

*Maria Legionis*



# Maria Legionis

The Voice of the Legion of Mary

Edition 4 of 2014

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'So when legionaries gather together in the praesidium in his name and for his work, he is present in that potent way; it has been made evident that power goes out from him there.' (Mk5:30)

Also with Jesus in that little family are his Mother and St. Joseph, who towards the praesidium the same relation that they had towards him; which permits us to look towards the praesidium as a projection of the Home of Nazareth, and this not as a mere devotional exercise but as something based on reality!

*The Legion Handbook- Chap 21 - The Mystical Home of Nazareth*

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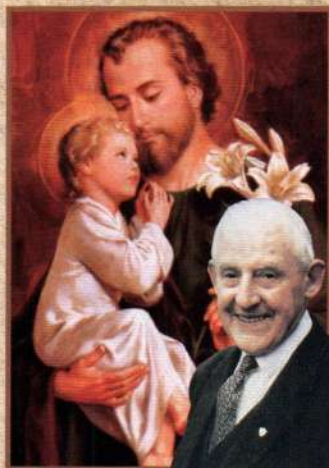
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The faithful and wise servant whom God appointed to be the comfort of His mother

## SAINT JOSEPH

Frank Duff



**St. Bernard hails St. Joseph as "the faithful and wise servant whom God appointed to be the comfort of His mother, the foster-father of His own flesh, and the only trusty helper in the eternal counsels." This is magnificent praise.**

Because Jesus is the New Adam, we do not give attention to the fact that the role of St. Joseph in the order of Restoration parallels to some extent that of Adam in the Fall. It is true that St. Joseph is not on what we might call the primary level of the Redemption. He is not included in the Protevangelium, which specifies that a Woman and her Seed shall crush the

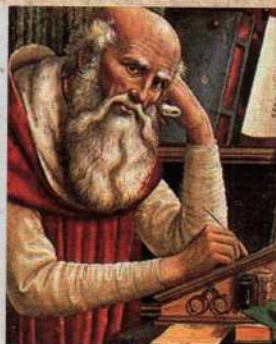
Serpent's head. Man rises again in Jesus Christ with the co-operation of Mary the New Eve.

But we must see that St. Joseph was assigned to a central part, made the helper of Mary, and that his presence in the mystery of the Incarnation must be classed as necessary. But though we realise that much, it is easy to fail to discern his full magnitude.

**Here are some of the reasons given by the Saints for that placing of St. Joseph by the side of Mary:**

### St. Jerome:

(1) that Mary's ancestry should be indicated by the genealogy of Jesus; (2) that she should not be stoned by the Jews as an adulteress; (3) that she should have St. Joseph's protection and consolation in the earlier trials; (4) that Satan would not know that Jesus was born of a virgin; this latter reason had already been specified by St. Ignatius the Martyr.





**St. Gregory the Great and St. Bernard:**  
that Joseph was needed as a witness that Jesus was born of a virgin.



**St. Thomas Aquinas:**  
that Joseph assured Our Lord's legal position because status and rights came through the father.



**St. Ephraem:**  
that Joseph proves the title of Jesus as Son of David, that is his royal descent.

These are extremely important purposes but for our present consideration we cannot be content with them. They are reasons of high convenience whereas Joseph entered into the very heart of the mystery of the Incarnation. Suarez (in words echoed by Pope Pius XI) said that Joseph belongs to the order of the Hypostatic Union (that is of the Incarnation); not in the same way as Mary in whom the Word took flesh, but to the extent that he was caught up in its intimacies. Joseph was contained in the thought of the Trinity, which before the ages decreed the Redemption.

Let us go back and inspect one reason given by Saints Jerome and Ignatius, that is the need for having the Incarnation accomplished under the veil of marriage so as to save Mary from obloquy. Actually there is more to it

than this high usefulness. The marriage was a true marriage even though the conjugal rights were excluded. It served every other purpose of marriage. Therefore, Jesus is going to have an earthly father, vested with authority over Him and unquestionably endowed by Heaven with a degree of love of the Infant which would be appropriate to a real parenthood, and which would hold some sort of reasonable proportion to the love, which Mary had for her Child. This would mean that St. Joseph's love for Jesus would be the greatest paternal love that would ever exist on earth, second in degree only to Mary's love.

Another aspect of this would be that Joseph was destined to occupy in relation to the Mystical Body the same relation that he had towards Jesus.

Therefore his love for Jesus had to be of such a semi-divine character that it could expand in due course to embrace all men. There is something in question which will genuinely parallel the maternal love of Mary for the Mystical Jesus.

All this suggests itself as logical and in accord with the divine method.

I have said that Joseph was intended to represent the Eternal Father in all His earthly dealings with Jesus. How complete this representation would be is shown by the rather sensational scene where Jesus, constrained by the higher allegiance, seems for once to set aside His ordinary attitude of submission to His parents. I refer to the mysterious episode of the Three Days' Loss (St. Luke Chap. 2) where He announced that He had to be about His Eternal Father's business. Then this isolated act was at once followed by a return to the customary relation. He was subject to His parents, says the New Testament. We do not hear of Jesus ever again departing from that attitude.

It is the divine practice to give along with an office every grace required for its adequate discharge. This ordinance will rise to its ultimate peak when it is a case of the Heavenly Father delegating His authority over His only Son. Such a transaction will have no aspect of unreality. St. Joseph's paternity would be real to the extent that it can be. Being constituted by God over the greatest Person in the world and for the greatest purpose in

the world, it follows that the outpouring of grace must be the greatest that Joseph can receive. His virtue will be in keeping with his office.

He has to be a paternal model to the Infant Jesus, equivalent to that afforded on the maternal side by Mary. He must be seen by Jesus as the ideal father in all aspects, failing in none. He must reflect to Jesus the qualities of the Eternal Father so far as they can be given a human expression. We must remember that in regard to Jesus a human moulding and education was in question and that in this process Joseph played as considerable a part as Mary.

In Joseph the Blessed Virgin met a virgin partner, prepared most carefully for her, worthy of her, with a heart bursting with celestial love for her. Like encountered like. Some writers say that Joseph had made a vow of chastity. This is probably not the case; all the custom and mode of thought of the day would point otherwise. But it is certain that he showed himself acquiescent when Mary proposed that it should be an ingredient of their union. The lily which art so often puts in Joseph's hand shows what the devout world has always thought of that aspect in him.



## SAINT JOSEPH

Some, seeking to glorify him, have even asserted that he was immaculately conceived. But this claim has not been approved by authority; nor does there seem to be justification for it. It was imperative that Mary be conceived immaculate because the body of Jesus would be formed out of her substance which therefore could not be allowed to be tainted. That does not apply in the case of Joseph, and God does not unnecessarily put forth His power. But it is more than likely that Joseph was freed from Original Sin in the womb of his mother. That would explain the unique characteristic which he presented. According to Scripture, that privilege was granted to the Prophet Jeremias and to St. John the Baptist whose missions were less intimate and less necessary than Joseph's.

All the foregoing would lift St. Joseph to supreme heights. But are there not in him even higher summits? What higher could there be?

Had Joseph any part towards the Incarnation, which could be regarded as equivalent to that of Adam in the Fall? A key part he certainly had. Adam fell by believing in Eve.

Her Solicitation was the immediate cause of the Fall even though it was not through her sin but through Adam's that the race fell. But without Eve, Adam would not have fallen.



Can anything in that greatest of all catastrophes be related to Joseph's association with the Incarnation?

In the first place, there was the parity between Adam and Eve on the one hand and Joseph and Mary on the other of unconsummated marriage, permanent in the case of Joseph and Mary. It was during that initial period that the angel of darkness went to Eve and the angel of light to Mary. In each case the woman acquiesced, from which the great consequences ensue; the Fall in the former and the Incarnation in the latter.

In each case the man yielded to the influence of the woman. Adam surrendered to Eve. He ratified and consummated her sin and the Fall of mankind is brought about. In the case of Joseph his triumph takes the form of his belief against all nature that the Child, which his spouse had conceived was from God. He made this act of faith on the word of the Angel, as Mary had before him, and thus he qualified for his great destiny.

His surpassing act of faith earned for him a spiritual paternity of Jesus. In this he receives all the endowment of privileges and graces which must accompany such a role and equip him to fulfil it with absolute perfection.

Would there not also be entailed for Joseph in this transaction a quality of representation of the human race subordinate to but analogous to that of Mary?

Mary's co-operation was of course unique in its character, such as to attract the title of co-Redemptrix.

Her consent to the Incarnation was asked in the place of all humanity. In giving it she became the New Eve and the mother of all the living.

Joseph was not the New Adam as Mary was the New Eve. Jesus Christ is the New Adam. But a role or representation does seem to rest on Joseph. As a husband he accepts and ratifies what has been accomplished in Mary. His act of faith is complementary to hers. He does seem to add something vital to her consent on behalf of human nature. In a special way he stands for the male sex. The New Adam was not yet born and so could not visibly represent the old Adam. This point appears to me to be of great importance and as not receiving due attention.

Adam and Eve had been in the fullest sense the heads of humanity until they fell. In the Restoration Mary becomes most fully the spiritual and physical mother of Jesus. This motherhood, and no less, is carried on into her nurturing of the Mystical Body.

Joseph is not the physical father of Jesus, but by that act of faith which he made at the bidding of the Angel, and through his career of care of Jesus and Mary, he merited to become spiritual father of Jesus and foster-father of the Mystical Body.

As his support of Jesus and Mary was necessary in the temporal order, so it is necessary to the Mystical Body.



On the 8th December 1870 Pius IX declared St. Joseph to be patron of the Church. In 1961 Pope John XXIII entrusted the deliberations and results of the Second Vatican Council to the care of St. Joseph. On the 13th November 1963 Pope John added the name of St. Joseph to the ancient Canon of the Mass.



## "Out of Egypt have I called my Son"

(Matt. 2, 15)



But we must not think that his office was conferred on him by any Church declaration. That declaration only acknowledged an existing fact.

Moreover the word "Patron" is not sufficiently expressive: his function enters a classification not comprised by that word. His association to the Incarnation was immeasurably higher in degree and different in kind from the co-operation of any of the Saints.

He is father of the Church in the same measure that he was the foster-father of Jesus. Mary is its mother in the measure that she was actual mother of Jesus, which belongs to a far superior order.

Accordingly the Catholic instinct which coupled as one on the lips of our forefathers the three august names of Jesus, Mary and Joseph was solid in its theology. Let honour be given where honour is due.

We must impart significance to the fact that after the angelic apparition of the Annunciation, it was not to Mary but to Joseph that the divine messages concerning the Holy Family were communicated. This is a testimony to the reality of his headship of the Family.

Those "appearances in sleep," as the Scripture calls them, represented the highest sort of interventions: the first to ask Joseph's concurrence in the divine plan of salvation; the second to save the lives of Jesus and Mary; the third to restore them to their native land, fulfilling what God had spoken through His Prophet: "Out of Egypt have I called my Son" (Matt. 2, 15), and thereby placing them on the direct redemptive road.

St. Matthew uses the same phrase each of those three times: "The Angel of the Lord appeared in sleep to Joseph" (Chaps. 2 & 3).

*Let honour be given where honour is due.*



This mysterious wording must not leave us with the impression that dreams were in question. Whatever their precise character, they rose above such things.

To Joseph they were utterly clear and peremptory so that he acted at once. In the case of the Flight into Egypt he did not even await the dawn but rose forthwith and undertook the grim perils of that journey through mountain paths in the Winter darkness. Anyone who has had any experience of the like will realise the horror of it. St. Joseph's responsibility was appalling. Fear for himself was obliterated by his agony on behalf of those who were so totally committed to his care. But on him the divine plan was wisely founded and it stood firm.

But an inconceivably greater trial of faith was imposed on him in the first of those appearances in sleep, which took place when Joseph realised that Mary, then betrothed to him, was with Child.



The Voice of the Legion of Mary

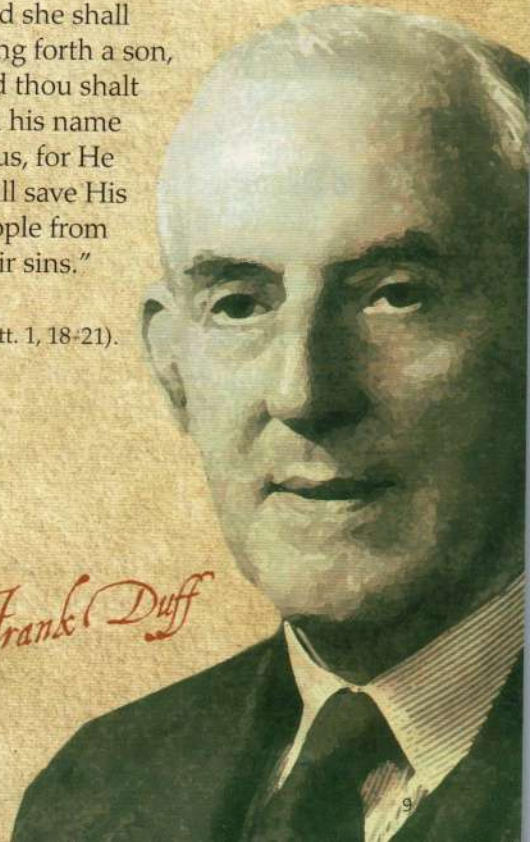
The matter of fact narrative passes over the unutterable torment of soul, which he experienced; it must have been akin to Mary's own dolours in three of which he was associated. What he saw was beyond his comprehending. But there it was. Being "a just man" bound by the law, he could not take her as his wife. Neither could he denounce her. So he thought of a halfway course prescribed by the law – a private divorce without reasons assigned (Deut. 24, 1).

But while his tortured mind dwelt on the subject, behold the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in his sleep, saying: "Joseph, son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife. For that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins."

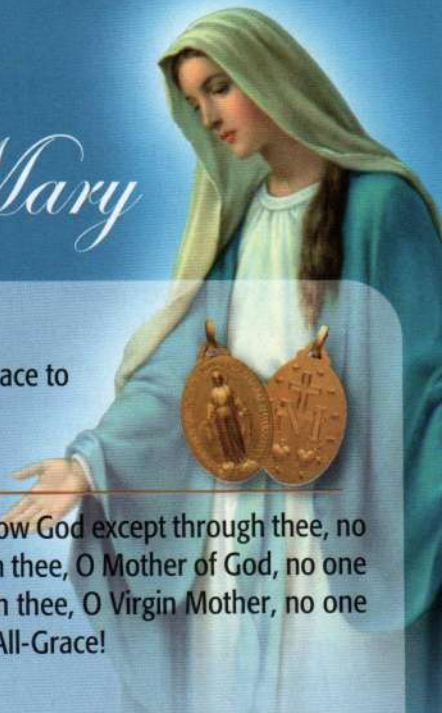
(Matt. 1, 18-21).

*Frank Duff*





# Praises of Mary



Love Our Lady, and she will obtain abundant grace to help you conquer your daily struggle.

*St. JOSEMARIA ESCRIVA*

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There is no one, O Most Holy Mary, who can know God except through thee, no one who can be saved or redeemed but through thee, O Mother of God, no one who can be delivered from dangers but through thee, O Virgin Mother, no one obtains mercy but through thee, O Filled-With-All-Grace!

*St. GERMANUS OF CONSTANTINOPLE*

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It is impossible to save one's soul without devotion to Mary and without her protection.

*St. ANSELM*

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If devotion to the Blessed Virgin is necessary for all men simply to work out their salvation, it is even more necessary for those who are called to a special perfection. I do not believe that anyone can acquire intimate union with our Lord and perfect fidelity to the Holy Spirit without a very close union with the most Blessed Virgin and an absolute dependence on her support.

*St. LOUIS MARIE DE MONTFORT*

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Spread the Rosary, the prayer so dear to the Virgin and so esteemed by popes, by it the faithful can best fulfil the command of Christ: 'Ask and it shall be given, seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be open to you'. The Rosary puts all who trust in it into communication with Our Lady.

*POPE PAUL VI*

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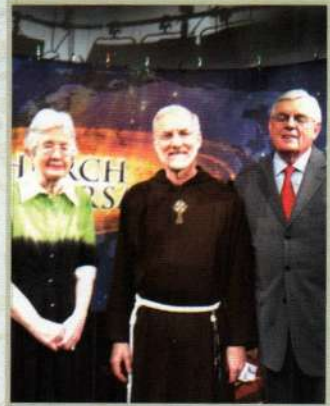
This is the woman of history and destiny who inspires us today, the woman who speaks to us of femininity, human dignity and love, and who is the greatest expression of total consecration to Jesus Christ.

*St. John Paul II*

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# Eternal Word Television Network

*Finola Kennedy*



Before travelling to Birmingham, Alabama in late February 2014 to record an interview with EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network) on Frank Duff and the Legion of Mary, I mentioned my proposed trip to Rev Bernard McGuckian, SJ and my daughter Lucy. Father McGuckian has considerable experience with EWTN and Lucy is commissioning editor of documentaries with Aljazeera in New York. Both made identical observations about EWTN – that it is very orthodox Catholic and very professional.

On arrival in Birmingham, Enda Dunleavy who travelled with me, and I, were met by a representative of EWTN and taken to our separate lodgings in one of the EWTN houses adjacent to the Studio.

The names of the Guest Houses include Regina Coeli, Magnificat and Marywood. The campus is impressive. In addition to the magnificent Studio, there is a Chapel, the Friary and House of Studies, Offices and a Gift Shop. And there is St Clare's Kitchen where meals are provided for visitors. In the surrounding grounds there is an outdoor shrine and Stations of the Cross. There was Mass in the Chapel every day at 7am (broadcast), and 12 pm. The first day I went at 12 pm, the second at 7 am and on the third day there was a Mass in Latin at 7.30 am in the Friary.



EWTN was founded by Mother Angelica, a Poor Clare nun in 1980. On 15 August 1981, the Feast of the Assumption, EWTN began broadcasting from a garage studio. The studio was at Our Lady of the Angels monastery which Mother Angelica had founded in Irondale, near Birmingham Alabama in 1962. The following year Martin Luther King was jailed for taking part in a peaceful protest there and wrote his famous Letter from Birmingham Jail, a defining document of the Civil Rights Movement. Today Birmingham is a civil rights' centre and EWTN broadcasts 24/7 around the world.



EWTN had planned a major series entitled 'The Church Universal' in which two programmes each would be devoted to eight Catholic organisations. The organisations included Couples for Christ and Opus Dei as well as the Legion of Mary. In regard to the Legion, the EWTN plan was to record two

interviews, one with me and the other with Don Taggart, an experienced American legionary who travelled from Pennsylvania. The subject of my interview was Frank Duff and early Legion history while the subject of Don's would focus mainly on his experience as a legionary in the USA.

Some time before I left Dublin I had been asked to provide ten 'talking points' which might form the basis of the interview. Following are the points which I provided:

1. What was Ireland and the Church in Ireland like at the time the Legion of Mary was founded?

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2. Who was Frank Duff?

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3. How did Frank Duff come to found the Legion?

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4. Why was the Legion initially confined to women and with what results?

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5. What is the role of the priest in the Legion?

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6. What were the early works of the Legion?  
Hospital visitation; home visitation; 'the Monto; the hostels.

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7. What was Duff's prediction about the spread of the Legion?  
When did it first spread outside Ireland?

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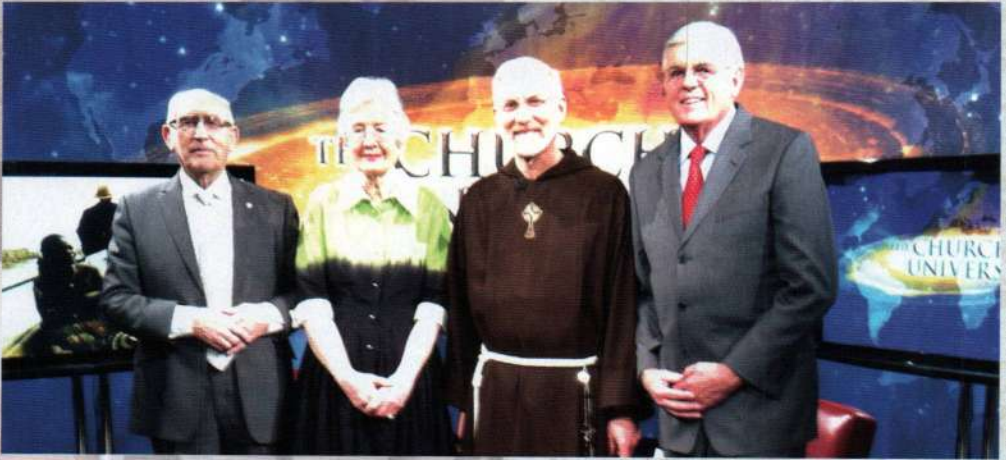
8. What was the impact of the Eucharistic Congress 1932 on the Legion?

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9. Describe the Legion's relations with other Christian denominations and Jews that is the work of the Mercier and Pillar of Fire Societies.

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10. Tell something of Edel Quinn (Africa), Alfie Lambe (South America) and Fr Aedan McGrath (China).



*From left; Enda Dunleavy, Finola Kennedy, Fr. Joseph and Don Taggart*

The day before the interview I met Father Joseph who was conducting the interviews and we went over the ground for the interview very carefully. Then again on the morning of the interview we met for further preparations. As Father McGuckian and my daughter Lucy both said 'They are highly professional at EWTN'.



I had expressed an interest in visiting Hanceville where Mother Angelica is confined to her convent following several strokes. One of the young friars took us there on the hour long drive. Both the convent and the church which resembles a Norman castle are magnificent.

The economist in me asked the friar how they were funded. He replied 'By five Catholic families'. Both wealth and private philanthropy coexist in the USA.



Before leaving Birmingham I was asked to do an online interview about the Legion with Michelle Johnson who is in charge of EWTN's social media. I was delighted to hear that Michelle's mother had been in the Legion for many years and Michelle and I discussed the possibility that she herself might consider joining.

It was a privilege to have been asked to participate in the EWTN programme on the Legion of Mary.



# I BELIEVE...

**E**very Sunday, after listening to the Word of God, we respond by professing our Faith. The *Credo*, which we recite together as a faith-community, contains the gist of what we believe. As Christian believers, we are committed to Jesus Christ and his cause, in the community of the Church. When we make the profession of faith, we do not simply *say out loud* what articles of faith we hold. We express our total, existential, trust in the Triune God, such that not only do we mean what we say, but that we intend making of our profession a *performative* utterance, that is co-terminous with our whole life. That is to say that in keeping with and in continuity with the rest of our lives, our profession becomes a living **act of faith**. To put it differently, in saying the *Creed*, we compress the whole of our lives and intend making of it an on-going act of total trust to God. The rest of our lives will then be a living out of the basic and fundamental Christian attitude, that is faith. By analogy, we may compare this to the pronouncement of the marriage, or perpetual vows, in religion. When the

marriage vows are pronounced, husband and wife actually *give themselves* to each other as such for life. Similarly, the person who makes his/her religious profession, in so doing actually *consecrate themselves* to God within a particular religious community.

Theologians distinguish between “faith” which means the content of Christian belief, and “faith” which is a personal response to God, who gives himself to the believer. God communicates himself to us so that, “according to the image of his Son”, we may share in his life (love) and become his sons and daughters, “in Christ”, as Paul has it. Our acceptance of this sublime gift, is our act of faith in God. This acceptance on our part is itself a gift, in being a free response. Becoming one with God we adhere to him with all our heart, and mind, and soul. In faith, we confide in him wholeheartedly, we believe his words, we follow him as by His spirit he guides us through the highways and bye-ways of life.

Fr. Charles DeLia SJ  
Spiritual Director of Our Lady of the Wayside,  
Naxxar, Malta



# Queen of Angels

## Senior Praesidium

### St. Lawrence's Parish - KARACHI

#### INTRODUCTION

We, the members of 'Queen of Angels' Senior Praesidium of St. Lawrence's parish, are pleased to present our 31st Annual Report to "Our Lady Spouse of the Holy Spirit" Curia of Karachi. This report spans the term June 01, 2013 to May 31, 2014.

Our meetings are held on Sundays at 7:30p.m. at St. Lawrence's Legion Room. We currently have 20 members on roll; 2 new members joined us recently from the Junior Praesidium.

#### DUTIES

##### Home Visitation

This duty encompasses visits to senior and ill parishioners, bereaved families, irregular and auxiliary members, as well as visits for recruitment of active and auxiliary members.

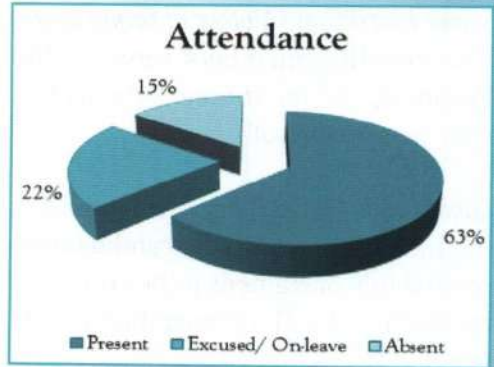
##### Hospital Visitation

Members usually visit the Holy Family Hospital.

**Dar-ul-Sukun (Handicapped and Old Aged Home)** Our members visit the children and adult wings to assist in feeding the residents and interact with those who are able to respond. Recently a new wing has been opened which houses the Aged. Our members visit here regularly.

##### Maryville

St. Joseph's home for the Aged, which began in 1962 is managed by the Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary. Visiting this home has been a duty of our praesidium since its inception



## QUEEN OF ANGELS

**Junior Praesidium - Our Lady of Hope.** Our Junior praesidium is presided over by one of our senior members. Presently, there are 14 members on roll. They perform numerous duties on their own and under the mentorship of the seniors, which also serves as training for them.

**Senior Praesidium - Mother of Divine Grace.** The founding members serve as the President, and the Tribune. A total of 16 members are on roll.

**Confirmation Classes.** This year as well 2 of our members prepared 18 candidates to receive this Sacrament to be conferred on Jun 8, 2014. The preparation period was 1 year.

**First Holy Communion Classes.** This duty is undertaken annually by our members. During the year, 1 member and another parishioner took on the responsibility to prepare 9 children for this sacrament which was celebrated on Nov 7, 2013.

**Youth Ministry.** Two senior members hold meetings every week for the 30 youth group members, from the Urdu and English speaking youth of the parish, and engage them in spiritual formation and personal development, social grooming and life skills. Until recently meetings were held separately based on linguistic lines, but the groups have now merged into one parish youth group meeting

**Altar Server Supervision.** One member facilitates the altar servers groups of the parish. The groups meet every week. This includes the English and Urdu speaking groups.

**Agape.** One of our members oversees a group of 6 volunteers for Sunday School known as Agape. There are nearly 20 children aged between 3 to 12 years who attend.



### Views from Children of the Agapé

*"Since coming for the Agapé class, I feel closer to Jesus and the church as we learn of God's wonderful love."*

*Karissa, 10 years*

*"I love to go for the Agapé class because I learn about Jesus with my friends."*

*Eli, 4 years*



## PRAESIDIUM FUNCTIONS

### *Birthday of our Blessed Mother (Sep 8, 2013)*

A solemn mass was celebrated on the birthday of our Blessed Mother. This was followed by small get-together for all praesidia. **Annual General Reunion (Dec 08, 2013).** This year the AGR was hosted by St. Anthony's Church. **Acies Function (Mar 22, 2014)** The Acies which was held at St. Patrick's Parish was well attended by the members and some auxiliary members. **Masses for Br. Frank Duff (Jun 07 and Nov 07, 2013)** Mass intentions were offered for Frank Duff on his birth and death anniversary. Most of the legionaries attended the masses

## PRAESIDIUM EVENTS

**June 30, 2013: Appointment of Treasurer.** Sr Agnes Paul was appointed as Treasurer of the Praesidium, after following due process. **July 6, 2013: Workshop for Catechists.** A few of our members attended the workshop at St. Patrick's Cathedral for First Holy Communion, Confirmation and Sunday school teachers. **Aug 23, 2013: Boating trip.** A boating trip was arranged for Legionaries of the Parish and was well enjoyed. **Sep 21, 2013: Annual Retreat.** Our members, accompanied by members from Mother of Divine Grace participated in our retreat facilitated by Friar Clifford Augustine at the Monastery of the Angels. **Oct 18, 2013: Handbook Study.** Our group has commenced a study of the Legion handbook, beginning with the Cardinal Points of the Legion of Mary. **Nov 29, 2013: Advent Service** We prepared and conducted an advent service for all our praesidia. **Dec 22, 2013: Christmas Program**

*for Maryville.* We helped in organising the party which the residents thoroughly enjoyed. Besides Christmas Carols and a game of Tambola, lunch was also provided for all. **Jan 13, 2014: Christmas Party.** This event was organised by both senior praesidia and was attended by members of all praesidia. **Feb 5, 2014: Picnic.** A legion picnic was organised to the beach. The day was well enjoyed by all who attended. **Feb 15, 2014: Focus Session.** The session was attended by the members who participated actively in planning and discussions. **Mar 09, 2014: Recollection Day.** A Recollection Day was organised at the Franciscan Friary with sessions facilitated by Fr Louis Mascarenhas and Br Clifford Noronha. **Apr 17, 2014: Maundy Thursday Holy-hour.** The holy hour from 11.00 p.m. to 12.00 midnight was conducted by our members. **Apr 30, 2014: Easter Dinner.** Our members enjoyed each others' company and a sumptuous meal at a Chinese Restaurant to celebrate the great feast.

### OFFICERS

<i>Spiritual Directress</i>	Mary DeCruz
<i>President</i>	Ashley D'Souza
<i>Vice President</i>	Zahra Dean
<i>Secretary</i>	Michelle Pinto
<i>Treasurer</i>	Agnes Paul



### MEMBERS

<i>Brendon Dias</i>	Brendon Emmanuel
<i>Bruce Rodrigues</i>	Charlene Almeida
<i>Darrell D'Souza</i>	Denzil D'Souza
<i>Jared Caeiro</i>	Janelle Dias
<i>Jude Johannes</i>	Joyce D'Souza
<i>Pearl Indrias</i>	Selwyn D'Costa
<i>Vanessa Dias</i>	Vanessa DeCruz
<i>Warren Arakill</i>	

## PARISH ACTIVITIES

**Aug 10, 2013: St. Lawrence's Feast.** Members of all three praesidia prepared and participated in the Liturgy for the mass.

**October 2013: Rosary Services** The members led the Rosary in Church on some days and Services were conducted in nine areas of the parish, with the assistance of the other parish praesidia. The closing of the October devotions were celebrated in a ceremonious manner. The liturgy for the Mass was prepared by the legionaries.

**Nov 17, 2013: First Holy Communion.** The Sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated in the Parish. Special thanks were extended to Queen of Angles praesidium for preparing the children for this sacrament.

**Dec 8, 2013: Feast of the Immaculate Conception.** The Legionaries prepared the liturgy for mass on this feast.

**Dec 2013: Advent Services.** Advent neighbourhood services were held in the different areas of the Parish.

**Dec 31,**

**2013: Holy Half-Hour.** Members were appointed to organise a half hour of Thanksgiving before mid-night Mass.

**Mar 20 14: Stations of the Cross.** Our members conducted the Stations of the Cross in church.

**Mar 20 14: Lenten Services.** During Lent, the members organised services in five areas of the parish, with the assistance of the other senior praesidium.

**Apr 17, 2014: Maundy Thursday · Holy Hour.** The holy hour from 11:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight was conducted by our members.

**May 2014: Rosary Services.** The members led the Rosary in Church on some days and Rosary Services were conducted in nine areas of the parish, with the assistance of the other parish praesidia.

**May-Jun, 2014: Preparation for Feast of Pentecost.** During the novena in preparation for the feast of Pentecost, services were conducted by various groups of the parish reflecting the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

## CONCLUSION

As another year closes, we are humbled to see the work done through us. With the prayers and assistance of Our Blessed Mother, and through the driving force of the Holy Spirit, the mission entrusted to us carries on.

Our constant prayer is that we continue to carry out the Will of Our Father, not our own will. We have experienced that as long as our work is inspired by the Spirit and guided by Mary, it has been successful.

We are infinitely grateful for any and all blessings bestowed on us, for all the sufferings and difficulties we have encountered or shared in service, and for the countless experiences we have had over the past year that have taken us beyond ourselves.

We thank all those who have supported us in prayer or deed, and look forward prayerfully and fervently to another year of service to our brothers and sisters.



Annual Picnic



Easter Dinner



Annual Retreat 2013



Annual Retreat 2013



Our members with Our Lady of Hope and Mother of Divine Grace praesidia members at the Lenten Recollection Day 2014



Annual Retreat 2013

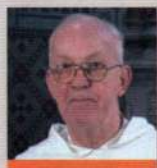
# The Legion of Mary and its echoes of the words of Pope Francis

On the Mission of the Legion of Mary

*Extracts from an Allocutio given by  
Rev. Frank Giuffre  
to the Philadelphia Senatus*



**O**n this day of celebrating the central mystery of our faith, that is, on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, I would like speak about another "mystery" which has been making me wonder as of late: what exactly does Pope Francis think about the Legion of Mary? Recently I read the statement made last year by Fr. Bede McGregor, O.P., the spiritual



director of the Concilium Legionis, who asserted that Pope Francis likely had ties with the Legion in Buenos Aires when he was archbishop since it is believed that in such a capacity he "regularly attended an Acies ceremony and offered his allegiance to Our Lady" (March 23, 2013/"Presentata Curia, Dublin"). Yet an online search on the topic of how our Holy Father views our holy Legion yields little more than that!

While we have meagre direct evidence on the matter, it can be surmised indirectly how Pope Francis views the Legion. A careful reading and study of the Holy Father's vision for the Church outlined in his 2013 apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* [EG] allows one to conclude just how closely the Legion of Mary coalesces with some

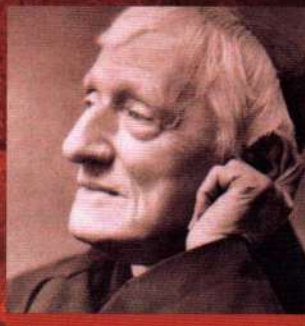
of the major hopes and emphases he highlights in that document. Let us examine together a few of these.

**POPE FRANCIS** asserts his desire for the increase of "missionary disciples" - including a corps of lay missionaries --who channel- their energies toward the evangelisation of today's world rather than for [the Church's] self-preservation" (EG 27; 102). The Legion realises that desire; after all, the Legion is composed of an army of lay apostles (*Legion Handbook* [LH] 59-61) whose object is the evangelical task of "advancing the reign of Christ" (LH 11).

**POPE FRANCIS** calls these missionary disciples to be imbued with a joy that conveys less the shadows of Lent/Good Friday and more the radiance of Easter morning (EG 6). The Legion realises this call; after all, among the initial citations in the Handbook is one from *The Imitation of Christ* charging each member to, "with Mary, live joyfully" (LH 27).

# On Being Called to Mission

Blessed John H Newman



God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.

Somehow I am necessary for his purposes, as necessary in my place as an Archangel in His - if, indeed, I fail, He can raise another, as He could make the stones children of Abraham. Yet I have a part in this great work; I am a link in the chain, a bond of connexion between persons.

He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling.

Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him.

My sickness, or perplexity, or sorrow may be necessary causes of some great end, which is quite beyond us. He does nothing in vain. He may prolong my life, He may shorten it; He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about."

*John H Newman*



reported that following many visits, a couple agreed to have their child baptised. Another praesidium reported that one woman was persuaded not to have an abortion. Three praesidia undertook *Exploratio Dominicalis* projects. In *Gozo Comitium* the annual meeting for Spiritual Directors had an attendance of nineteen. 'The Joy of the Gospel' was the theme of a Congress organised by the Comitium. Fourteen legionaries from the Comitium took part in an extension drive in Swatar on Malta Island.

**PORTUGAL:** A praesidium in *Lisbon Senatus* prepared 100 sick persons for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and the Sacrament of the Sick and taught four ladies how to recite the Breviary. In the *Comitium of Cascais* catechesis includes preparation of children for Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. *Porto Regia* reports three new praesidia with one in the Comitium of Braga. The *Regia of Coimbra* held two recruiting drives. Nine praesidia and two curiae were visited on the island of *Madeira* by the Lisbon Senatus President and correspondent. In the Azores, 12 priests and 194 members attended a Congress and the junior praesidia had a Day of Recollection.

**SPAIN:** In *Madrid Senatus* work with Aids patients resulted in many becoming auxiliaries. The Pesca Joven (Fishing for Youth) project includes afternoon and night street contact with youth. The families of children recently Confirmed are visited to encourage them to continue in the practice of their

faith and to join parish groups. True Devotion to the Nation ventures include cooking, sewing, reading and writing classes for the many immigrants in the Senatus area. Legionaries in *Barcelona Senatus* visit homes and jails and good work is done with drug addicts, street people, H.I.V. patients, South American and Russian immigrants and gypsies. The Senatus has 12 Patricians groups. They report follow up visits to ex-prisoners and conduct an apostolate to prostitutes. Legionaries contact deaf people and one legionary is learning sign language to assist at a special Mass for them. One praesidium has many religious sisters, formerly legionaries in Kenya, as adjutorians. Another praesidium also has a convent of sisters as adjutorians. *Bilbao Senatus:* A praesidium in Bilbao celebrated its 50th anniversary; this praesidium has members from Guinea Equatorial and Columbia. They promote the True Devotion, visit the blind, Alzheimer's sufferers and former prostitutes. *Basauri Curia* also celebrated its Golden Jubilee. It does a lot of work with youth. *Pamplona Curia* works with gypsies and immigrants.



**GREECE:** The praesidia in Greece received a visit from the Malta Regia. The visitors attended meetings of the two praesidia in Thessalonica, one Greek-speaking and one English-speaking. The legionaries teach catechism, promote the Rosary and visit the elderly or people in difficulty accompanied by the Spiritual Director. Rhodes has two Filipino praesidia, one senior and one junior. The praesidium in Athens is working away in difficult conditions.

**ITALY:** The *Rome Senatus* lost one of the pillars of the Legion in Italy with the death on 20th November 2013 of Bro. Giovanni Monti, known in civil and military circles as General Monti, who joined the Legion in Rome in its earliest days and was faithful to the last. He held office at different times at praesidium, Curia and Senatus level, and carried out extension in Sardinia and Southern Italy. He had a huge interest in the Orthodox and had established friendly contact with all sections of Orthodoxy in Italy. There is a photo of him and his praesidium in the company of Bro. Duff during Vatican II and prominently among them is Bro. Sergio Grotoff, of the Russian Orthodox Church. When he could no longer go out, his praesidium met at his bedside and he passed away an hour or so after his last meeting. Mgr. La Rosa, Senatus Spiritual Director, was Chief Celebrant at his funeral Mass which was attended by a large number of legionaries. Br. Monti's wife and fellow legionary joined him in eternal life a few weeks later. May their souls rest in peace. An increase in activities in the *Milan Regia*

has been attributed to the intercession of Frank Duff. Sunday Mass leaflets are distributed to contacts in parks, gardens and bars. There were big attendances at the Rosary and Benediction held in Apartment Compounds during May. Over 100 persons, plus legionaries attended Catechesis sessions for the Year of Faith on: '*The Faith of Mary, Mother of God*' and '*The Faith of Frank Duff*'. There has been an increase in Praetorian and Adjutorian membership. Extension work is continuing in three parishes in *Padova Comitium*. True Devotion to Mary features in reports. Bishop Antonio Mattiazzo sent a message of encouragement on the approval of the Legion Statutes in Rome. In Verona the Nigerian praesidium prepares children for the Sacraments. 11 received First Holy Communion and 19 Confirmation. They have started a new junior praesidium.

**KOSOVO:** The first Legion meeting in Kosovo took place on 29th April 2014.

**MALTA:** Over the summer months a Curia organised Eucharistic Adoration on the seafront, during which legionaries did contact work. Confessions were available. As a result of this apostolate, 30 youths went to Confession. The apostolate of a junior Curia with 12 praesidia includes contacting fellow students, with whom they promote the Sacrament of Confession and attendance at Sunday Mass. Another Curia reported the consecration of homes and lapsed Catholics returning to the Sacraments after a number of years. One praesidium

prayers and how to pray the Rosary. *Bicolandia Senatus*: A campaign for the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes is on-going. Legionaries in a praesidium with 14 active and 6 probationers teach catechism to 35 pre-school children. *Kabaukalan Comitium* reported the visitation of 144 Prisoners and the building of a Prison Chapel with the help of legionaries. *Tigbanan Comitium* reported that due to legionary efforts, a 93 year old woman received her first Holy Communion. *Lipa Regia* established 19 new Junior praesidia and two Patrician groups, one of which is in a Jail. Councils reported many returns to the sacraments,

**SRI LANKA:** Enthronement of the Sacred Heart was undertaken in 80 homes in one area and 177 in another. A junior Curia with 12 praesidia visit homes of the sick and elderly, recite the Rosary with students, and teach Catechism.

**TAIWAN:** Much effort has been put into recruiting Adjutorians among retired priests and Religious Sisters, especially in nursing homes. A Curia which recently celebrated its 60th anniversary set up two new praesidia. 49 people were baptised after instruction by legionaries. The English-speaking Curia in Taiwan has eight praesidia, which carry out hospital and home visitation and visit work places and do street contact.

**THAILAND:** Prison visitation is undertaken and the Good News is shared with prisoners, ten of whom were baptised. Three couples had their

marriages regularised in Church. During school breaks catechism instruction is given to students with the cooperation of priests and deacons. Students from other faiths also attend the catechism classes. Legionaries in rural areas cooperate with the Red Cross to teach hill tribes. Visitation to remote areas is undertaken and children whose parents have died due to HIV are helped.

## EUROPE

**ALBANIA:** The apostolate includes visits to the old and lonely in their homes, especially in the city, taking part in funerals, bringing people to the Sacraments and notifying the priest about housebound parishioners, who would like to receive the Sacraments. The legionaries also teach children catechism, visit families, hospitals and asylums, clean up churches and tombs and visit families with the statue of Our Lady.

**CYPRUS:** There are three praesidia in Nicosia and one in Limassol. The apostolate in Nicosia includes works of service, church activities, hospital visitation, plus street and park contact. Many lapsed and those of other faiths and no faith are contacted. The lapsed were encouraged to return to Mass and Confession. The legionaries were instrumental in the return of two people to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The apostolate of the praesidium in Limassol includes the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes, home visitation, visits to the old, sick and lonely, and works of service.



home and hospital visitation, and also do family counselling. Four Hindus became Catholics. Some marriages were regularised. They have a committee promoting the three Legion Causes for Canonisation. 430 attended the Acies with the Bishop present. In *Visakhapatnam Comitium* Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes was undertaken in seven different areas in one Curia and in six villages in another Curia. Six new praesidia were formed. Much work is done encouraging separated couples to reunite. Seven couples had their marriages blessed in the Church. Prisons, Orphanages, HIV and leprosy patients are visited. Preparation for the Sacraments and home and hospital visitation are among works undertaken in *Palaymakottai Comitium*. Two suicides were prevented. *Port Blair Comitium* works in several parishes on the Andaman Islands in the Indian Ocean. Mentioned in reports were the organising of weekly Liturgical Services and giving talks on the Year of Faith each Sunday. They visit homes and are rebuilding praesidia that had ceased to function.

**PHILIPPINES:** In the *Senatus of Northern Philippines* an apostolate to 4200 prison inmates by seven praesidia in the *Manila Comitium* was undertaken and there is a Patricians group in the city jail. Contact is made with street dwellers, security guards, seafarers and beggars. In *Dagupan Comitium* junior Curia legionaries encouraged 10 teenagers who were playing basketball in the street to receive the Sacrament of Confession;

they are now members of a junior praesidium. Many reports feature returns to the Sacraments, plus adults and teenagers converted from sects. *Makati Comitium* reported that one junior member entered a Seminary and three senior members joined a Convent. *Western Visayas Senatus:* Reports show many conversions to the Catholic Faith, marriage validations, reciting the Rosary on the radio, home visitation, crowd contact, Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes, jail apostolate and teaching catechism. After much contact and prayer a couple with three children were persuaded to have a Catholic wedding. A convert is now an active legionary. A Curia reported the recovery of a sick person after the prayer for the beatification of the Servant of God Frank Duff was recited. *Mindanao Senatus:* Two Jehovah Witnesses families were converted, and following catechesis by legionaries, three Mormons were converted. Several couples who converted from Sects were baptised and married during a wedding ceremony centred round the Mass. Following an orientation course conducted at a Seminary by legionaries, three praesidia were restarted comprising 26 Seminarians. *Cebu Senatus:* After the November 2013 meeting the total Senatus area suffered appalling devastation by Typhoon Haiyan. Yet they reconvened again in December. Many people suffered grievously, but not one single meeting was deferred. Communications were impossible for quite a time. A junior praesidium organised a prayer group with 40 members aged between five and thirteen, who were taught the basic

**EL SALVADOR:** On home visitation the legionaries invite people back to the Sacraments as well as promoting parish activities, including retreats for young people. They are also helping legionaries and non-legionaries to learn to read and write. An attached praesidium worked hard in preparation for Mercy Sunday. Over 700 people went to Confession, some of them after a long absence from the Sacrament. Two street girls, who left the street-life, are now good practicing Catholics. One young man gave up drugs and alcohol and another left the street gangs and joined a junior praesidium after attending a retreat.

**NICARAGUA:** *The Regia of Managua* is active in extension. The attached *Comitium of Leon* set up one senior and two junior praesidia and the attached *Comitium of Granada* has initiated extension in a neighbouring province. A legionary has been appointed to the National Council of the Episcopal Conference for the Laity. As a result of crowd contact a young father arranged the baptism of his young son. Junior legionaries in Managua work in the market area contacting young drug addicts; they share the Word of God and if possible a little prayer for them and their families.

**PANAMA:** A Curia attached to the *Panama Regia*, reported the setting up of five new praesidia. A second praesidium reported extensive visitation of a new area in the parish, informing the residents of the various parish ceremonies and activities. Another praesidium organises and facilitates

small prayer group meetings in different neighbourhoods.

## ASIA

**HONG KONG:** Legionaries in the *Hong Kong Comitium* are engaged in street contact, catechism classes, visitation of the elderly, parish work, Sunday Schools, helping with funeral rites and visiting prisons, hospitals and the Addiction Treatment Centre.

**INDIA:** Extension, recruitment and Evangelisation are given high priority by *Karnataka Senatus*. There is much outreach to non-Christians. The Bishop in charge of lay organisations had a meeting with the Mumbai Senatus officers. The legionary apostolate in the Senatus includes home and prison visitation and Sunday school catechism. A Legion Formation Day took as its theme, Chapter 9 of the Legion Handbook: *The Legionary and the Mystical Body of Christ*. *Kottar Regia* established five new praesidia. Many people were instructed in the Sacrament of Confession. A suicide attempt was averted. *Chennai Comitium* reported that the 31st of August had been allocated to the Legion to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady. 800 legionaries assembled in the Church and a procession was held. Legionaries in *Red Hills Curia* teach catechism and arranged for 25 marriages to be regularised. Legionaries in *Coimbatore Comitium* are very much engaged in



## WEST INDIES

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:** All praesidia in the *Senatus of Santo Domingo* engage in extensive visiting of homes, catechesis of children, visiting the sick and prisoners. Fifty four legionaries participated in the annual Holy Week project, "La Jornada de Semana Santa" organised by the *Senatus*. Legionaries, at the invitation of the priest, go to areas he cannot reach and conduct the Easter Triduum. Legionaries in the *Senatus of Santiago de los Caballeros* prepared 86 individuals for the Sacrament of the Sick, 8 children and 3 adults for Baptism, 10 youths for Holy Communion. A total of 36 adults and people received Confirmation. Visits to psychiatric hospitals and prisons were made. A *Comitium* reported two men aged over 50 who had never been to Confession were prepared for Confession and Communion. One died soon after and the other is faithfully practising.

**HAITI:** In the *Senatus of Haiti* 1500 people were prepared for Baptism, 270 for Holy Communion, 990 for marriage and 700 for the Sacrament of the Sick; 387 lapsed returned to the Church. Some councils have junior praesidia attached.

The legionary apostolate includes home and hospital visitation plus visits to people living in tents, catechism courses, preparation for the Sacraments and work for youth.

**PUERTO RICO:** Legionaries help AIDS patients, clean sick peoples' homes and arrange transport. Students are helped with homework and civics. A junior praesidium started at a children's hospital. Many returns to the sacraments were reported. Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes has brought 14 people back to practice. A man of 70 made his first Holy Communion. In the Virgin Islands Curia there are three praesidia, two in St. Thomas and one in St. John.

**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO:** The legionary apostolate includes teaching catechism in the schools and book barrow work. 11 adults were baptised. Two new praesidia were established. Home, hospital and prison visitation are also reported.

## CENTRAL AMERICA

**COSTA RICA:** As well as visiting patients in hospital, legionaries visit their families and also the patients when they return home. Legionaries also accompany some of the patients to Mass in the hospital.

# Gift Suggestions & Recommended Reading

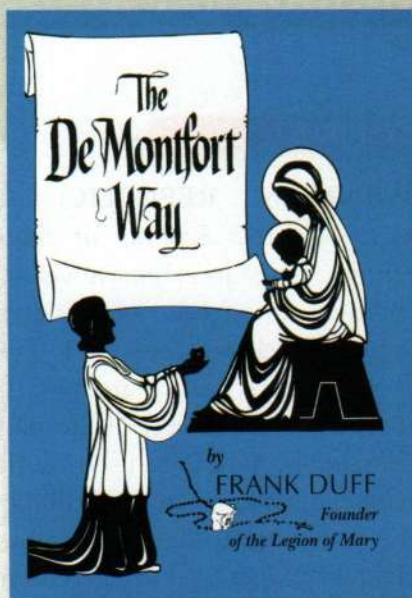


## ALFIE LAMBE



by Frank Duff

Alfie Lambe by Frank Duff  
€0.60 each + p&p



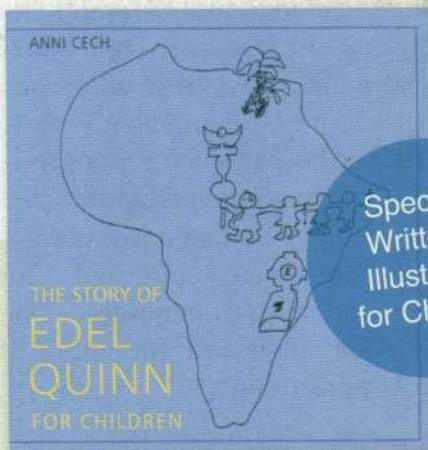
The DeMontfort Way  
€1.00 each + p&p

An Irish Carthusian Nun Writes

## I knew EDEL QUINN



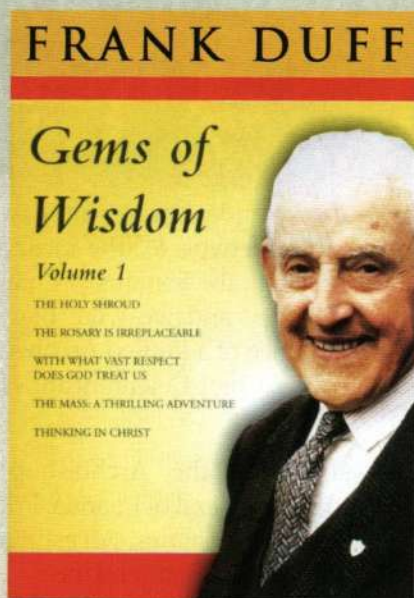
I Knew Edel Quinn  
€0.60 each + p&p



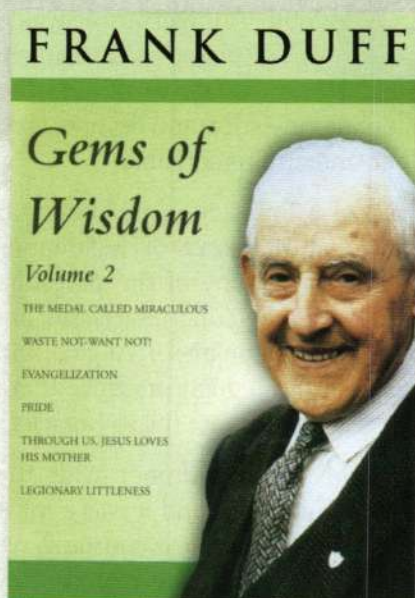
The Story of Edel Quinn for Children  
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For these and other publications please write to:  
Literature Department, Concilium Legionis Mariae  
De Montfort House, Morning Star Avenue,  
Brunswick Street, Dublin 7, Ireland

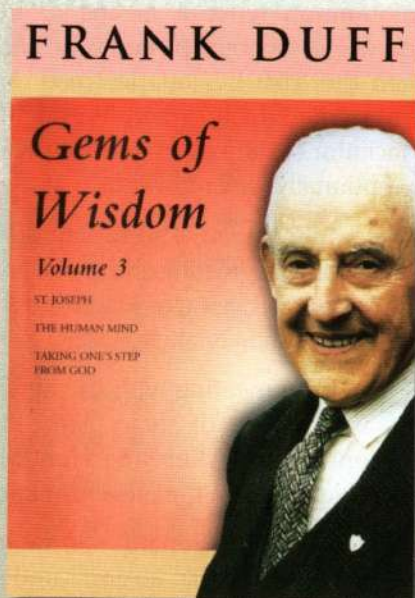
# Gift Suggestions & Recommended Reading



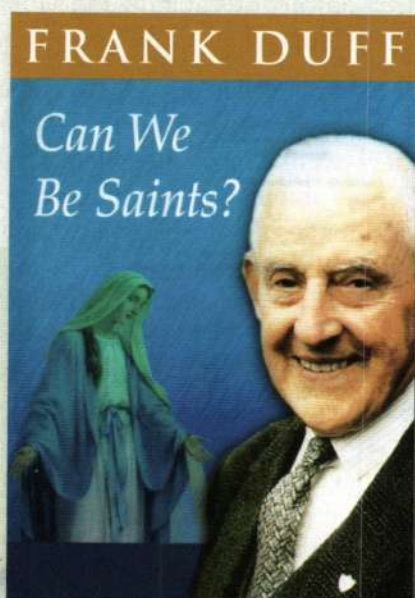
*Gems of Wisdom Vol 1*  
€1.00 each + p&p



*Gems of Wisdom Vol 2*  
€1.00 each + p&p



*Gems of Wisdom Vol 3*  
€1.00 each + p&p



*Can We Be Saints*  
€0.50 each + p&p



It was an S.M.A. Parish and a portrait of the founder of the Order, Melchior de Marion Bresillac - whose 200th Anniversary it was - was displayed in the Church. The great work of the Missionaries in Africa, and beyond, is so evident, and also remarkable.



We visited a Praesidium in Kikolo, at which great numbers of legionaries were present. Many of the praesidia have over 20 Legionaries. There are 130,000-plus Legionaries in Angola, and the Church has a great presence there and the Seminaries are full to capacity.

That night we had dinner with the Officers of the Regia and it was a most enjoyable occasion. Next morning we went to the Parish of the Holy Family and visited a praesidium there. In the afternoon we had a meeting with the President of the Senatus of Benguela and the officers of Cabinda and other attached Councils.

There were many Legionaries present at a meeting held for officers. Their journeys were long - Benguela (150 miles - by car four and a half hours) and one Legionary flew in from Cabinda. An interesting meeting ensued. A fine presentation on the state of the Legion of Mary in their own Councils was given. Some Councils are short of Legion Handbooks and some members suffer from literacy problems. There is a great need in Angola for Legion literature, especially books written by or on the Servant of God, Frank Duff, Venerable Edel, the Servant of God, Alfie Lambe and Miraculous Medals



The next day, Sunday, was the day of celebration, in Mulenvos, for the raising of the Luanda Regia to the Senatus of Luanda. It was a joyful day and we were blest in having the presence of a Retired Archbishop of Luanda as the Chief Celebrant for Holy Mass.

Also present were the Archbishop of Malanje, the Vicar General of Luanda, Priests and thousands of Legionaries. An estimated 5,000 Legionaries were in attendance.

Prior to the celebration of the Holy Mass the Rosary and Legion Prayers were recited. Young Legionaries took part in a Presentation on what it means to be a Legionary. The six hours passed very quickly and then the Irish Legionaries read out a letter from Síle Ní Chochláin, President of the Concilium of the Legion of Mary, which was exceptionally well received.

As the day concluded, Paddy Fay added additional words of greeting and spoke about the Statutes of the Legion of Mary, and their recognition, which had taken place in Rome.

Finally we had a meeting with the Senatus Officers who spoke of their plans for a building on the site where the Holy Mass had been celebrated on the previous Sunday.

The Officers of the Senatus of Luanda accompanied us to the airport, and we returned to Dublin on May 29th.



*We offer our profound gratitude to Our Blessed Lady for the wonderful visit and we also thank Concilium for the privilege.*



## Visit to: LUANDA Angola, Africa

by Delma Noonan, May 2014



The Legion of Mary was introduced into Angola by the late Rev. Fr. Henrique Verdijk, C.S.Sp., a Dutch Spiritan Missionary, in 1951. Later Joan Cronin from Ireland was appointed as Legion of Mary Envoy to Angola and, subsequently, Maria Senra from Portugal served there also as a Legion Envoy. They are to be commended for their courage.

The Concilium was invited to be present at the raising of the Luanda Regia to the status of Senatus.

For the visit to Luanda, Paddy Fay, Secretary, Concilium Legionis Mariae and Delma Noonan, Correspondent to Luanda, left Dublin for Angola on Tuesday May 20th 2014. Our night-time flight was very pleasant.

On arrival in Angola we were met by the Officers of the Luanda Regia and we exchanged warm greetings.



Later in the afternoon the legionaries took us to meet Most Reverend Pedro Luis, Bishop Emeritus of Ndalatando, who was very kind. He welcomed us and imparted his Blessing.

Then we proceeded to the Regia office for an informal meeting with officers of the Regia and many other legionaries. Together we spoke on various matters pertaining to the Legion of Mary.

A Triduum of Prayer was held on the evenings of Thursday, Friday and Saturday - and also Holy Mass for the success of the raising of the Regia to Senatus was offered up. We were privileged to be present at the Triduum.

On Thursday we were taken to visit the Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Luanda, His Grace D. Zefirino Zeca Martins, who was considerate and welcoming. (The former Archbishop of Luanda had died very recently. He was highly esteemed - may he rest in peace.)

His Grace D. Zefirino Zeca Martins brought us to a Chapel in the Residence dating from 1593 (that is 421 years ago) and he expressed his appreciation of the members of the Legion of Mary. He gave us his Blessing.

The following day, Friday, we visited Kikolo, a Parish on the outer edge of Luanda. There we met Rev. Fr. Lourenzo, the Comitium Spiritual Director - an Italian who was very friendly and amusing. His Parish is very busy and he has about 300,000 people in his Parish, many of whom are legionaries.



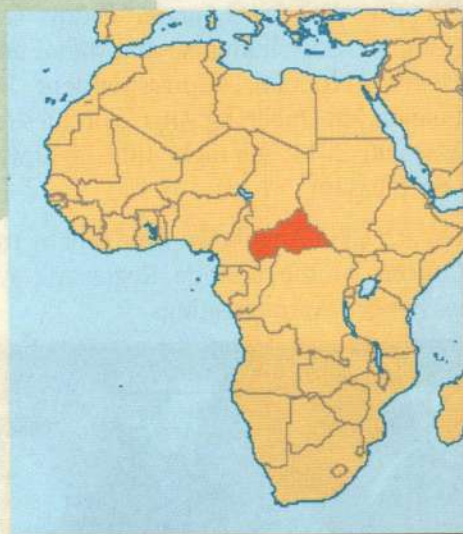
Archbishop of Bangui Dieudonné Nzapalainga and the Central African Republic's Senior Muslim Cleric Imam Oumar Kobine Layama.

Two Curiae combined to keep things going by amalgamating all activities into just one weekly meeting. In many cases members were dispersed into different refugee centres. One Comitium did a survey of its area but found all meetings suspended. Despite the difficulties, members helped each other and helped refugees from the provinces who had fled to Bangui in the hope of finding safety there. Fr. Serge Bangui, the former Director of Catholic Movements, proposed to the Senatus a retreat to help restore the spirit of the Legionaries and, through them, of the Christian people. Over 1000 members attended. It was held in a mainly Muslim sector.

Fr. Serge appealed to the legionaries to spread the word that, irrespective of religion, we are all children of the one God and called to mutual respect and neighbourly help. During the emergency, although meetings were often impossible, legionaries helped in critical situations.

The legionaries of the Cathedral Curia were to the fore in helping the refugees who sought shelter there following the Archbishop's intervention. One episode related by Jean Ouagaza was of a legionary sister who approached two young men carrying guns.

She found that one was a Catholic and the other an Evangelical. Although not Muslim, they had joined the Séléka to be able to enrich themselves on stolen and confiscated goods. After listening to her, they agreed to accompany her to the military barracks and there surrender their weapons. One left to return to his home town and the other sought shelter with some Christian people.



In conclusion, Jean Ouagaza asked for the prayers of the Legion at large, a request we are happy to share with our readers.



# Central African Republic: Sufferings of Legionaries also contribute hope.

**W**e have been aware of the troubles in the Central African Republic caused by the Islamist militants from Tchad and Sudan who call themselves the Séléka. A major incident signalling serious developments was the surrounding of the Cathedral of Kaga-Bandoro on Christmas Day 2012 when these mercenaries entered the Cathedral, fired their weapons and then methodically relieved the families of the keys to their vehicles which were then driven away.

From November 2013 according to a recent letter from the Senatus Correspondent François d'Assise Kakoumandé, there was a complete take-over of both the country and the capital, Bangui. The population was terrorised with rape, robbery, assassination and burning of houses, the objective being to turn the country into a Muslim state. Great numbers including François himself lost all their material possessions. Thanks to outside help, following especially on the intervention from France, the people were able to organise themselves and drive out the invaders. There was then the danger of a violent backlash on the the resident Muslim population, some

of whom had been caught up in the conflict. Archbishop Nzapalainga, in a gesture which helped greatly to defuse the desire for reprisals, offered Muslims sanctuary at the Cathedral and sent his personal car to fetch Imam Layama and his family to come to stay with him.

A meeting of the Senatus was called for on 30th March last (2014) for the purpose of re-assessment. This meeting is described in a long report from Jean Ouagaza, President of the Senatus.

There was an attendance of 52, less than half the usual attendance, mostly from Bangui with some from the Provinces. Fr. Donald Assang, National Director of Catholic Movements, was there to counsel prayer so as to have a divine perspective on what had happened.

During the "occupation", it had become increasingly difficult to hold meetings. Members were threatened. Some Parish Priests had asked legionaries not to hold their meetings. Some presbyteries and churches were pillaged. The numerous legionaries who lost their lives, one who was president of his praesidium was assassinated by having his throat cut as he left his meeting. In several other cases members were shot.



*The hospitality we received in Boston, Philadelphia & Chicago Senatus was outstanding and most generous. Our visits were received in a true spirit of fraternity. Finally, may I, and on behalf of Seamus, thank most sincerely our hosts and the Concilium for the privilege of bringing a message of greetings and of guidance to these councils.*



## Tues 27<sup>th</sup> May:

We were taken to a large Protestant nursing home, where the legionaries are most welcomed. Each Tuesday they ferry 10 to 15 wheel-bound Catholic residents to a Rosary and Holy Communion Service in a common-room on the top floor. This we participated in on the day. 70 residents also received Holy Communion in their rooms.

That evening we attended the local praesidium, at which, seven of their eleven members were in attendance, due to Memorial Day holiday. A well-ordered praesidium and a varied work programme.

## Wed 28<sup>th</sup> May:

We again accompanied them to a Mass celebrated by a local pastor. On this occasion we helped ferry 30 wheel-bound residents from three other floors to the Mass and back, some operation! In the late afternoon, Peter accompanied us to the airport for our flight home to Ireland.



Fri 23<sup>rd</sup>/Sat 24<sup>th</sup> May:

The Friday & Saturday were full of talks and discussion and a crowd contact session in downtown Chicago, to show new and older members Legion techniques of making contacts and reporting on same. Both of us delivered papers on, Re-capturing the Legion Spirit and Re-discovering Frank Duff's version of New Evangelisation: PPC.



A plenary session of Senatus took short highlighted items from all the outlying councils, giving these officers an opportunity to report and to receive encouragement in their normal isolation. The Senatus Sp. Dir., Fr. O'Reilly and a Sp. Director, from Peoria Diocese, Msgr. Bliss, stayed all the weekend, fully participating and con-celebrating Mass each day for the legionaries.

Mon 26<sup>th</sup> May:

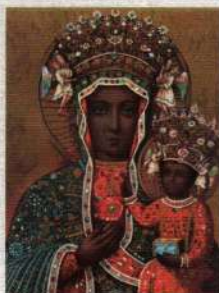
Early afternoon, we attended an almost 4 hour meeting with the Senatus officers, at their rented premises in downtown Chicago. Most of the officers attended, including Fr. O'Reilly. We had a wide-ranging review of their activities. They are a well-balanced and generous group of officers and are aware of the needs of their territory. Many extension efforts result in new praesidia and renewed positive contact with clergy.



## Wed 21<sup>st</sup> May:

Was an All-Day in Bucks County, Chris was formerly president of this Curia.

On the way we attended Mass at the shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa.



Then on to a Catholic radio studio for voice-over for some prayers with music, and mention of the Legion. In the afternoon we were at a junior praesidium at a grade school with a lively bunch of eight year olds.

Later in the evening attended an adult praesidium of 15 members in Doylestown. Only one retiree, all the others were in their mid-forties! It was a friendly meeting and Handbook study expertly done by a budding theologian.

## Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> May:

On Thursday we left for Chicago.

Met at the airport by Peter Skocik, president of the Senatus. He was a most generous host, driving us to our many engagements and looking after all our needs.

The May Gathering, the original purpose of our visit, was held in a retreat and conference centre. We and he were booked into the centre for the weekend.

On the Friday afternoon, representatives from 6 states, namely, N&S Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana and Illinois, started to arrive. Coming long distances, the furthest, over 900 miles! This is the only opportunity for these distant councils and praesidia to make physical contact with fellow legionaries in the year.





### Mon 19<sup>th</sup> May:

Rosario took us to a downtown church, to do crowd contact on the sidewalk, meeting lunch-goers, who were most friendly and receptive. After a quick meal, Rosario drove us back to the hotel, to be collected by Leo, from a praesidium in Norristown, to the Comitium's house, also known as the 'Brother House', where street people have facilities twice a week. We attended a well conducted 8 man praesidium meeting, who cater for the men each week.



### Tues 20<sup>th</sup> May:

At noon in our hotel, we held a meeting with the officers of the Senatus, which was most informative and helpful in future planning. This Senatus is the designated council responsible for the supervision of the Maria Legionis and general Legion literature throughout the USA & Canada on behalf of Concilium.

We encouraged the Senatus to participate fully in the World Meeting of Families, taking place in Philadelphia in Sept, 2015, at which Pope Francis is expected to attend.

Later that evening, we were taken to a lively Korean praesidium of 8 young ladies.





# Visit to: Boston Philadelphia & Chicago Senatus

*by Raymond Mulrooney & Seamus Rickard  
15 to 28 May 2014*



## Weds 14<sup>th</sup>/Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> May:

We arrived in Boston. Bill Capplis and daughter, Maureen, met us and took us to our hotel in the suburbs. Later we were taken out to a nice evening meal with the Capplis'. Next morning after Mass, we were brought to an all-day meeting at the chancery building in Boston, with officers of the Senatus & other councils attached.

Discussion at the meeting was on extension, structure of councils, Peregrinatio Pro Christo and Evangelisation Days. The latter has attracted the enthusiastic support of the Bishop of Providence, Rhode Island, Dr. Tobin, who was interviewed on radio coast to coast, praising the Legion for this initiative.

## Sat 17<sup>th</sup> May:

We arrived in Philadelphia. The Senatus president, Chris Coakley and a Legion friend met us and brought us to our hotel near Norristown. Next morning, Rosario Fajarda, a local legionary brought us to Mass and to coffee for chat on Legion matters. She was at the International Eucharistic Congress in 2012 in Dublin and during that week at the Legion reception for overseas visitors.

Fr. Giuffre, the Senatus Sp. Dir., very kindly collected us and took us to the Legion house in Philadelphia for the Senatus meeting, which celebrated its 50th year as a Senatus in the presence of 5 Sp. Directors. We brought the greetings of the Concilium on this auspicious occasion.



**POPE FRANCIS** pleads for missionaries - who devote themselves to persevering, personal contact with "the suffering flesh of Christ in others ... , standing by people at every step of the way, no matter how difficult or lengthy this may prove to be" (*EG 24*). The Legion realises that plea; after all, the Legion in its "Standing Instructions" declares this same sentiment as a goal: that its members strive to see and serve the person of Christ in one's fellow members and in those served (*LH 109*) - and doing so through loving, personal contact (*LH 28*).

**POPE FRANCIS** begs these apostles in the service of the Church to show great courage and zeal for the Gospel, demanding that each be "ready to put his or her whole life on the line, even to accepting martyrdom, in bearing witness to Jesus Christ." At the same time, he counsels them to work with gentleness since "the goal is not to make enemies, but to see God's word accepted and its capacity for liberation and renewal revealed" (*EG 24*).

The Legion realises this request; after all, the Legion prods members to cultivate Mary's multi-faceted spirit in everything they do - and this includes a spirit of "self-sacrificing courageous love for God" and "angelical sweetness" (*LH 12*).

Finally **POPE FRANCIS** envisions that this missionary effort be placed under the mantle of Our Lady whom he terms "the Mother of the Church which evangelises" and without whom the Church "could never truly understand the spirit of the new evangelisation" (*EG 284*).

The Legion realises this vision; after all, the Legion is bold to declare the "utter dependence" of each Legionary upon Mary as a mother who graces every aspect of its existence, including the Legion's work for souls (*LH 21*).

So what does all of this prove? Certainly it does not prove how connected Pope Francis is with the Legion of Mary, but it proves how connected the Legion of Mary is with Pope Francis' vision for the Church today.' Therefore, we as Legion members do not need to worry about changing the Legion so as to meet the challenge our Holy Father gives the Mystical Body of Christ. All we need do is live the Legion to the full and thus make Pope Francis' missionary dream a reality now!