptical method is disintegrating it before our eyes. So much so that humanism and social science are being proposed as substitutes for religion.

St. Brendan and his companions in their earlier voyages did not use sails. They used oars, which of course ministered to another facet of their faith, the desire for penance. The Peregrinatio was specifically seen as an exercise of penance. A very large element

of that penance was the perpetual exiling of themselves from their own country.

St. Columbanus, finding his group without an abode where they were about to build a monastery, heard of an immense cave which could accommodate them. But it was in the occupancy of a ferocious bear. The Saint went over to the cave where its owner stood menacingly in the entrance to receive him. Columbanus addressed him as if he were a human being; informed him about their need; suggested that the bear could more easily than they find alternative lodging; and finally requested him to give them possession. Throughout this oration the bear listened as if with understanding. When it was finished, he at once shambled peacefully away.



Encounter with a bear . . . displaced animal!

Nor was there in the method of the monks any special effort to conciliate the great; rather the contrary. The highest were treated as members of the flock and told their duty and defects. They did not like this, for the great are seldom humble. Frequently the monks had to pay the price for their frankness. It secured St. Columbanus's expulsion from France. But therein we must recognise the detailed workings of Providence, because that expulsion sent Columbanus to Switzerland and Italy. In both of those countries he and his companions continued their career of conquest.

It is an intriguing thought that St. Columbanus toyed with the idea of going to Russia instead of to Italy. He did not go to Russia; but if he had, he would have changed the history of the world. Unquestionably he would have made in Russia the same impact as he did everywhere else. This would have meant the beginning of evangelisation there four hundred years before Sts. Cyril and Methodius

opened it up. That gain of four hundred years might have saved Russia from the Great Schism of 1054 and might have been decisive in other ways as well.

Such was the Peregrinatio of the monks of the West. It was so great as a historical episode that the only thing of its kind to which one can compare it is the original apostolic adventure, that is of the Twelve and their successors. It was of the same calibre, covered roughly the same territory, and had the same success. The Peregrinatio was the renewal of the apostolic feat.

As between that Peregrinatio and your own there is an infinite gulf. But at least the outlines are the same. You make the gift of your holidays and money where they poured out their whole lives. You travel in speed and luxury where they were lucky to live in a bear's den. Fear must have been their atmosphere whereas your main apprehension is a snub at a door. You return to appreciation while none of them ever came back, and half of them were never heard of again.

Nevertheless, the outline of resemblance is there. In a soft and selfish era your gift is a generous one. Underneath what you do lie great reserves of faith and readiness to give if needed. As such it will be taken hold of as the older Peregrinatio was and used to accomplish eternal purposes.

Every such adventure for souls partakes of the character of the first Pentecost and is linked to it. Tongues of fire are there waiting for such as you who open yourselves to them. You are not only in the company of Mary but are her very devoted children and often made a mockery of for her name's sake. The Paraclete will not deny Himself to you. In this time of preparing to go, you are after a fashion restaging the time of expectation in the Cenacle, when the Disciples had received the command to go to every creature and the promise that the Holy Spirit would come to them and supply them with all they needed for that seemingly impossible mission. To you too He will come through Mary and lavish on you His abundance; indeed He comes no other way than by her. You will not see the tongues of fire nor hear the sound of a mighty wind, but the giving will be no less real and efficacious. You will go off on your various journeys well armed spiritually for the tasks which await you.

Your special ambition should of course be a difficult assignment, one worthy of the things we have been discussing under the title of Peregrinatio. Feed that ambition by thinking of those inconceivably selfless monks. They deprived themselves of absolutely everything that human nature values; esteem, comfort, home. Their sharpest sacrifice was that they would never again return to Ireland. They shed everything in order to take Christ at His word and to take Christ to every man. Some aspects of that nobility can be imitated by you.

In *one* way your task will be more difficult than theirs. They had to deal with more violent but simpler characters than will confront you. You will probably not encounter physical danger. Your problem will be the blank wall of unbelief and sophistication which has all the look of being impenetrable. The Apostles and the monks of the Peregrinatio had not that to face; their world was readier to believe. So your particular contribution must be intensity of Faith. We are told on the highest authority that Mary has given you a special Faith. Use it like a battering ram against that blank wall, and you may find that it totters under your blow. It is not as solid or as sure of itself as it pretends to be. Some of it is composed of our own emigrants or their descendants and their affectation of irreligion is not completely genuine. Most of the others would be the descendants of the Reformation in whom survives in varying degrees the Catholic tradition. Catholicism dies hard. Like the faint glow under the ashes, it can be fanned to life again.

Faith is a Divine, almost handleable quality. It can be used like money to buy things. But unlike money it can increase in ourselves according as we bestow it on others. It is supposed to be communicated from one to another. Faith is passed on by giving and hearing. It is not a remote, impersonal element which can be imparted through the communications media. Religious history is full of examples where unbelieving persons suddenly got Faith from others who willed to give it to them.

You are privileged to see signs of this operation in connection with your use of the Miraculous Medal. The fact that this medal works is uncontestable. There is not one among us who has not had startling evidence of its power to soften and to produce effects. The only valid explanation of its efficacy is that it is faith reduced after a fashion to visible form, which is precisely what a Sacramental amounts to. It applies our faith to a particular pur-



This statue of St. Columbanus (by Grange) was unveiled at the famous monastery at Luxeuil in 1950 during the International Congress which was attended by Pope John XXIII, then Papal Nuncio to France.

Our Lady to the Rescue

by John A. Love III

OUR Lady of Miracles and Our Lady of the Holy Family praesidia under the radiant spiritual directorship of Father R. Roy Cosby, Holy Family Catholic Church, Dale City, Virginia, conducted a Columban Drive on June 10th. Elaborate plans were made . . . an exhaustive amount of Legion of Mary literature was ordered . . . huge posters were made . . . "goodies" were made (someone once said that an army travels on its stomach) . . . co-ordination on who was going to be present during each Mass was completed . . . and, most important of all, many hours of preparation were absorbed by the two men who talked during each of the seven Masses on our favourite subject, the Blessed Mother and Her Legion.

The first Mass rolled around. I was to speak at this first Mass, following Communion. Father Lehning, Father Cosby's assistant, was the Celebrant. He gave me the high sign to begin my talk, and guess what, I *missed* it. There I was, after all the exhaustive preparations of so many outstanding people, and I *blew it*. No talk was given during the first Mass. Furthermore, I couldn't hide in my shame because who should show up to "man" the literature table but the president of our own Alexandria Curia, Mrs. Liz Raucherbaumer. I felt

like crawling under the table she was manning. Needless to say, not one single inquiry about the Legion of Mary was made.

Anyway, Our Lady rescued me. The remaining six Masses were much more successful—I didn't miss my cue for one thing. For another, lots and lots of fine people worked very, very hard not only to forgive me but to overcome my deficiencies: our very special Liz Raucherbaumer; Cy Maloy, the curia treasurer, who spent a whole weekend making the beautiful posters; Phil Burrell, the president of Our Lady of Miracles praesidium, who talked much more effectively than I at half of the Masses; Jan Burrell, the president of Our Lady of the Holy Family praesidium, whose legs swelled from all the follow-up home visitations she performed after the Masses; and Chet Morneau, president of our neighbouring Arlington curia, who brought several of his fellow legionaries to help us.

God bless everyone who helped Our Lady make the Columban Drive so successful, and *successful* it was. There are right now over ten new active members and several auxiliary members with many potential members in the wings. Thank You, My Lady, for coming to my rescue once again.

The Monks of the West—continued

pose in a tangible way. Again I use the analogy of money which conveniences us in purchasing. We are looking for something in the higher or spiritual order; we assign the medal, so to speak, to that purchase. Our faith puts itself forth through the medal and our desire is granted to us. The medal almost enables us to handle grace, and I repeat that this is the idea of the Sacramentals. Present the medal to a person and you have brought your faith into very close touch with him.

Some of you have heard the story of the Indian girl drowned in the Cowichan River. The body had been sought unavailingly for weeks by the whole tribe. It came at once to the surface at the spot where a Miraculous Medal was thrown in at the moment of the abandonment of the search. One day I told this story to a legionary group. An hour afterwards a watch was lost in a mountain-side wilderness where ten thousand men would not have availed to find it. Remembering the story, a medal was thrown into the midst of the tangle of vegetation. It fell on the watch. The medal could bring up a body, it could find a watch. More important, it can awaken life in a dead soul. But it is only a channel of Faith, so never just give the medal

mechanically. Deliberately intend it to be a carrier of your Faith and the confiding of that soul to its Mother Mary whose image is on the medal.

Your Faith is the treasure which you carry. Though it is yours, it is not altogether a personal possession. It is God in you. He wants to widen His place in you and at the same time to issue through you to others. Indeed these two things are bound up with each other. If we do not try to share our Faith, it may dry up in us. If we do try to put it to a full use, it can become a vaster force than anything in nature, immeasurably greater than the atom bomb, more far-reaching than space travel.

Let us set that force at work on the most neglected cause of the day, conversion. Because conversion is the central idea of the Church and yet so neglected, effort directed towards it will draw omnipotence from on high.

Listen, Our Lord Himself is speaking: "Have Faith in God. Amen, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain: arise and cast yourself into the sea, and does not waver in his heart but believes that whatever he says will be done, that shall be done for him" (Mark 11-23). And Our Lord adds: "And nothing will be impossible to you" (Matt. 17-19).

Let us take Him at His word.

From My File

by *Joaquina Lucas*

The author was the most travelled Legion envoy. She has been everywhere except in orbit. The account of a year's activity of her praesidium at San Juan, Rizal, Philippines, is artistic. We wish she would give us other articles in the same strain.

PRAESIDIUM Foederis Arca was born in the age of neon lights and stereos, that is why its career is like love, a many-splendoured thing, a multi-coloured dream to behold and live for. Its every meeting is a rainbow performance in the stage of Legion life. Now, the colours of the spectrum are: violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange and red.

Our *violet* is discipline. We have no unpunctualities. One day our watches went groggy—one marked 4:05 and the other 4:15. In order to be fair to both, we decided to take the middle course and begin at 4:10. Sr. Paz arrived at the second mystery of the rosary. She was relieved to learn the story of the crazy time-pieces.

Our *indigo* is conscientiousness. We have no non-performance of works at all. Inspired by the accomplishments of the officers, Bro. Ruperto once remarked: "You seem at all times to be competing with each other." We are eight in the praesidium: four "veterans"; the rest, still baby-members. In 52 weeks, the praesidium has recorded a total of 1,195 hours of work.

Our *blue* is fraternity. Before the meeting starts, we have a "warming-up period"; after the meeting, a "comradeship period". These periods are from 15 to 20 minutes only, and do we enjoy our companionship mutually!

Our *green* is general participation, especially in the study of the handbook which we prefer to call "exchange of ideas", on our spiritual reading. Better still, we just talk on what has been read. Our latest, for example, we were stumped by Sr. Candida's query: "If Mary is the General of the Legion, what is St. Gabriel's rank?" After a bit of pensive silence, Bro. Art said: "Let us leave the answer to the Commission on Appointments." Our exchanges last no more than seven minutes.

Our *yellow* is humour. We have them to the fingertips. Sample pieces taken from the Minutes are the following: Bro. Epifanio reported that a boy

thought the "Virgo Veneranda" (name of another praesidium) was a boy's name. Sr. Paz reported that they found the door of a client's house locked with nylon stockings. Sr. Carmel reported that a couple, a Legion case, along with their boy, a candidate for Baptism, left their house at midnight in order to escape the payment of rentals. A woman (praying before the venerated image of Quiapo) was cursing a neighbour who was maltreating her. When the legionary tried to convince her to withdraw that curse, she asked: "Must I go back to Quiapo to do it?" Two legionaries, Srs. Joaquina and Joaquin were interviewers at the Chinese school. A priest came to receive them. Sr. Joaquina said: "This is Miss Joaquin and I am Joaquina, that is, her family name is my first name. And what is your name, Father?" I am Fr. Lucas Chao, came the answer. Said Sr. Joaquina: "Therefore, your first name is my family name." Fr. Chao was confused. Following the joke in the meeting, Bro. President added: "And with Sr. Paz's house located in San Joaquin street, it follows that Foederis Arca is Joaquinized."

Our *orange* is achievements which are as follows: Marriages validated—10; Baptisms performed—16; Enthronements of the Sacred Heart—1; Confessions, some after long absence—10. Our attendance in 52 weeks: we have had 100 per cent attendance in 13 weeks, i.e. 25 per cent of the meetings of the past year. We have 8 active members of whom 3 are praetorians. We have given instructions to adults in the rectory; to children (weekly) at the police outpost, and to retarded girls in the kitchens. Our auxiliaries: full-fledged: 1 lay adjutorian and 31 auxiliaries. Probationers 23.

Our *red* is initiative, 90 per cent of which is to be credited to our venerated President. The parish priest has entrusted us the special assignment of editing and circulating the parish bulletin *The Voice*. This comes out weekly. There was the difficulty of securing news. The president solved it by requesting other praesidia to pitch in; they were told that sources of news could be the Barrio (village) councils and the Youths' clubs in town. We also had immense difficulties in keeping expiry records up to date. Bro. President solved it by making all subscriptions begin first week of the month and using smart receipts with printed cordial "Thank you's." The difficulty of keeping helpers "up and doing" was solved by taking them to occasional excursions.

All colours resolve into white, and our WHITE is the PURITY and BEAUTY of Our Lady to whom we owe all the inspiration that she and those united to her (our Legion Superiors of the Senatus and the Rizal Curia, our friends, benefactors and co-legionaries) give us to carry on our work of LOVE, this ten-times blessed splendoured thing.

DIARY OF

FATHER AEDAN McGRATH

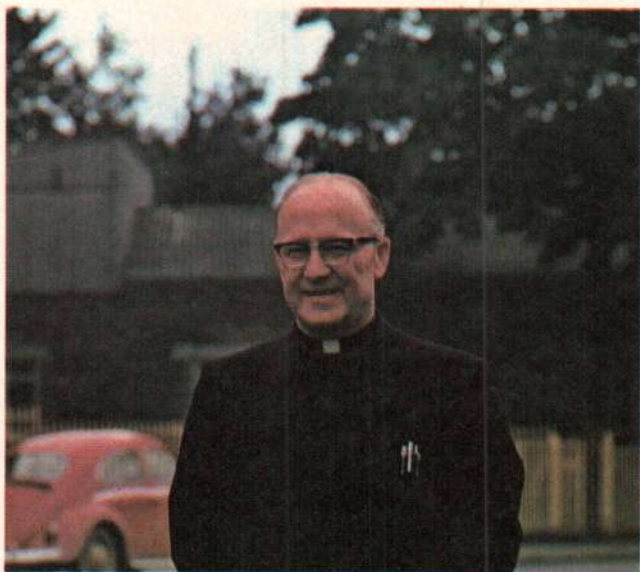
How Father McGrath maintains his incredible schedule, always at the top level of enthusiasm, is a veritable mystery of religion. It is so beyond nature that one must conclude that he earned it in the Chinese prison-cell in which he existed for three most painful years.

FEBRUARY the 3rd I flew to Des Moines, Iowa, to preach at a Columban Drive. The Curia of Des Moines has improved immensely the last couple of years, particularly under the leadership of Glenn Peterson, a young married man with about four children. He is zealous and works well with his officers. He tells me now that they have begun a young adult group of the Legion trying to lower the age of the members. The Des Moines members, 45 of them, will be up here at the St. Columban Retreat House a week from hence when I give them their three day retreat.

On February the 6th I flew to Chicago and remained there over a week just to contact the skid-row Praesidium and see how they were working. I have always been fascinated by their courage and indeed by their successes. I attended their meeting, and see that they now have a priest with them all the time—a good Franciscan. There were 16 in the group, about half men and half women, and most of the women were very young. There were at least 6 between 20 and 26 or so, and including two young Filipino girls. The reports were fascinating, and it would be difficult for a priest not to be impressed.

It is quite obvious that the young girls now consider themselves safer in skid-row than they do in the ordinary streets of Chicago. I did interview four or five of them on another day and put it on tape. It has been a very useful tape to play at retreats etc. Already about 150 young priests have taken their turn to go in there and hear confessions after the Mass in the kitchen and give a Homily. Very many of these are now young pastors in Chicago and obviously they must have been very much impressed. Besides that four Bishops have already expressed their wish to offer the Mass and have heard confessions in the impromptu confessional in the elevator shaft.

Some priest was good enough to step aside on Sunday the 11th to let me in to offer the Mass and hear confessions. I went down early with Peter Skocik and went into the tavern on skid-row to see how the legionaries were picking up the members for the Mass. There you had a tavern full of men both drunk and drugged and these young girls walking in and out of them without the smallest



danger. The men I was talking to obviously admired them and their courage, and were determined to protect them from any newcomer who might not know the circumstances. When the time came for Mass the bartender blew the whistle and the men began to move out and walk along the streets with the legionaries for Mass. I felt privileged to be able to say the Mass and to preach. Also I had several confessions, and there was great sincerity there.

There is also another praesidium which has undertaken very difficult work in Oldtown—contacting the Hippies, the homosexuals, and even the great numbers who are going to devil worship.

Peter Skocik who works for a big company told me that he was required by his company to do the Dale Carnegie course to make you more articulate in speaking and to teach you how to impress people. They also wanted him to do the Gabriel Richard course. They paid the money and it was no small sum. I asked Peter if he had learned much from it, and he said “no, practically nothing”. He said, “I had learned it all from my Legion of Mary praesidium before I went.”

I personally have always believed that the properly run praesidium meeting is the best teacher of that kind of thing. In Father Ripley's Jubilee Talks he makes that very comment that the Legion is in fact the best form of “group dynamics” in the world. I would agree with him and always have thought that. When Peter told me this I decided to investigate a little bit. The next night they had an

officers' meeting and Peter arrived with two first prizes which he had won at his Dale Carnegie course. Now it must be remembered that many executives are doing these courses, and would have had a certain amount of training. Peter had won the prize for the best speech, and for the best method of approaching people. I made this remark to Bridie Fitzpatrick and the others present, and Bridie smiled and said, "Father, many of us have received those prizes." I said, Bridie, would you write down those that have. She wrote down on the spot five that she could remember, and they were ordinary legionaries who would attribute all their training to their Legion Praesidium.

I have always held that a Legion of Mary secretary, if she does her work properly, will become a good secretary to the world. I have also always said that the most articulate people on any subject and particularly one like the Mystical Body of Christ are undoubtedly legionaries in no matter what country. It is a point that I have stressed at retreats, and like the social value of the Legion of Mary this point is one worth stressing.

February the 16th I failed to get to Syracuse, New York, because of a freak storm. I got there next day and a young priest, Father Morrisette, the Spiritual Director of the curia, picked me up and for the next week brought me to Binghamton and Utica. He is a young and a most zealous man, and appreciating his fine young officers in each curia in his area.

February the 23rd brought me down to Rosenberg in Texas, and I was there for well over a week. Father Wearden is still spiritual director of the curia and well known in Dublin. He kept me busy with many events for the Legion, and we finished up with an all night vigil and again on the Sunday Acies ceremony.

I had to be in Allentown, Pennsylvania, to give the Legion of Mary retreat there on the 9th of March—so I arrived in the Columban House in West Chester a little early and had the evening with Bill Peffley and Mary. We discussed many things, and it is such a tonic to see two people so wrapped up in the Legion and its extension.

It was good to have two days with Monsignor Moss while giving the retreat. He is always full of ideas Legion-wise and there is nothing that he will not tackle. He is studying German as we know so as to teach the young legionaries who are going on the PPC to Germany this summer.

I left that area on St. Patrick's day (when it might have been wiser to stay and celebrate) and spent most of the day in the air trying to land in Detroit so as to move on to Kalamazoo, Michigan. There was a freak storm and we could not land and so I went to Minneapolis and back to Chicago, only to spend the night by myself in a motel. Next day

fortunately we were able to get off the ground and land in Kalamazoo where 5,000 people were stranded on the ice and snow. However, that did not deter 50 or 60 legionaries from travelling the roads at their own risk and getting to the Congress. Beverly Adams, the president of the curia, who has been in Dublin a couple of times, is so zealous and efficient.

March the 22nd I flew to Rochester and spent 10 busy days there. We took in the Dansville Curia, the Monroe Curia, a Columban Drive in Auburn at the week-end, several praesidia meetings, and the Legion of Mary retreat in the Cenacle convent the next week-end. Sunday, the first of April, was the Acies in Rochester. Bishop Hickey presided and there were very many priests present. It was gratifying. We finished up with a magnificent banquet, about 250 legionaries being present. Bishop Hickey himself and priests remained to the end.

I preached the retreat to the legionaries in St. Louis on the 6th, 7th and 8th and again found great zeal. Rochester has always been famous for its juniors, and yet now they are pretty much down like every other place. There is no doubt that there will have to be a concentration on the young people if we are to get them.

My last week-end 13th, 14th and 15th was spent in Cleveland, Ohio, where I went to preach at the Acies in the presence of Bishop Issenmann. In his talk at the Acies he showed that there were 100 praesidia out of 245 parishes. He made an appeal to the legionaries to extend so that every parish would have one—that was his wish. He also remarked the lack of Juniors in the report. However, one has to remark again that the keel of the Church at the moment is that very age group 50 and up. They are faithful and zealous.

Mary Frances Crowley, R.I.P.

The Crowleys of Dublin have previously been mentioned as a possible record holder among "Legion families", all of its members having figured prominently. Now Mary Frances has gone to her eternal reward, leaving a gap which cannot be filled. She served in every office, including Curia president, and she was the Concilium correspondent with many Senatus in the far East from Singapore to Japan. She was the ideal correspondent, establishing a close personal touch with her opposite numbers, all of whom have signified their deep sense of loss.

She was in the Legion since 1928. It is no exaggeration to say that from then she lived fully according to legionary ideals. Indeed she was a pillar of the Legion. Our Lady imparted to her the gift of youthfulness almost to the very end.

What a joy it will be to meet you again, Mary Frances.

The Late Bishop Petit

Sincere regret was expressed at the June meeting of the Concilium for the death of His Lordship Bishop Petit of Menevia who had been a long-time friend of the Legion. Rose Reynolds, former Legion Envoy to Menevia Diocese where she worked for 12 years, has written this personal tribute to his memory.

WHEN I was sent by the Concilium several years ago to the diocese of Menevia at the request of Bishop Petit my first assignment was to call on His Lordship in Wrexham. I asked several people, including a policeman, where was the Bishop's house, but they did not know. I then approached a young girl who was dressed in what I considered was a Catholic school uniform and she gave me the information I sought.

The Bishop received me kindly and when he asked where I was staying I had to confess I did not know anyone anywhere in the diocese. He phoned one of the priests, Canon Evans, and asked him to take me to a guest house nearby.

During my short stay there the lady of the house told me she had been a youth leader in London and it seemed clear to me that she was the person who could become of great value to the Legion. Time proved this surmise correct. She had a young family at the time but she quickly succeeded in establishing a senior and a junior praesidium. Down through the years she has been behind the Legion in a large area, and her husband and family have helped regarding transport, etc.

In recalling those years I can never remember having experienced any difficulty in making appointments to see the Bishop. A letter to his Secretary brought a prompt reply giving the day and hour and I was never kept more than five minutes waiting. A few kind remarks from His Lordship helped to put me at my ease and then I reported on my efforts to establish the Legion in the Diocese, first the success and then the many failures. His concluding comment seemed always present to me: "If you had sufficient faith you would win them all." It was plain to see from moving around the diocese what strong faith he had as demonstrated by the many churches that were even then in the smallest parishes.

When I visited the diocese a few months ago on a brief tour my last call was Wrexham. On arriving there late in the evening I heard the sad news that the Bishop was seriously ill, suffering from the effects of a stroke, and that I must go to see him. His brain was not affected and he knew I was coming. Many priests and others had been with him during the day saying the Rosary. When they ceased from time to time fearing he was tired he would make a sign after a brief period that they were to continue.



I was taken into the room where he lay and I shall never forget the look of perfect peace on his face. I commenced to say the Rosary and half-way through I stopped, fearing to tire him. Then his hand moved slowly towards me and the beads continued to slip through his fingers. For me it was a deeply moving experience, never to be forgotten. He died two days later on June 2nd. May his soul rest in peace.

EMMA BODKIN, R.I.P.

Another of the very early legionaries has died. She was one of those to whom the Legion meant everything. It gave a wonderful outlet to her different aptitudes. She was a chartered accountant by profession and she placed this skill at the disposal of the Dublin Regina Coeli Hostel of which she was a member for over 40 years.

She was educated in France and put her perfect knowledge of the language to invaluable use as Concilium correspondent to a great number of French speaking Curiae in the countries of S.E. Asia.

Her father was a County Court judge and all his children distinguished themselves in various ways. Her brother, Professor Thomas Bodkin, contributed a page on religious art to MARIA LEGIONIS for many years. Another brother, Father Matthias Bodkin, S.J., is still with us. Two of her sisters died as Carmelites.

Emma was a very close friend of Edel Quinn and receives special mention in her biography.

Emma gave much to the Legion, but likewise it gave much to her, enabling her to play a world part.

Praises of Mary

THE Sphinx saw Mary coming, and the long-silent voice thundered out that the Babe in Mary's arms was the answer to the riddle.—Lord, S.J.

* * *

In the last period of his career, that is in 1272 or 1273, St. Thomas Aquinas wrote as follows in his "Exposition of the Angelic Salutation" which is certainly authentic: "The Blessed Virgin was purity itself and untouched by sin whether original or mortal or venial".—Garrigou-Lagrange, O.P.

* * *

At the time of the Passion, declares St. Thomas Aquinas, Mary felt none of the doubts which proceed from weakness of Faith. Though the Apostles themselves were beset by doubts, in her was an absolute Faith. This has particular application to the Resurrection of Jesus. Her Divine Son had said that he would rise again. That was enough for Our Lady. From that point of view it was not essential that the Risen Lord should appear to her. Her faith had no need for such strengthening. But at the same time how could it be supposed that Jesus would leave this earth without seeing His Mother? That would be sheerly unthinkable.—Lemonnyer.

* * *

Isn't he the son of a mere carpenter? And don't we all know his mother? That Jesus is the son of Mary represents an unanswerable argument against Him and against His teaching; there could be no more conclusive reason for refusing to believe in Him. We could go on our knees before a man who spoke as no man ever spoke before only for the fact that we know His Mother! But to do that for the Son of Mary, a woman of little consequence—oh no! We could acknowledge Him as God and receive His doctrine if He were the Son of a Princess famed in Israel. But never could we thus accept the Son of Mary!—David-Léonard.

Thirsty deer, symbolic of mankind, drink from the living waters at the feet of "Our Lady of the Mountains", who lightens the way to the Peaks of Perfection through the Star of the Incarnation.



Not long before his death, Cardinal Mercier was received in private audience by Pope Pius XI. He presented the Holy Father with a copy of the True Devotion and asked: "Does Your Holiness know this book?" "Yes," replied the Holy Father, "this is a devotion which I have known and practised from my childhood."—Queen and Mother.

* * *

If there is a point to which modern development must tend, it is doubtless the mystery of Mary and not the mystery of the Word, the mystery of man and not the mystery of God. There are many reasons why God willed that the mystery of Mary should dawn by degrees like the day, which in its first faint glimmer begins to disperse the gloom until the sunrise bursts forth into the full blaze of light. One reason, as theologians commonly say, is that: because the Church was not founded upon Our Lady but upon her Son, therefore it was convenient that God should first make clear the truths of salvation, and afterwards in the superabundance of His goodness should clear up others, which though of less consequence yet raise our minds to know Him better and to live Him more ardently.—Gratry.

* * *

In particular the prayer of Mary at Cana obtained for her from Jesus the perfect knowledge of her place in the Dispensation. She is the Woman who beside the Man, her Son, has the role of mother.—Manteau-Bonamy, O.P.

A THOUSAND MILES FOR CHRIST

By Joan Sivanson, Cape Town Senatus

AT the end of December, 1972, a group of eleven legionaries left Cape Town to do P.P.C. work in De Aar and Graaf Reinet. We travelled overnight by train and arrived early in the morning to find the dawn settling over the barren vast stretches of flat country, occasionally relieved with rugged, rough mountains. At this time the heat was extreme and the wind blew sand into everything.

We were met on the station at De Aar by Rev. Fr. Alcaster and Rev. Fr. Gabriel, who took us straight to the Mission, where we attended celebrated Holy Mass for the success of the P.P.C. project. The African children's choir sang lustily and was very impressive. There at the Mission we met Fr. Bowes, who gave us his blessing and took five of us off to work in Graaf Reinet, 160 miles away. We received a warm welcome from the legionaries and the people of Graaf Reinet. On Sunday we attended Holy Mass at Kroonvale, one of the townships, and after Mass Sr. Mary Pillay gave a short talk to the youth of the parish on the Legion, and many adults stayed behind to listen too. That afternoon we attended the praesidium meeting and were able to help the legionaries in many ways.

The next day we began visiting the homes of the people and found many lapsed Catholics. We were always well received and through these efforts many babies were baptised. We visited the patients in the local hospitals and said prayers with them.

Altogether we made 85 visits to the homes of the people in the townships. On the last day Fr. Howley, parish priest of Graaf Reinet, offered Mass for the Legion intentions and the group then returned to De Aar. All the legionaries had enjoyed the P.P.C. venture, as we had learned much from our fellow-Catholics and had also been able to assist them in many ways.

Now the six of us legionaries who had remained in De Aar also had many wonderful experiences. We were introduced to the people after Mass so that we would be recognised on our visits. Each morning we went to Mass and had a short meeting to plan the day's work. During the day we visited the people in their homes, where there was great poverty, but they gave us a great welcome. Many of these people lived below the breadline, and alcohol was a great problem.

Another problem of the poor living conditions was that many people were living together in tiny homes. One thing we noticed was that many people

in De Aar live to a ripe old age despite the poverty, and three people visited were over 100 years old.

The legionaries were all well received and many of those visited did not realise their obligations as Catholics. We spoke about the Mass and Our Lady and gave many Miraculous Medals.

Some returned to Mass on the Sunday and even on New Year's Day. In the evenings we visited the patients in the hospitals and also the sick and aged in their homes. During the visitation of the homes we contacted and visited with eight former legionaries, who were keen to start again.



Bro. Errol Carollisen with African children at Graaf-Reinet.

We stressed the need of Auxiliary members, and before long we had a total of 32 praying the Rosary and Legion prayers. We also helped and worked with the legionaries in the African township praesidium.

As New Year's Day fell in the middle of our P.P.C. we celebrated in traditional style in the convent, ringing the bells, singing, dancing, and even a Zulu war dance! We went to Mass at the Cathedral and met Bishop da Palma, who referred to this venture as an historical event for De Aar. It served as an inspiration to them for greater efforts, to see lay people could travel 1,000 miles for Christ.

All of us enjoyed the venture and gained much experience which we hope to be able to put into use on future P.P.C. Projects. We also hope many more legionaries will join in taking Christ to the people.

The Language of Legionary Love

By Fr. Godfrey Carney P.P.,
St. Margaret Mary's, Liverpool

THE Acies Ceremony comes to a climax when each one of us steps forward to Our Lady's statue, and placing the right hand on the Legion Standard, says—"I am all thine, my Queen, my Mother, and all that I have is thine."

These are astonishing words. Examine them, analyse them, interpret them in any sense you can, and they still remain what they are—a drastic unqualified act of self-surrender to another person. It is the language of Love, an expression of intense dedication. It gives everything—freely, recklessly and extravagantly—no limits, no conditions, no reservations. Can we say these words sincerely? Can we really mean them? Is it right to say them? Is it in keeping with the Christian religion? Is it the will of God? To these questions I answer with an instant and complete "Yes"! Because when we say these words we are addressing the Woman whom God has made the Mother of all men.

I remember when Cardinal Gracias, the Archbishop of Bombay, spoke in Liverpool some years ago, he made mention of a question that had arisen at the Vatican Council. The question was—"Is the Catholic devotion to Our Lady a barrier to unity? Shouldn't we play it down, soft-pedal it, so as to make things easier for the others?" And his comment was—"In India certainly, we have never found this a problem. The Hindus actually crowd into our churches just to pay homage to the Great Mother. She is the Universal Woman. She is the pulse to unity, and to the spread of the faith." And this is true in other parts of the East. The Buddhist peoples through their own traditional reverence for motherhood, and their legends of Kwanon, the great Woman of Mercy, can be made feel at home in the presence of Our Lady. She is there even among the Muslims, who are so difficult to convert to Christianity. She is there as a kind of advance guard, for a whole section of their Sacred Book, the Koran, is full of her praise as the greatest of all women. Missionaries assure us that African peoples can best understand what the love of God means, when it is explained in terms of the love of Mary, the Mother. She is the Universal Woman. She is pictured in every human colour, in every fashion of dress, in every shape of face and feature.

Chesterton in his poem "The Black Virgin", sums this up in lovely words:—

"In all thy thousand images we salute thee
Claim and acclaim on all thy thousand thrones
Hewn out of multi-coloured rocks and risen

Stained with the stored-up sunsets in all tones—
If in all tones and shades, this shade I feel
Come from the black Cathedrals of Castile
Climbing these flat black stones of Catalonia
To thy most merciful face of night, I kneel."

The man who wrote that had been born a Protestant of the Western world, a product of the Reformation which seemed to banish the name of Mary from the prayers of men. Many others like him, now and for ever, will find her in their secret heart, will be brought by her to the fullness of Faith in the Holy Catholic Church. Through Mary they will come to the fullness of Christ. She is the Madonna, the Lady of the whole world.

Why? What is the source of this attraction? The answer is to be found in the deeply embedded instincts of the human heart. We have an instinctive urge towards Beauty, and She is the masterpiece of God. We are attracted to Purity, whether we achieve it or not, and She is the Purest of Creatures. We feel the need of reverence in the presence of woman, and She is the majestic Queen of holiness. And the heart is drawn instinctively to the love of a loving Mother who never grows weary of her children. Beauty, Purity, The Queen, The Mother. These are the strong mental images that motivate us today, as we stand before her and say those words of love—"I am all thine, my Queen, My Mother, and all that I have is thine."

It is an act of self-giving. Yes indeed. But love without self-giving is not love at all. And She herself has shown us by her shining example, how to give.

And we need have no fear that she will keep this love of ours all to herself, or that She will allow us for a single instant to concentrate on her exclusively. By no means. That is not her way at all. She will not accept this devotion for herself. She will bring it, and us, to her Divine Son.

At her first appearance, at the Annunciation, her meeting with God's ambassador, the Angel, she spoke her words of dedication to God's will, words which She has never retracted, "Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord". And her last recorded words in the scriptures were spoken at Cana at the wedding feast—"Whatever *He* says, do ye."

God chose her and that is why we choose her, honour and love her. And She chose God utterly and wholeheartedly, and unchangingly, and that is why our love for her goes straight to Him.

So, the gift of ourselves which we give today, the

gift of all that we have, will go directly to God, through the gentle, beautiful, powerful medium of Mary.

Here in this shrine of the Living Sacrament, the Sacrament which continues so vividly the Incarnation, we are reminded, that He remains forever the Son of Mary the word made flesh of her flesh, dwelling amongst us, and that she is inseparably here, offering us Jesus.

One question remains. Is this gift of ours sincere? That is the question for each of us to answer in our own souls. It is an internal act of the will, handing ourselves over to the will of God made Man through Mary, giving ourselves to one who really owns us, and giving ourselves with fearless confidence.

Mary's words in the gospel are few, but they are full of meaning, and she *lived* them, in her silent, loving, practical, and often painful service. And our words today will not be empty sounds. We will follow them by deeds of self-sacrifice, great and small. And for this, we have the instrument of the Legion, with its magnificent system of prayer and work. We

have the prayers to the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier, the Comforter, and the Love. We have the prayers to all the heavenly patrons, we have the "Magnificat" to exalt the humble, and we have the Rosary, that familiar childlike love-song, with its simple repetitions exercising our spiritual muscles, by which we gradually and gently limber up the powers of faith and love, that can open our hearts, and the hearts of others, to the message of God to man.

And we have our work. Done in the true spirit of Our Lady, it will have a mighty effect for good in the world.

Let us then, my dear Legionaries, make our dedication. Let it be a *renewal* of our pact of devotion to our Queen, so that our prayers may be one with hers, and in our work for others the person of Jesus may once again be seen and served by Mary His Mother.

May she accept us all, and have us always in her keeping.

On Peregrinatio to New Guinea

IN January a team from Sydney, Australia, went on Peregrinatio to Port Moresby, in New Guinea—a distance of some 1,500 miles.

The Senatus president, Mary Lea, describes the event thus:

"His Grace Archbishop Copas warmly welcomed the team to the Archdiocese of Port Moresby and kindly invited them to lunch.

Two weeks were spent working in the parish of Badili under the direction of Rev. Fr. Anshaw, and visitation was carried out in approximately 20 villages. Very often the homes were situated on tops of hills or over water, and a hospital, two hostels and five employee compounds were also visited. Despite racial and linguistic difficulties a greater realisation was gained of the oneness of the People of God. Indigenous legionaries shared visitation with the team, and the Rosary was twice recited publicly in the Koki market.

They were privileged, too, in receiving the Blessed Sacrament under both species at daily Mass which was celebrated in the chapel of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. At Sunday Mass the priests spoke about the Legion, and the Deacon member of the team was invited to address the congregation—which he did in both English and Pidgin. This same member also performed his first baptism which was brought about through visitation of a Trobriand Island family with two young children;

the parents were encouraged to have their children baptised and legionaries were asked to arrange this. Two of the team became Godparents and His Lordship Bishop Doyle, formerly of the Trobriand Islands, attended the ceremony. (His Lordship remarked that for two years he had been trying to arrange the baptism—the legionaries came; and it happened in a flash.)

Ann Boyce, president of the Badili praesidium, had broken her arm a few days before the arrival of the team, so was unable to accompany them. However, she lent her car and great adventures were had. Things kept falling off . . . flat tyres, etc. . . but it got them there.

About a fortnight before the team started, Lesley Swaddling, team leader and former secretary of Senatus, doubted whether she would be able to go on the trip at all, owing to problems concerning her home. We knew her leadership would be greatly missed; and persuaded her to leave her problems and continue with her original idea of doing the P.P.C. The sequel is that Archbishop Copas invited her to work as a lay missionary initially for 12 months. So Lesley left her job after 15 years and returned to Port Moresby on February 24th. Her presence in the local praesidium will do much for the Legion in that area and also assist us to obtain a greater picture from this end."

Kenya:

A Home from Home for our Envoy

By Mary Murphy



Mary Murphy, Concilium Envoy to Kenya, had a distinguished Legion career in Dublin before her appointment to this historic assignment. Here she writes most encouragingly of her experiences during the early months of her residence in Nairobi which is the seat of the Regional Senatus of Kenya.

ALTHOUGH I am only about 4 months here as yet, I have been so kindly received by everybody from his Eminence the Cardinal down to the ordinary legionary that I find it hard to believe I am not living at home. I am fortunate also in the fact that Kenya is a really beautiful country and I find the climate delightful. I have completed my term of study at the Swahili Language School, but of course I shall continue my efforts to perfect my knowledge of the language and to get as much speaking experience as possible.

I have had the pleasure of participating in many and varied Legion meetings and in the apostolic activities of Legion Councils and praesidia in and around the city. It has been my privilege to try to give a helping hand to the earnest Senatus officers and to those legionaries who assist them in the task of the further perfecting of the spirit, system and apostolate of the organisation. One is struck by the solid Marian spirit which shows itself in love and service of Our Blessed Lady and in devotion to her Rosary. With this essential foundation, and with

the generous co-operation of Priests, Religious and legionaries, our joint efforts in consolidating and extending the Legion throughout Kenya will, please God, prove to be a fruitful mission.

I was fortunate in being in Nairobi when his Eminence Maurice Cardinal Otunga, to whom the Legion is deeply indebted for so many good offices, celebrated Pontifical Mass in his Cathedral on his return from Rome. This was followed by a special Reception for his Eminence, to which the Senatus Officers and myself were invited. This proved to be a most rewarding experience since we met quite a number of Bishops and Priests from various parts of Kenya. For example, Bishop Mugendi, Kisii Diocese, invited me to reorganise the Legion in his territory and told me that he was anxious to talk to me about Edel Quinn. From Kitui Diocese, Bishop Dunne greeted us and in the course of conversation stressed the importance of the backing of constant prayer in our work. He was impressed when I told him about the multiple "night vigils" of prayer and the many Masses which had been offered by the legionaries of Dublin in support of my envoyship. The Bishops of Eldoret, of Kisumu and of Mombasa all showed their lively interest in the Legion and in the work ahead. Hence, I feel sure of the support of their Lordships when I seek formal permission to work in their territories.

Naturally the big event of the evening was our meeting with his Eminence the Cardinal who greeted me as follows—"I pray that the priests and people will give you every support in your good work". Later in the week the Cardinal gave me an hour of his precious time, during which I realised that his Eminence was not only keenly interested in, and fully aware of the extension and development of the Legion in Africa, but also throughout the world. He had mentioned that he received the Legion Journal regularly, and it was obvious that it had not been "buried" out of sight and of mind in his office. He made the important observation that the Legion appeared to be most successful where the Priests are really involved in the spiritual training and development of the members. The Praetorian degree of membership and the recital of the Legion Breviary were warmly commended by him; also, concentration on quality rather than mere quantity of Legion branches and councils.

I was electrified when the Cardinal asked me to

His Eminence Maurice Cardinal Otunga, Archbishop of Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa, to whom the Legion of Mary is deeply indebted for his constant support and encouragement in its apostolate. In presenting the Red Hat to the Cardinal at the ceremony of the Consistory, the Holy Father declared:—"In you, dear Cardinal of Nairobi, we want to honour not only you, but your people and your country. In you we see the symbol of the Church of Kenya come of age . . ."

tell him all about the Lough Derg Pilgrimage! A convert from his previous diocese of Kisii who had visited Ireland and had taken part in the pilgrimage had never forgotten the experience of prayer and penance, to such a degree that it had left an indelible mark on her soul and body. Luckily I had "done Lough Derg" and was thus able to give his Eminence a "blow for blow" account of the ordeal. Strange to say, I had some picture post cards of the famous island which I presented to the Cardinal. The interview concluded by his Eminence inviting me to come to see him again and to keep him in touch with my work for the Legion in Kenya.

On March 17 we had a party to celebrate a certain event! Srs. S. Cullen and A. Temple, who are as active as ever in the service of the Legion, rightly judged that I was qualified to be there. The sequel was a very pleasant evening with about 160 people, 70 of whom were hard-working priests who had followed in the footsteps and spirit of the Apostle, the celebration of whose feast had brought us together. Here was another valuable opportunity of securing the support of the prayers and the co-operation of many priests and religious, and of expressing gratitude for services already rendered to the Legion.

On Sunday, May 13, a large concourse of Spiritual Directors and legionaries assembled at Edel's grave to commemorate her death in Nairobi on May 12 1944. (Incidentally I started my envoyship proper, on the conclusion of my term at the



Language School, on the same date). The chief Concelebrant of the Mass was Rev. P. Fullen, C.S.Sp., who was joined by Rev. Fathers Reidy, Brady and Farrell—names which will be familiar to those who have read Cardinal Suenens' celebrated Life of Edel Quinn. The late Bishop Heffernan was joined by Fr. Reidy, C.S.Sp. in welcoming the ever-smiling and gay Envoy at Mombasa on her arrival in Africa. You will not be surprised to know that Fr. Fullen, who had anointed Edel when she was dying, delivered a beautiful allocution on her spirit and apostolate—he spoke both in Swahili and English. He concluded by explaining that another Envoy was about to try to follow in some sort of fashion in Edel's footsteps throughout Kenya. He felt sure that priests and people would pray and work with her, so that this "lame duck" could limp along the track marked out so gloriously by Edel. Afterwards I had the pleasure of a long discussion

with Rev. Fr. Fullen who must be one of the most convinced legionary Spiritual Directors anywhere.

Recently I went to the Cistercian Monastery in Lumbwa for a three-day retreat. I think it is the only Retreat House in Kenya and appears to be permanently booked out. Many of the Monks are African and I shall have the backing of their prayers. A Consolata Father kindly gave me a lift to the Retreat House, and en route told me about his parish in the desert 600 miles from Nairobi. It is in a diocese where, so far, the Legion has not penetrated. You can imagine my joy when this good priest invited me to his parish to organise the Legion, with the Bishop's permission which he would seek in the meantime.

John Omolo, who has been an outstanding, self-sacrificing and hard-working Senatus Chairman, has completed his full term of office. He gave a wonderful example of devotion to Legion duty in spite of his personal obligations—he is blessed with a large and thriving family—and the handicap of ill-health in recent times. He was delighted to welcome as his successor John Chegge, who has had Senatus experience as its treasurer for some time. John Omolo will continue to give all of us the benefit of his long and wide experience. Certainly I am deeply indebted to Spiritual Directors, Legion Officers and members of Nairobi and other places I have visited so far for their encouragement and paternal kindness.

John Chegge is a young Legionary of this modern African generation. He was born in 1939 of non-Christian parents, both of whom were later Baptised, and in 1953 John was also received into the Church. His qualities of leadership showed themselves when he was attending a Teacher Training College where he also played a prominent part in athletics, particularly at basket-ball and volley-ball.



Edell Quinn, accompanied by two young African legionaries, was hillclimbing when this picture was taken on July 8th, 1938.

At present he is a Production Supervisor with the East African Shoe Company, is happily married and lives with his good wife and four children at Limuru, a short distance outside Nairobi.

He joined the Legion a year after Baptism, became President of a Junior praesidium, was a prominent extension worker along with Brother S. Mburu, now Treasurer of the Regional Senatus of Kenya. Before long Brother Chegge was elected Vice-Chairman of Limuru Curia, and later answered a call for recruits to build up the Legion in Mangu Curia area, where he trained many extension workers amongst the local Legionaries. In 1971 he joined the Pioneer Association, which is based on the idea of promoting temperance in regard to intoxicating drink by voluntary total abstinence for the purpose of giving good example and encouragement, particularly to young persons, in exercising self-denial and control in honour of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

The Pioneer Association was founded by the saintly Rev. Fr. Cullen, S.J., Ireland, and has spread to many countries throughout the world. The Legion of Mary in many places is promoting and recruiting for the Association. Brother Chegge, and his Legionary friend, Brother Mburu, have been elected Chairman* and Vice-Chairman respectively of the Pioneer Association in Limuru. Brother Chegge represents the Legion of Mary on the Pastoral Council of Nairobi Archdiocese.

Brother J. Ndungu and Sister S. Cullen representing the Senatus, carried out an intensive one-day seminar for 50 members of the Legion in the Diocese of Nakuru recently. All of those present received great encouragement from Most Rev. Dr. R. Ndingi, Bishop of Nakuru, who declared in his address:—"Of the many lay apostolate organisations in the Church, the Legion of Mary is among the ones which have achieved, within a relatively short time, a wonderful work not only in Kenya but all over the world".

At the May meeting of the Senatus we were delighted to welcome the African chaplain and 14 members of the Air Force who had come seeking permission to establish a praesidium in their camp which is akin in size to a small parish. I chatted with them after the meeting and they invited me to the camp. I am looking forward to being present at their praesidium meeting.

*In some of the African Republics a Law has been enacted which forbids totally the use of the terms 'President and Vice-President' by any Society or Organisation since these terms are reserved solely to the officials who hold the Offices of President and Vice-President of the Governments of the Republics in question. Hence, the reason for the references to the 'Chairman and Vice-Chairman' of Legion Praesidia and Councils in this article and in all Legion documents dealing with the African Republics where the above mentioned Law is in force.

Not Retrospect— but—Prospect

By MOST REV. CAHAL B. DALY,
Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise

This beautifully written article analyses the first half-century of legionary life and sees it as of importance to the Church. Then the eminent author looks forward and judges that the Legion will continue to play a vital role.

THE small group of people with a priest, who met in an upstairs back room in Myra House, Dublin, on 7th September, 1921, in one sense did not know what they were starting and could have had little prevision of the worldwide spread across a hundred nations, of the million-strong membership and the powerful missionary thrust and massive apostolic achievement of their movement, to be known as the Legion of Mary, during the coming fifty years. Yet, in another sense, they did already know this future in their faith and did already possess this future in their hope and did already live this future in their charity. For faith, hope and charity are the “guarantee of the blessings that we hope for and (they prove) the existence of the realities that remain at present unseen” (*Hebrews* 11:1-2); for they are a sharing already in the life of the Risen Lord, in whose hands are all our future years, the Lord “who is, who was and who is to come” (*Apoc.* 1:4).

The founders of the Legion, like St. Paul, had “no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things that are invisible; for visible things last only for a time and the invisible things are eternal” (*2 Corinthians* 4:18). Their trust was in the powerful word of the Master about the mustard seed which, planted in hope, would with patience, in God’s time become a mighty tree; or the grain of wheat which, if it died to itself, would produce abounding life in others. They were conscious of founding, not a secular movement, not a merely human organisation or party, but something that would be part of that irreversible outgoing movement or mission of divine love, proceeding from the Father to the world in the Son through the Holy Spirit and from the world in the Son to the Father by the power of the Spirit, which is the Incarnation and Redemption, and which is the source of the apostolic mission of the Church and of all apostolic mission in the Church.

That group in the upstairs room in Myra House shared the same faith with the first disciples who gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem before Pentecost and who “joined in continuous prayer together with several women, including Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and with his brothers” (*Acts*



1:14). We can now, fifty years later, see clearly that the pioneers of the Legion of Mary “were all filled with the Holy Spirit” (*Acts* 2:4). It is that Holy Spirit which has sustained and supported them through all “the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties” of fifty years of apostolic exertion. The sufferings of those years, the misunderstandings, the resistances, were neither few nor light. But through them all, the Founder and the pioneers, like St. Paul, were happy to suffer and “to do what they could to make up all that has still to be undergone by Christ for the sake of his body, the Church”. (*Colossians* 1:24). It was the love of the Lord and the power of his Spirit which gave them, like St. Paul, strength to “struggle wearily on, helped only by his power, driving (them) irresistibly” (*Colossians* 1:29).

Prophetic Witness of Legion

In many respects, the early difficulties of the Legion of Mary were connected with the fact that its central insights were in advance of their time, being prophetic anticipations of ideas that gained universal acceptance throughout the Church only with the Second Vatican Council. The whole concept of lay apostolic initiative and involvement was then novel. The stress on acceptance by lay people of their own responsibilities as laymen for the evangelisation of their fellow-men and the consecration of the world was original. The conviction of the call of every member of the Church to holiness was also one which was to await a chapter of the

Council's Dogmatic Constitution of the Church for its full articulation. The Legionary stress on the responsibility of each member of the Church for the salvation and sanctification of his brother-men, and on his duty to develop his human and spiritual talents for the good of all; the Legionary doctrine that the Holy Spirit works in and through every individual Christian—these insights are more familiar to us now as the result of conciliar and post-conciliar teaching on charisms in Christian life, on co-responsibility in the Church, on "the movement of the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the People of God and who would impel all men to love God the Father as well as the world and mankind in Him". (Council's *Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*, No. 82.) Indeed, it could be argued that the Legion's most important contribution to the theology of the lay apostolate was its stress on the place of the Holy Spirit in the economy of grace.

Our Lady and the Apostolate

Legionaries would be themselves the first to point out that their consciousness of the work of the Holy Spirit is the consequence of their Marian spirituality, for Mary is the Spouse of the Holy Spirit and an apostolate linked with hers is inevitably one pervaded by awareness of the presence and power of the Third Person of the Most Blessed Trinity.

This Marian spirituality is itself the most characteristic mark of the Legion of Mary. At a time when the mistaken notion may be gaining acceptance in some quarters that devotion to Our Lady was down-graded by the Council or is unprogressive or unecumenical, the fidelity of the Legion to the Gospels' teaching about Our Lady is more than ever necessary for the Church and for the world. It should be matter for pride for every legionary that it was the Legion of Mary, through one of its most distinguished supporters, Cardinal Suenens, which was ultimately responsible for having introduced into the Vatican Council's chapter on the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church the inspiring paragraph on Mary's role in the apostolate, which ends:

"Hence the Church in her apostolic work rightly looks to her who brought forth Christ, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin, so that through the Church, Christ may be born and grow in the hearts of the faithful also. The Virgin Mary in her own life lived an example of that maternal love by which all should be fittingly animated who cooperate in the apostolic mission of the Church on behalf of the rebirth of men." (*Lumen Gentium*, 65).

Fifty Years Forward

The late Cardinal D'Alton used to say that the greatest fruits accompanying Irish freedom were

the phenomenal missionary dynamism of the modern Irish Church and the Legion of Mary. Indeed, these are connected; for the Legion of Mary helped to pioneer the new concept of lay missionary, which has been such an important feature of recent missionary effort. All Irishmen have felt their stature enhanced by the outstanding calibre of the legionary envoys, men and women, who made the name of Ireland admired wherever they went across five Continents to introduce the Legion. In their wake the epic of the Church of the Martyrs has been re-enacted by the martyrs and confessors of the faith in the international legionary roll-call.

In a decade marked in this country by recurring commemorations of the tragedies and the glories of fifty years ago, the Jubilee of the foundation of the Legion of Mary must have an honoured place. Let us pray that the coming commemorations of the sadder events of 1921 and 1922 will be marked by the same sense of humble awareness by all of us that we have all failed and fallen short of the glory of God, the same grateful consciousness of our need for His forgiving mercy, the same total trust in Him for the future, as mark the celebrations of the Legion of Mary. With the Legion, let us try together to recapture the spirit of Pádraig Pearse:

Lord, I have staked my soul
On the truth of Thy dreadful word.
Do not remember my failures,
But remember this my faith.

Today's commemoration is not retrospect but prospect. We do not wish to recall the past so much as to prepare the future. We pray today that these Jubilee celebrations may be marked above all by a great new surge of legionary dynamism and optimism, an increase of membership, especially from the ranks of youth, a great re-gearing of effort to face the challenge of today's and tomorrow's world. Chairman Mao said in 1962:

The next 50 to 100 years or so will be a great era of radical change in the social system throughout the world, an earth-shaking era without equal in any previous historical period. Living in such an era, we must be prepared to engage in great struggles which will have many features different in form from those of the past.

The Legion can face these fifty, these hundred years, with serene confidence. Whatever changes, whatever problems, whatever sufferings they bring, they are all of them, years of grace, years of Our Lord. As we say in the liturgy of the Easter Vigil:

All time belongs to Him
and all the ages
To Him be glory and power
through every age and for ever. Amen.

Aspects of Legion of Mary Devotion

by Achilles Nonymous

THERE is in the handbook on page 8 a section dealing with the Devotional Aspects of the Legion. Quote . . . The devotional outlook is reflected in its prayers. This is one more illustration of how the Legion is always living up to Pope John's statement that it is "the mirror of the Church".

There is an ancient saying "Lex orandi, lex credendi" . . . the faith of the Church is revealed in the prayer of the Church. In general in the spiritual life, as Cardinal Newman said, "devotion is founded upon Dogma". So those people who want to know whether the Legion of Mary is orthodox need not labour through the Handbook. All they need to do is to take the prayers which legionaries are given, and examine those prayers, and there they will find what is the Devotion of the Legion of Mary. There is no such thing as Legionary theology. There is only Catholic theology, and this is exemplified—again we refer to Pope John—in an especial way in the Legion of Mary. To repeat . . . the devotional outlook of the Legion is reflected in its prayer. Looking at those prayers, the author of the Handbook says, "the first foundation of the Legion is its faith in God". Could that be more theologically exact? The second aspect of the Devotion of the Legion of Mary is towards the Immaculate Conception. Is such a devotion unorthodox . . . or is it not rather one which takes into account the development of Dogmatic theology as guided by the Holy Spirit in the Church in modern times? A third aspect of Legionary devotion is to honour Mary as a real Mother. There we have the three essentials of Legionary devotion and you must examine your own consciences to find out whether you are building on this triple foundation. The first one . . . profound faith in God . . . the second . . . regard for the Immaculate Conception . . . the third . . . practical honour towards her as a Mother.

These must be regarded as the three methods used by the LOM in the spiritual forming of its members. We must now ask two questions . . . WHY are these the methods, so important as to be regarded as foundations, where any weakness must destroy any building, no matter how impressive . . . The second question is HOW do we lay these foundations securely?

The brief answer to the first WHY, is that these are the foundations to the Catholic faith. The Legion is not something extraneous to the Church. It is exactly what Religious Orders are meant to be . . . it performs the same function as they do, but it performs them for the layman. It enables

people to fulfil the promises that they made when they became members of Christ by Baptism.

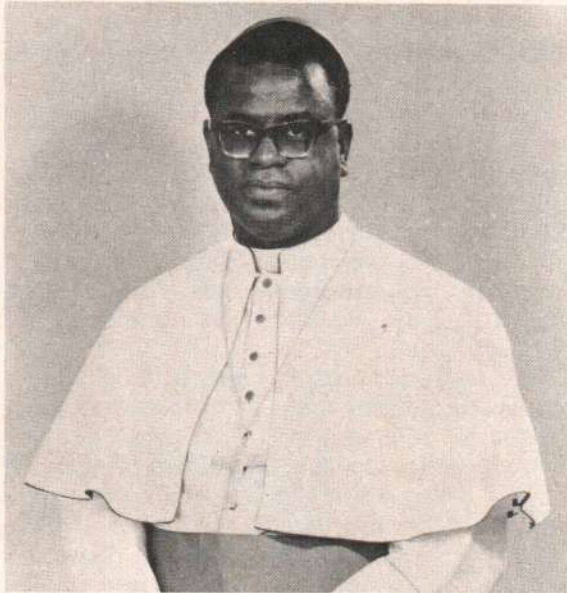
As to the second question . . . How do we lay the foundations, the answer is by putting into the actuality of daily living the three methods of the Faith. Seek to find your own answers by actual experience in your own field. Then go to the Handbook after the experiments, just as a man goes to any Instruction manual after he has tried to carry out the Instructions. He will read them with a new light altogether.

The first foundation is Faith in God and in His love. The Handbook takes this necessity of faith and immediately adds to it the Christ note. . . . THE NOTE SOUNDED RIGHT AT the beginning of His life on earth . . . the note sounded in a Name dear above all names to Jesus Christ, the Name of His Virgin Mother Mary. Faith in God is not the distinguishing mark of the Catholic Church. It is certainly the foundation of the Catholic Church but all religions are built on this foundation. You may say that the belief in Christ Himself as God the Almighty is the distinguishing note of the Catholic Church; but many of the non-Catholic Christian churches claim that mark as their foundation. The one fact of Faith that distinguishes the Catholic faith, both East and West, is the faith that Mary is the Mother of God.

This was settled a long time ago, on the very simple issue of that phrase of the Faith . . . Mary is the Mother of God. The Church has insisted right down the centuries that this is a true phrase . . . if she is not the Mother of God, Christ is not God. The difficulty of the actual phrase is one that has, shall I say, burdened the Church from the beginning. St. Paul set the tone of the truth in his Epistle to the Galatians when to his statement that "God sent His Son" he carefully added "made of a woman". I say it is a burden on the Church because history shows that the attacks on the Faith of the Church seem always to end in attacks on the faith the Church has in Mary. To accept Mary as the Mother of the man Christ but not as Mother of God is the compromise always held out by dissidents who claim that they are trying to save the Church.

The Legion of Mary builds upon dogmatic history when it underlines and emphasises as its distinguishing note its refusal to separate Mary from Christ in any way at all. The pages of the Handbook, so full of theological quotations which cover an enormous range from the 4th century to the present Vatican Council, can only with absurdity be accused of inventing theology. The truth of Mary is true because it is part of the foundation of the truth in God.

His Excellency Dominic K. Andoh, DD., JCD.
Bishop of Accra



Miss Barbara Hopper, who has recently completed a two-year term of very successful extension work in Sierra Leone, has now been appointed Concilium Envoy to Ghana. In the course of correspondence concerning the appointment, His Excellency Dominic K. Andoh, Bishop of Accra, said in a letter to the President of the Consilium: "It is particularly gratifying to note your great interest in the Legion in Ghana, and the consideration of sending Miss Barbara Hopper as Legion Envoy to Ghana. We can assure you that every co-operation and help will be given her, and we pray that God through the intercession of the Virgin Mother will bless the work she will be able to accomplish among the people of God in Ghana."

Aspects of Legionary Devotion—continued

When we speak of the truth in God we must be all comprehensive. Now it is plain from Scripture and history that there are indeed degrees of faith. This is part of the mystery. We are free persons and we do in fact choose grace and refuse graces. In an allocutio one cannot be exhaustive and support every statement with a long exposition. I must leave you to follow up the thought provoked. The reason I mention this fact that there are degrees in faith as there are degrees in love, is to offer a solution to the puzzle of why the Legion Handbook, which has now been plainly vindicated by the Vatican Council documents, should still be attacked, often by good men and learned men. After all, the Church

*"Journey in Faith . . .
like Monks of old . . ."*

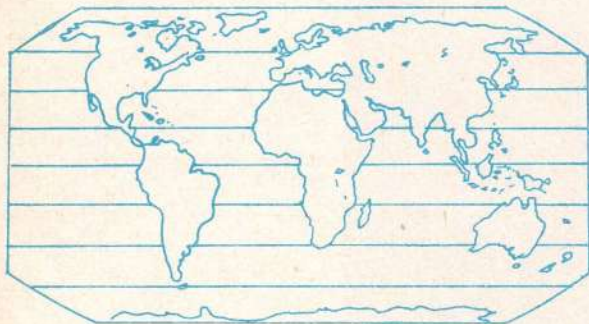
*Roberta Cannon, Legion Envoy to Chile,
writes from Temuco:*

"My big hope is in the P.P.C. We had three projects; the first was hard going, it was to an abandoned parish in a very beautiful fjord region. We worked in sight of the Volcano of Yates in a most lovely valley. The next was a journey in faith to the islands. We wanted to imitate the monks of the 6th century but at least they had their own transport! The boats were few and far between (as all the fishermen had gone out for a two-month's spell) so we only got to four spots. We had the tremendous privilege of taking Holy Communion with us as there was no priest available, and we had services and discussions. We had a bonfire on the beach with songs and dances. We had terrific conversations with a Communist-minded medical student and other agitators on the boats. But for me the most outstanding of all was the project during festival week in P. Monti. We worked with tourists and all kinds of people right round the clock until 3 or 4 a.m., and two nights until dawn, with drug addicts, hikers and hippies. Crowd contact was done in the Plaza amid the open-air dancers, in the fairground and harbour. Had an all-night vigil with 45 present, including the addicts and hikers. We spent all night in a discotheque which instead of being a den of iniquity, as we expected, turned out to be very decent and sophisticated. We also said the Rosary in public six times.

Our Spiritual Director, Fr. Perico, has already presented the report to several groups of the lay apostolate and will put it to the clergy of his diocese as a novel and modern apostolate."

itself is attacked by good men and learned men. I repeat that there is here a mystery and not an authorisation for some within the Legion to propose changing it to please its opponents.

Here we are engaged in exposing the fullness of Catholic doctrine as revealed in legionary life. The Legion Handbook declares that Catholic life is at its most vigorous when it is vitalised by true devotion to Mary. That phrase True Devotion deliberately harks back to St. Louis de Montfort's book which shows that the Legion is following along a road traditionally marked out by saints from the earliest times; let us put that more truly . . . from the time of Jesus whose Father chose Mary for His Son, whose Holy Spirit chose Mary for His Spouse.



FROM THE



LEGIONARY
WORLD

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh



A legionary writes: "Some time ago you kindly sent us a bundle of tesserae (some of them in foreign languages); they obtained us dozens of Auxiliary members, here and abroad; two of them have been translated in Braille for blind legionaries. A Protestant lady leaving a Catholic church was given a tessera which ended up in her taking instruction in the Faith. We have only a few left and would like another lot of them."

Greenock

The curia arranged for visits of legionaries to the Isle of Arran on the first Saturday of each month and give instruction to the children. Local Spiritual Directors have formed a rota so that the Catholics can have Mass and the Sacraments.

Every curia has now a P.P.C. organiser and all parishes are being visited. Four new Junior praesidia were formed and 10 former junior members took the Promise in the senior ranks.

Glasgow

The Superioress of the Notre Dame Convent, Everton, Liverpool, notifies us of the death there of Rev. Sister Maria of the Trinity. Sr. Maria, formerly Annie McCaughan, was the vice-president of the first praesidium in Scotland, which began in Glasgow on 26th April, 1928. After some years she entered the Notre Dame Convent. She was ill only for a short time. She died as she was awaiting Holy Communion, so that the Lord came to her in unconcealed form.

IRELAND



His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. McDonnell took part in the Acies ceremony held by Killala Curia in the Cathedral, Ballina. Similar ceremonies arranged by councils throughout the country are reported to have had excellent attendances. Thurles Comitium is

attempting to organise Patrician groups extensively in its area; a praesidium in Killarney Comitium conducts a group for secondary school pupils. There is evidence of planned extension efforts in numerous areas.

New praesidia have been set up recently in Mallow (East Cloyne Curia), Tullow (Carlow Curia) and Rathwire (Mullingar Curia). West Clogher Curia reports the formation of a praesidium of clerical studies in the Graan (Passionist) Seminary, Enniskillen. Small teams of extension workers in Lismore Curia are visiting parishes in the area in an effort to set up praesidia and to recruit new members. Similiar efforts are being made by Thurles Comitium as well as by Tipperary, Cashel, Tralee, West Cloyne and Birr/Roscrea Curiae.

Reunions for emigrants in London were organised by Clonmel Curia and by a praesidium (Two-Mile-Borris) in Thurles Comitium. While visitation of homes is mentioned as the principal work of many praesidia, a variety of other activities is also recorded, e.g., the organising of (a) Rosary Rallies in Waterford, Cashel, Tipperary and Thurles; (b) vigils of prayer by Mid-Clogher and Dundalk Curia; (c) pilgrimages to Lough Derg and Croagh Patrick by a praesidium in Trillick (West Clogher Curia) and to Our Lady's shrine at Knock by a praesidium in Athlone (South Elphin Curia).

Junior legionaries in Lurgan staff a book-barrow and have two more barrows under way for extension of this work to other areas. Various nationalities are represented in a praesidium in Queen's University, Belfast.

Several curiae in Dublin have been making special efforts to encourage their contacts to attend daily Mass and to receive Holy Communion. But in addition there is an impressive list of other activities in which the legionaries in the Archdiocese are engaged, viz. street rescue, organising of retreats, works for itinerants, visitation of homes and hospitals, recruiting of auxiliaries and adjutors, conducting of Patrician groups and apostolate to our separated brethren.

Junior legionaries too are engaged in some



At Trim, Co. Meath, members of Our Lady of the Sick Praesidium at their meeting in St. Joseph's Hospital.

excellent works, e.g. performing works of service for old folks, helping at socials for the blind, visitation of mentally handicapped children, and (along with senior legionaries) crowd contact in the city centre.

Our Lady Health of the Sick Praesidium was formed in St. Joseph's Hospital, Trim, County Meath, on the 27th January, 1971. At the first meeting there were 8 members, the present membership being 18, including the two sisters from the parish praesidium, who act as president and vice-president. The work assignments presented some difficulty in the beginning, but there is now quite a variety of tasks on the weekly worksheet, namely, inter-ward visitation and acts of service for the patients, e.g., reading the newspaper or some religious magazine, writing letters, perhaps sewing, cutting tobacco for someone unable to do so. Members also recite the Rosary for dying persons.

All patients in the hospital are invited to become Auxiliary members, the Rosary and Legion prayers are recited over the intercom. in the hospital by one of the Sisters of Mercy in charge of the hospital. In addition to this, however, the active legionaries were given auxiliary leaflets and asked to distribute them to those who are able to read. These names are then entered by the vice-president on the Auxiliary Roll. Two of the brothers wheel patients from the wards to the chapel each day to Mass. One brother collects used stamps from the various business places in the town. These are trimmed by other members of the praesidium, and used for various charitable purposes.

Rosary purses are made from scrap leather and Rosary beads are mended. Holy pictures are also made up by one lady who was a member of the Apostolic Class before coming to the hospital. These religious articles will be blessed and sent to distant countries with the Peregrinatio Teams.

Fr. Gabriel Harty's Rosary Letters are distributed to the various wards. One of the legionaries is very musical and is encouraged to play records for the other patients.

At the request of a Dublin praesidium, the Holy Hour of Paray-le-Monial is being promoted amongst the members. This means that those who have enrolled spend an hour in prayer weekly any time from 2 p.m. to midnight on Thursdays.

What does the Legion mean to the members? Here are some of the comments: I look forward to the meeting. I love doing the work. Now I would never go to bed without saying a Rosary. I have been an auxiliary member for 30 years, but never was an active member until now.

For the existence of this praesidium, our thanks goes to Rev. J. P. Kelly, Curia Spiritual Director, and to the Matron of St. Joseph's, who reminded us very much of Edel Quinn when she said: "I would hate to refuse Our Lady anything".

SPAIN



Sr. Carmen Herrero has now practically completed her extension work in Andalusia and with the erection of the curia in Huelva she is planning to terminate her work of extension in Spain and return home to Paraguay. She has achieved much in the South and has left the Legion on a solid basis there.

The Comitium of Cordoba, with its dedicated Spiritual Director, has taken an active part in much of her recent extension and can be relied upon to continue to build up and extend the Legion in the area.

His Lordship the Bishop attended the first meeting of the Huelva Curia on the 25th March and gave an inspiring allocutio. There were six Spiritual Directors and a large body of legionaries present. Plans are in hand for setting up four new praesidia and a dedicated apostolate is carried out with many spiritual victories.

Our Comment: Sr. Herrero has been on loan to Spain in return for Spain's original gift of the faith

to Paraguay. She has brought into existence a goodly number of praesidia and curiae and the entire Legion is under obligation to her. Now Paraguay will receive the accumulation of all her experiences.

PORTUGAL



Sr. Maria Senra, the Envoy, is back again in Portugal, having very successfully reorganised the curia at Funchal, Madeira, and having left four flourishing curiae in the Azores. Since returning to the mainland she has once again visited the Bishops of Leiria and

Viseu who had previously refused permission to set up the Legion. On this occasion, however, they both gave sanction and Sr. Senra lost no time in setting up the first few praesidia in Leiria diocese. In Coimbra she was received by the new Bishop and had meetings with the curia Spiritual Director and officers. The new curiae in the Azores are all doing very enterprising work.

Our Comment: Leiria is the diocese in which Fatima is situated. Therefore, it rectifies an anomaly that the Legion now exists there.

GREECE

Athens Curia was happy to announce the formation of the first parish Junior praesidium, all the previous ones had been in schools. The curia welcomed to its January meeting Bro. Russel of Pakistan, who has come to live in Athens. In his allocutio Fr. Mafrofidis said that for him the Handbook had been a revelation. He regarded the spirit of the Legion as the true spirit of the Catholic Church which did not want timid, cowardly members but instead generous faithful disciples. The Annual Reunion was well attended and had a number of distinguished visitors present, amongst them being the Delegate of the Holy See. Before the function Mass was celebrated by the Archbishop of Athens, Most Rev. Dr. Prindesis.

Our Comment: We direct attention to the advent of Bro. Russel from Pakistan. One of the lesser but still considerable advantages of the Legion is that it enables its members to take up their membership in any place to which they may be transferred. Normally a migrant is exposed to loneliness and danger in his new environment. The Legion offers him welcome and support.

NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam

The Curia of Consolanda reported on the work of six Incolae Mariae who stayed about three months: "They changed the whole atmosphere

amongst the workers in the hotel where they cleaned rooms. They became friends with many of the prostitutes and, notwithstanding their youth, their faithful enthusiasm and great sacrifice were a marvellous example to us.

We will always remember their example, faith and friendship. Only God knows what streams of grace are poured down over Amsterdam because of their work as Incolae Mariae. The owner of a Sex-shop gave them their reward on the last night that Paula and Noirin were there. While they were praying the Rosary with Sisters Lanza and Appel he turned a water hose on them and did not stop until they had finished their prayers. After this, soaked as they were, they had quite a few good contacts with bystanders who had gathered around them, and they paid their last goodbye visits to the street girls.

U.S.A.

Philadelphia



Altoona Curia had three new converts and the Praesidium Our Lady of Knock is playing a leading role in commencing religious broadcasts from U.S.A. to Siberia. The Senatus has purchased its first Legion House, which will serve as an office and for meetings. A praesidium helps young offenders through visitation of their homes. The Johnstown Curia has done good work at extension.

Cincinnati

Evansville reports that two 18-year old legionaries gave instruction to 24 non-Catholics. This instruction resulted from a weekly Bible class for non-Catholic children.

New York

A work started by South Bronx Curia is the funeral parlour visitation. The legionaries recite the Rosary and read passages from the Bible and explain them. A Spiritual Director attends and informs the relatives and mourners that he is available for Confessions. The results are that marriages are validated and instruction for First Communion and Confirmation sought.

Chicago

The Skid Row work continues with contacts with hippies, homosexuals and various cults. The legionaries recite the Rosary in public and do street contact work. They contacted a Satanic Cult called "Process", who take part in Devil worship and they gave this group a talk on God.

Seattle

The comitium superintends 12 curiae. Locally the work is visits to the Veterans' Hospital; Fircrest



Sr. Caritas of Jesus and Mary (Teresa deRiddier), former Envoy, on the day she took her Vows as a Carmelite nun.

School for Mentally Retarded Children; Chief Seattle Club involving Indians; halfway houses for rehabilitation for drug addictism parolees; the group homes for troubled boys and girls; presenting the Church to non-Catholics.

ARGENTINA

Villa Angela



A very successful P.P.C. project was organised by the curia with participation from as far south as Buenos Aires. 600 homes were visited and over 100 adults were prepared for first Holy Communion. 47 marriages were validated. One praesidium was started.

Parana

The comitium here is very active in extension, and each month sees at least one new praesidium founded. The teaching of catechism is a very important work of both juniors and seniors.

Buenos Aires

The Senatus reports that all councils are active in extension. During October a number of councils had public recitation of the Rosary. A praesidium has been set up to visit Italian families. In one praesidium the members are engaged in building chapels and schools. 60 per cent of the praesidia are working on the validation of marriages.

Cordoba

The Cardinal-Archbishop in an interview with the officers of the Senatus urged the development of the Junior movement in the Legion. A very success-

ful meeting of officers of councils was held, presided over by Sr. Lina Vaccaro, the former Envoy, who is on a visit there.

Salta

The first report of a praesidium in Salta city tells of its direction of three Junior praesidia, three of its members going on P.P.C., one offering for correspondent, and still another three going out on Extension.

COLOMBIA

Bogota

Successful Peregrinatio projects feature in reports. In a recent 20 days' project carried out in the Diocese of Seravena, His Lordship the Bishop worked with the legionaries during the entire project. It was an area of great poverty and the legionaries are planning a return visit and hope to interest other agencies in providing material and medical aid for the people. His Lordship attended the Senatus meeting to express his thanks for the visit of the team. The Senatus is dividing the Bogota Curiae to bring them in line with the ecclesiastical divisions. This re-organisation has disclosed that one Vicariate had not even one praesidium.

BRAZIL

Ourinhos



Fr. Bernardo, Curia Spiritual Director, told Sr. Cronin that when he was appointed to Ourinhos there was no Legion there. One evening he offered

his Rosary for success in his efforts. Next morning two former legionaries came to his door and offered their services. There are now six praesidia and an outstanding feature of the Legion work is the big number of conversions from Protestantism.

Botucatu

Sr. Maria de Fatima is 19 years old and has no arms or legs since birth. However, she teaches catechism, gives Gospel explanation and writes many Legion letters, using her mouth to hold the pen. She has been responsible for the rectification of many marriages.

Our Comment: Offer yourself unreservedly to your Mother Mary and you will find that she will use you fruitfully in spite of every natural impediment. Let us look with awe on what she is doing through Maria de Fatima.

Alagoas

Five legionaries participated in a P.P.C. project from Rio de Janeiro, and the results were extremely good for such a small group. A feature was the



Joan Cronin, envoy to Brazil, seen at Campos with (right) Sister Edel and two friends. Sister Edel is a great lover of Edel Quinn whose name she took at her Clothing.

cheerfulness of the team, who were accommodated in the sacristy of a small church. They were not only visited by church-mice and a few rats and hundreds of mosquitoes, but right in the church there were a number of tombs. One irrepressible member of the team used to remind them every night that Senor So-and-So, buried in 1910, was about to make his nocturnal rounds! They had to go to the local houses for meals and toilet facilities, and the people were very poor. The Prefect of the place gave them an official send-off—with a band!

Bequimao

The curia at Bequimao, which is affiliated to the recently formed Sao Luis Comitium, has 22 praesidia with a total membership of about 200—all men! Three women's praesidia are being set up.

P.P.C. from PONTA FROSSA to PARAGUAY

Eight priests and 30 legionaries from 10 cities in the area of the Regia Parana worked among 60,000 Brazilian emigrants in desperate conditions (rough huts, no modern conveniences, plenty of bugs, etc.) 1,157 homes were visited; 9 people prepared for the Sacrament of the sick; 1,642 Confessions and 3,660 Holy Communions; 200 children prepared for Confirmation; 62 adults and 211 children prepared for First Holy Communion; 19 marriages fixed up; 7 Catechists trained; 114 talks given to men, women, youth and married folk; 4 new praesidia set up and 5 reorganised.

Some particular cases:

(1) A Paraguayan couple, without civil or religious marriage, decided to join the Catholic

Church and get married, but first they asked to see the Protestant pastor and Catholic priest to clear up some doubts. They are now married and living happily.

(2) A Protestant girl visited by the P.P.C. team last year asked for Baptism, saying: "I want to be like you people who love one another so much."

P.P.C. from FLORIANOPOLIS to BIGUACA

One priest, 13 legionaries and 2 Seminarians participated in this P.P.C. in four different towns where there is tremendous religious ignorance and no resident priest.

328 families were visited; 527 children taught catechism in 33 lessons; 47 children made First Holy Communion; 11 marriages were fixed up; 25 adults prepared for Confession; 269 people went to Confession; 800 Holy Communions were received; 5 people Baptised; 6 received Sacrament of the sick; 15 talks were given to youths, and 30 were prepared for First Holy Communion.

Mass was celebrated for the first time in two years. Preparations were laid for the setting up of a praesidium and legionaries from Florianopolis will return to give a helping hand.

NICARAGUA

Managua

Sister Offenburger writes: "In Managua only the Junior praesidium 'Marie Flor del Carmelo' did not interrupt its meetings for the earthquake. Moreover, it animated the adult sisters to organise themselves again after two months. Only three praesidia are working in the parochial Church of Our Lady of Carmen. In the other parochial churches they are trying to organise again. We have a very good Spiritual Director, Rev. P. Vincente, who animates us and helps us to work.

It is now four months since the earthquake and we do not know that a single legionary was killed. The Army of Mary is complete, only that many members are dispersed all over the country."

PHILIPPINES

As a result of a Peregrinatio project, a mass-wedding of 100 couples took place, and there were 125 Baptisms in Carmona, Cavite.

One curia of Manila reports that a goodly number of former Junior legionaries are now officers of Senior praesidia. Manila Junior Curia had 34 Junior legionaries entering the Senior ranks. Four praesidia erected in a minor seminary were affiliated to the Junior curia. Patrician meetings figure in recent council reports and the Senatus is seeking to stimulate the organising of such groups. The attendance at the Senatus meetings is nearly 85 per cent, with

about 18 councils represented. Their Spiritual Director, Bishop Casas, is very seldom absent and gives the most inspiring allocutios. Sister Moreleda, extension worker of Senatus, has been busy on the northern coast of Luzon.

Our Comment: The Legion in the Philippines has never ceased to advance since it began over 30 years ago. That growth has not been in size alone but in spirit also. There is no sign of slowing up in the picture shown above. Actually this is necessary; if there is not growth in the spiritual order, there is decay. To be static is to decay. The Philippines must now be getting on towards 7,000 praesidia. Much of this admirable position is due to the Spiritual Director of the Senatus of Manila, the Most Rev. Artemio Casas, Auxiliary Bishop of Manila. No one understands the Legion better than he does, and no one could be more devoted to it. We can only say we are grateful.

KOREA

The Senatus of Korea, which receives the constant and invaluable spiritual direction and encouragement of Rev. F. N. O'Neill (Columban Fathers), has been mourning the death of Most Rev. Dr. Han, Archbishop of Kwangju, who was the first translator of the Handbook, and had been closely connected with the Legion since its foundations in Korea. Also, the Senatus has been greatly concerned about its president, Br. Ri, who had a slight stroke at a recent meeting and is now, unfortunately, compelled to resign his office. These sad events have been in some measure compensated by the appointment of two earnest Council Spiritual Directors as Bishops of the dioceses of Masan and Chenju.

A feature of the Council reports submitted to the Senatus is the attention paid to auxiliary member-

ship, and the expansion of the Praetorian degree of active membership. For example, one report showed that 2,646 auxiliaries were being cared for, while 96 Praetorians had registered. Here is an interesting item from another report: "A praesidium was responsible for the return to Mass and the Sacraments of a Catholic girl who, because of serious financial difficulties, had drifted on to the streets. Not only had the praesidium won her back, but she is now a good active legionary."

Legionaries took care of a correspondence course for 50 people who, because of the circumstances of their job, were unable to attend the regular Christian Doctrine classes. So far 12 of the 50 have been Baptised. In a district where there had been a great flood, legionaries took care of a corpse which had not been claimed by anybody and attended to its burial, etc. In another district the Legion has promoted a Credit Union which in one year had a capital of \$25,000.

The Senatus is deeply indebted to a fine team of correspondents who despatch as many as 80 letters in one month to attached Councils in reply to their minutes and reports. It is noted that Councils—only very few—who are irregular in forwarding reports, and in writing to the Senatus invariably "go down the hill".

AUSTRALIA

Perth



Bishop Quinn was present at a recent meeting of the Senatus. He said his conscience had been pricked by an article in *MARIA LEGIONIS*—"Fiddling while Rome burns"—which commented on the attitude of the clergy towards the Legion. He said

Saigon: His Excellency Paul Binh, Archbishop of Saigon, with two sisters, Legion Spiritual Directors, who came a great distance to the Congress, seen with Paul Nguyen Van-Tan, President of the Saigon Senatus, and Antoine Dang-Huy-Truong, Secretary.



that the role of the priest had become more complex by the compulsory formation of parish councils which took up much of the priest's time and which tended to skim the cream of the laity and direct them into the councils rather than into the apostolic societies. As far as he was personally concerned he would strongly advise every parish priest to have a praesidium in his parish. He was formerly the Spiritual Director of a praesidium. The Senatus is concentrating its efforts on the extension of Junior praesidia.

Our Comment: The above speaks for itself. It says what requires to be said and there is no need to add to it. Thank you very much, Your Lordship.

NEW GUINEA

Rev. P. Hallinan writes: "We are celebrating Holy Week and Easter with some difficulties along the Sepik as we are suffering the worst floods in living memory. It is not a flood that sweeps away everything and causes many deaths; this one creeps up slowly and gradually covers floors and houses. Thus it gives humans a chance to escape or build up their floors. Practically all churches and schools are under water. Domestic animals have died in their hundreds. People have little food as all gardens are flooded. So we make-do with a classroom or open air services. I am having Stations today (Good Friday) on the airstrip; as it is flooded we are using canoes.

The Legion continues even in these difficult times, but a few praesidia have folded. They are in places where I cannot go now on account of the high tide, but I hope they will be operating again as soon as I can visit and bring Mass to them once more. On Holy Thursday I said Mass on a verandah and the people sat outside in their canoes. The feet-washing ceremony was easy: just shake a leg over the side of the canoe and wipe it with a towel.

Over the Christmas/New Year period I have given Retreats to the curia at Wewak Frok, to the curia at Kairiru, and to the praesidia at four other places: Maramba, Mensuat, Anduar, and Kinjingini."

Our Comment: From his student days in St. Peter's College, Wexford, Fr. Hallinan has been a legionary. As a priest he carried this interest to Sydney, Australia. Then he volunteered for New Guinea, where he has been for many years, working along with the Divine Word Fathers. He has built up a solid legionary structure and more lies ahead.

NEW ZEALAND

Bro. Tom Dennehy visited Whangerei in November and spoke at 7 Masses. The response was tremendous. Threequarters of those interested were former legionaries who are now young mothers.



Maramba, Sepik River. Fr. P. Hallinan with a few of his legionaries before a typical thatched church. There are three praesidia in this village of 650 people and they have been active for 10 years. During the last three years no priest ever visited them yet they carried on faithfully although no more than six of the total 49 members are literate.

Two praesidia have since formed there, one meeting in the daytime. Work done for the blind in Auckland is very good. The Catholic Social Services are now contacting the Legion for their help. Prayers were asked for the repose of the soul of Sr. Miria Hotere, wife of the president of the Maori praesidium. In a moving tribute, Archbishop Liston applied each of the Beatitudes to her and described her as the Edel Quinn of the Legion in New Zealand.

Our Comment: It is a joy to see the name of Archbishop Liston in the above connection. It shows that he has lost none of his old interest in the Legion since he retired from the See of Auckland. His services to the Legion have been immense.

INDIA

Calcutta



The Comitium reports that 2,017 Catholics, 87 non-Catholics and 62 non-Christians were contacted on home visitation. 207 Catholics and 367 non-Catholics, 61 non-Christians were visited in hospitals. 135 residents were contacted at two institutions. Jails were visited and Mass said 13 times in which 100 prisoners made their Confessions and received Holy Communion. 14 Baptisms and one conversion were effected. 14 marriages were regularised. Family Reconciliation 15. 8 Conversions from bad life. 27 children were prepared for First Holy Communion. 10 are under instruction in the Faith. 460 legionaries attended the Annual Acies.

Bombay

A praesidium reports that 80 non-Christian ladies were brought to the church for a thanksgiving service consisting of Mass and a sermon in Marathi based on the family and the responsibilities of parents. In home visitation families are taught to say the Rosary. Catechism is taught to the young girls of Koliwada in preparation for First Holy Communion.

Kerala

At a Seminar organised by the legionaries of Ernakulam Archdiocese, the inaugural address was given by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Cochin University who spoke of having met Bro. Duff at the Vatican Council. Good participation was reported in discussions on "How to renew the Legion" and "Legionaries must become lights among the Community".

The Auxiliary Bishop presided at the final session and pointed out that legionaries are the custodians of the Mystical Body. He said: "There may be persecution in India. Legionaries must come forward to protect the faith as they did in China." A conference of comitium officers is being planned to discuss the extension and development of the Legion in Kerala.

The Bishop of Vigoyaparam spoke on the importance of devotion to Mary and said that this devotion can work miracles.

SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town



Sister Miriam Lynch writes: "We had our Acies on Sunday and as usual it was a great turn out. Some hired a double-bus to bring them from the new out-lying townships. It had a

funny aspect for just as they arrived at the Cathedral a band was marching by and, with all the legionaries gathered outside, it gave a festive atmosphere. It was the Salvation Army band! Coincidental? Father Connaughton gave the address. He is a late vocation, only two and a half years ordained, was a legionary in Dublin working on the ships, and did P.P.C. in England. He is very keen for the Legion and now at last he is getting into his (Legion) stride as he was fettered in his last parish. It was very impressive to see the hundreds of legionaries make their consecration so devoutly. Indeed, some spontaneously kissed the image of Our Lady on the Vexillum! All shapes and sizes, young and old, healthy and crippled, pledged their loyalty to Mary, and with what fervour did they sing!"

ETHIOPIA

Keren

There are now four praesidia in the area (one Senior and three Junior). One of the works is hospital visitation where they are well received. A Moslem Sheik commented: "Since I entered this hospital I have seen many of our Moslem Sheiks and great religious men strut through these corridors and the aisles between the beds without uttering any word of comfort. It is a novel experience to receive such kindness from strangers". Arrangements are being made to send the legionaries to the nearby villages to teach Catechism to the children and to the young people.

LIBERIA

The Curia in Monrovia has 17 praesidia, 8 in Monrovia itself and 9 in outlying areas. The curia has embarked in a serious way on the approach to the Moslems. Two of the most experienced members from each praesidium have been allocated to this work.

SIERRA LEONE

Sister Barbara Hopper, extension worker, organised a series of P.P.C. projects. Teams composed of priests, nuns and legionaries did extensive visitation. In some places the people had never been visited by missionaries of any religion. The majority met were Moslems. Of these 430 asked for information about the Catholic Church. A follow-up is being undertaken of all the contacts. New Sunday Mass centres have been set up, and a number of new praesidia have been opened. Sr. Hopper established two new curiae.



Members of the Curia of Asmara, Ethiopia. The Curia has 4 attached Praesidia, one at Gaggiret which has 36 members, one at Villaggio, one at Paradiso and one at Godaif. The following are its officers: President Bro. Jacob Tewelde; Vice-president Bro. Yohannes; Secretary Sr. Akeberet and Treasurer Sr. Hairmanot. The Spiritual Director of the Curia is Abba Habtegherghis.

The Pearl of Great Price

by Tom O'Hara

SINCE I joined the Legion 20 years ago someone or other in the ranks has been pointing out to me the tremendous treasures the Catholic faith possesses. One such treasure that has been "pounded" into me is that which is referred to as the True Devotion to Mary. And God forgive me it has taken me 20 years to realise that this devotion is a pearl of great price.

The first Legion meeting I attended was held in Dublin's Central Catholic Library where our two hours duty, directed by the then Spiritual Director, the late Fr. Stephen Brown, S.J., brought me into contact with books, and books and more books. One of our tasks in that praesidium was the writing of factual articles of interest to Catholic magazines. In the performance of that duty I found I was learning more about a subject when I was trying to write about it than in the actual reading up of the subject. Augustine's great dictum struck home—the best way to learn is to teach.

When in later years the Legion introduced me to de Montfort I was not that impressed because I did not quite understand what he was getting at. It was then the old trick I learned in my first praesidium came to mind. Why not write an article on it—that would be the best way for me to learn. I did this. And now I see that there is nothing in this world more precious than the True Devotion.

Lately I browsed through the 3,000 words I had written and I found myself underlining the following beliefs expressed by de Montfort but expressed by him of course in a much more beautiful manner than my scribble:

- (1) God only deals with us through Mary.
- (2) Every prayer offered to heaven no matter to whom it is addressed goes through Mary.
- (3) Everything in heaven and earth is subject to Mary.
- (4) On the degree in which we adapt our minds to this arrangement made by God depends the quality of our lives.

To help me grasp what the True Devotion is I wrote the following three sentences:

- (1) We give ourselves entirely to the Blessed Virgin Mary—all that we possess in nature and grace and merit and we expect nothing in return.



St. Louis Marie de Montfort.

- (2) We must have a conscious or at least a subconscious realisation that all we do, think, pray, our life itself is being offered solely for Mary's intentions.
- (3) It means that we should not approach Our Lord, or any other of the heavenly personages, relying on ourselves alone, but that we should always include the idea of Mary as our supplement; always having her somewhere in our minds even when our prayer is not directed to her.

In writing down and rewriting and then underlining important points I began to see what de Montfort was getting at. It is staggering in its simplicity and its rewards obviously colossal.

If you have read de Montfort and have not been that excited about it do not leave it on the shelf but take it down again and begin writing about the subject . . . for those who dig there awaits a pearl of great price.

*Mary, The Dawn, Christ The Perfect Day,
Mary, The Gate, Christ The Heavenly Way,
Mary, The Root, Christ The Mystic Vine,
Mary, The Wheat sheaf, Christ The Living Bread,
Mary, The Temple, Christ The Temple's Lord,
Mary, The Shrine, Christ The God Adored,
Mary, The Beacon, Christ The Haven's Rest,
Mary, The Mirror, Christ The Vision Blest,
Mary, The Mother, Christ The Mother's Son,
Both ever blest, while endless ages run.*

The Spiritual Director of a praesidium in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England, found these anonymous lines in an American book and felt that they were worthy of the wider audience who could appreciate them if published in Maria Legionis.

HISTORIC OCCASION

Mr. Jim Cummins, President of the Concilium (Central Council of the Legion), accompanied by his wife, Doreen, photographed at the State Reception in Dublin Castle for the inauguration of President Erskine Childers June 25th, 1973. They represented the Legion of Mary at the elegant gathering of heads of Church and State, prominent public figures and leaders of civil and religious organisations.

In the morning they had attended the inter-denominational service at St. Patrick's Cathedral which preceded the formal ceremony of inauguration of the President of Ireland.



WEST AFRICA

SENEGAL

Dakar: A report states: "We have much contact with the Moslems. They are very friendly. They were delighted to join our Corpus Christi procession which went for 3 kms, and included Rosary, hymns and a sermon by our Archbishop."

Rev. Fr. Goetz, C.S.Sp., writes from Southern Senegal: "Every year the legionaries go onto the distant villages to speak to the people who are Moslems. These receive the legionaries as messengers from the Lord. Going back, they asked the people if they had remembered what they had said last year. They said 'yes', and that they had tried to put it into practice. They asked the legionaries to teach them how to lead a life of charity. Some years ago their Imam told them to treat the legionaries with respect as he had never heard people speak of God as they did."

Abbe Alphonse Ndione former Spiritual Director of the Dakar Curia, who worked for 4 years in

Guinée, states that he has been appointed Spiritual Director of the Curia at Thies.

Our Comment: We promised that we would torment our readers on this subject of the Moslems until every place is making approach to them. We repeat that contrary to expectations the Moslems are invariably courteous to the legionaries and listen willingly to their exposition of Christianity.

Togo: The Regia at Lomé have written to concilium to express their joy at the appointment of their Archbishop Monsignor Dosseh as President of the Episcopal Commission. Monsignor Dosseh has worked closely with the Legion since he was a member in the Propaganda Fide College in Rome. Before returning to Africa he visited the Concilium to get a wider knowledge. He had a Curia with about 20 praesidia in his mission in Tsevie. He has just sanctioned the translation of the Legion Handbook into the Ewe language.

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