

Maria Legionis



Maria Legionis

The Voice of the Legion of Mary

Edition 1 of 2010

€1.00



The Sacred Heart – Canon Seamus De Val	3
Inactive Catholics – Bishop Galeone	5
Cardinal Newman Quotes from Handbook	6
Visit to Alfie Lambe's Homeland – Janet Lowthe	8
Kazakhstan – Bernardo de Nardo	10
St. Joseph	14
More Than Any Other Woman – Frank Duff	15
The Gentle Persuasion – Marie Dunleavy	20
Praises of Mary	22
Nearness to Jesus – Bishop Paul Cremona	23
Vatican Bulletin	25
World News	26
Brian McKeown, Former Envoy – Enda Dunleavy	31
St. Patrick's Breastplate	32

"Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. In this way, what the Lord had said through the prophet was fulfilled:

I called my son out of Egypt."

Matt 2: 14-15



Published by: Maria Legionis, Presentata House, 263 North Circular Road,
Dublin 7, Ireland, Tel: + 353 1 8387770, Fax: + 353 1 8385133.

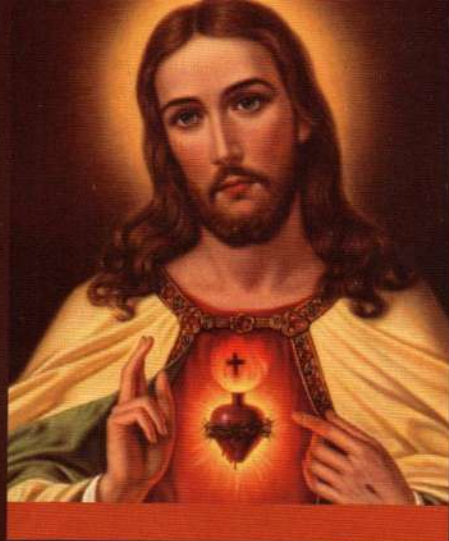
Magazine enquiries - e-mail: marialegonis@eircom.net

Annual Subscription, including postage. €8.00 per 4 copies.

Design: MacArt, Dublin, Ireland, Tel: + 353 1 2852508. Email: macart@indigo.ie

Print: Hudson Killeen, Dublin, Ireland, Tel: + 353 1 829 3450. Web: hudsonkilleen.ie





The Sacred Heart

Canon Séamus De Vál
Ferns Comitium, Ireland.

When Frank Duff died, he was found lying on his bed looking at a picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the wall opposite. He was always devoted to the Sacred Heart. He was not long in the Legion when he suggested the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes as a work that the Legionaries might undertake. When the Sancta Maria Hostel was opened, a picture of the Sacred Heart was hung there. That same picture is now in the Legion Headquarters and Frank said about it 'That picture has seen a lot of Legion history'.

At the end of the seventeenth century, the heresy known as Jansenism had been minimizing the love of God for men, and as a reaction to this the worship of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was introduced into the liturgical life of the Church.

Through the efforts of three people, devotion to the Sacred Heart spread. These were, first, St. John Eudes. He was born in Normandy in 1601 and joined the religious order known as the Congregation of the Oratory, founded by St. Philip Neri about a hundred years before. In 1643 St. John Eudes himself founded a new congregation, the Congregation of Priests of Jesus and Mary, and their work was giving missions and directing seminaries. In the following year he founded the Daughters of Our Lady of Charity. He devoted himself to promoting devotion to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. He died in 1680, and was canonised in 1925.



St. John Eudes



St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

The next name we associate with devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is that of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque who was favoured with visions of the Sacred Heart in which Our Lord told her to spread devotion to his Sacred Heart. She met with a great deal of opposition but she continued striving to spread this devotion until she died in 1690. She was canonised in 1920. She was helped greatly in this work by St. Claude la Colombiere.

Fr. Claude la Colombiere died of TB at the age of 41, two years after St. Margaret Mary. He was beatified in 1929, and Pope John Paul II canonised him on the 31st of May 1992.



Fr. Claude la Colombiere

The Heart of Jesus represents the infinite love he has for us, and sums up everything he has done for us, and all the graces and favours we have received through his Incarnation and Redemption. We worship the Sacred Heart, wounded for our sins, and so the feast day is one of reparation for our sins as well as thanksgiving, adoration and love.

In the visions which St. Margaret Mary had, the devotions Our Lord asked for were, first, that people receive Holy Communion on nine consecutive First Fridays in reparation for the sins of the world; secondly, the devotion of the Holy Hour; and thirdly, that a Feast day in honour of his Sacred Heart be observed. It was Pope Pius IX who established the Feast of the Sacred Heart in 1856.

Regarding the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in people's homes, I'll conclude by quoting the Handbook:

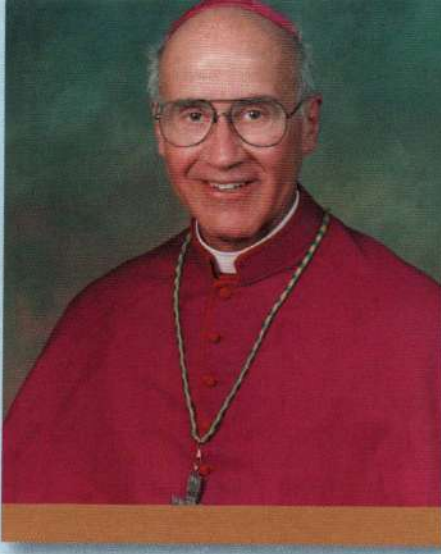


Pope Pius IX

'As it is the mission of Mary to bring about the reign of Jesus, so there is a special appropriateness (which should attract the special graces of the Holy Spirit) in the Legion of Mary propagating the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart.'

NOTE: St. Margaret Mary died 17 October 1690;
St. Claude la Colombiere died 15 February 1682.

Mary Magdalen



INACTIVE CATHOLICS BY BISHOP GALEONE

In April, 2009, Bishop Victor Benito Galeone of the Diocese of St. Augustine, Florida, U S A., addressed the following to the Pastors in his care:

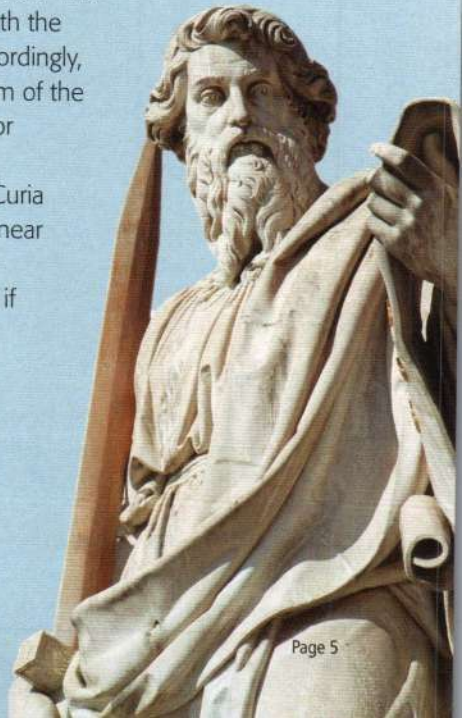
"In this Jubilee Year dedicated to St. Paul, I would like to see the New Evangelization, initiated by Pope John Paul and reinforced by Pope Benedict, bear fruit in our diocese. A recent poll indicated that the second largest religious denomination in America today is comprised of inactive Catholics.

The Legion of Mary has always had this apostolic outreach as a central component of their mission to serve the Church. This lay apostolate has an excellent record of working with the local pastor in reaching out to lapsed Catholics. Accordingly, I encourage all parishes to have an active praesidium of the Legion of Mary, either by renewing a dormant unit or founding a new one.

Mr. Charles Kane, the President of the Jacksonville Curia of the Legion of Mary, will be contacting you in the near future to help you set up a new (or renewed) praesidium, and even to help you recruit members, if necessary.

Visit the website: <http://www.jaxcuria.org>

The duty of extension is not the duty of the officers alone. Nay, more, it is the duty of each and every Legionary, Handbook Chapter 31, Extension and Recruiting.



Selected Quotations by

Venerable John Henry Cardinal Newman

drawn from

The Legion of Mary Handbook

(2005 Edition)



Mary's relation to the Eternal Father is usually defined as that of Daughter. This title is intended to designate: (a) her position as: "The first of all creatures, the most acceptable child of God, the nearest and dearest to him". (*Meditations on the Litany of Loretto for the Month of May*) Chapter 7 – *The Legionary and the Holy Trinity*

Cardinal Newman states it as a principle that: "In all times the laity have been the measure of the Catholic spirit." (*Present Position of Catholics: Lecture 9*) Chapter 10 – *The Legion Apostolate – Section 2*

"It is a moral force, not a material, which will vindicate your profession and secure your triumph. It is not giants who do most. How small was the Holy Land! Yet it subdued the world. How poor a spot was Attica! Yet it has formed the intellect Moses was one, Elias was one, David was one, Paul was one, Athanasius was one, Leo was one. Grace ever works by few; it is the keen vision, the intense conviction, the indomitable resolve of the few, it is the blood of the martyr, it is the prayer of the saint, it is the heroic deed, it is the momentary crisis, it is the concentrated energy of a word, or a look which is the instrument of heaven. Fear not, little flock, for he is mighty who is in the midst of you, and he will do for you great things." (*Present Position of Catholics*) Chapter 10 – *The Legion Apostolate – Section 7*

"Grow you must; I know it; it is your destiny; it is the necessity of the Catholic name; it is the prerogative of the Apostolic heritage. But a material extension without a corresponding moral manifestation, it is almost awful to anticipate." (*Present Position of Catholics: Lecture 9*) Chapter 16 – *Additional grades of Membership – Section 1*

"You must accept the whole, or reject the whole; reduction does but enfeeble, and amputation mutilate. It is trifling to receive all but something which is as integral as any other portion." (*Development of Christian Doctrine: Chapter 2*) Chapter 20 – *The Legion System Invariable*

"Never do men come together in considerable numbers, but the passion, self-will, pride, and unbelief, which may be more or less dormant in them one by one, bursts into a flame and becomes a constituent of their union. Even when faith exists in the whole people, even when religious men combine for religious purposes, still when they form into a body, they evidence in no long time the innate debility of human nature; and in their spirit and conduct, in their avowals and proceedings, they are in grave contrast to Christian simplicity and straightforwardness. This is what the sacred writers mean by the 'world,' and why they warn us against it; and their description of it applies in its degree to all collections and parties of men, high and low, national and professional, lay and ecclesiastical." (*Sermons Preached on Various Occasions: Sermon 14*) Handbook – Chapter 28 – *Government of the Legion – Section 1, subsection 25(e)*



"All the works of God are founded on unity, for they are founded on Himself, who is the most awfully simple and transcendent of possible unities. He is emphatically One; and whereas He is also multiform in His attributes and His acts, as they present themselves to our minds, it follows that order and harmony must be of His very essence." (*Order, the Witness and instrument of Unity*) Chapter 28 - Government of the Legion - Section 2, subsection (16)

"To be many and distinct in his attributes, yet, after all, to be but one - to be sanctity, justice, truth, love, power, wisdom, to be at once each of these as if he were nothing but it, as if the rest were not - this implies in the Divine Nature an infinitely sovereign and utterly incomprehensible order, which is an attribute as wonderful as any, and the result of all the others." (*Order, the Witness and instrument of Unity*) Chapter 28 - Government of the Legion - Section 3, subsection (8)

"God is an infinite law, as well as an infinite power, wisdom, and love. Moreover, the very idea of order implies the idea of the subordinate. If order exists in the Divine Attributes, they must have relations one to another, and though each is perfect in itself, it must act so as not to impair the perfection of the rest, and must seem to yield to the rest on particular occasions."
(*Order, the Witness and instrument of Unity*) Chapter 28 - Government of the Legion - Section 4 subsection (7)

"Thus God's power, indeed is infinite but it is still subordinate to his wisdom and his justice; his justice, again, is infinite, but it, too, is subordinate to his love; and his love, in turn, is infinite, but it is subordinate to his incommunicable sanctity. There is an understanding between attribute and attribute, so that one does not interfere with the other, for each is supreme in its own sphere; and thus an infinitude of infinities, acting each in its own order, are combined together in the infinitely simple unity of God." (*Order, the Witness and instrument of Unity*) Chapter 28 - Government of the Legion - Section 5, subsection (11)

Remember too, that "they, who are ever taking aim, make no hits; that they who never venture, never gain; that to be ever safe is to be ever feeble; and that to do some substantial good is the compensation for much incidental imperfection." (*Rise and Progress of Universities: Chapter 1*) Chapter 32 - Objections which may be Anticipated- Section 11

"Him who from the mire, in patient length of days, Elaborated into life a people to His praise!" (*Dream of Gerontius*) Chapter 37 - Suggestions as to Works - Section 6

"Persons influence us, voices melt us, deeds inflame us. We are not converted by syllogisms" (*Grammar of Assent: Chapter 4*) Chapter 37 - Suggestions as to Works - Section 8 - The Book Barrow

"Either the Catholic religion is verily the coming of the unseen world into this, or that there is nothing positive, nothing dogmatic whither we are going." (*Discourses to Mixed Congregations: Discourse 13*) Chapter 37 - Suggestions as to Works - Section 8- The Book Barrow

"I have an intense feeling in me as to the power and victoriousness of truth. It has a blessing from God upon it. Satan himself can but retard its ascendancy; he cannot prevent it." (*Present Position of Catholics: Lecture 9*) Chapter 40 - Go Preach the Gospel - Section 3

Postscript: Syllogism: An instance of a form of reasoning in which a conclusion is drawn from two given or assumed propositions, a common or middle term is present in the two propositions but not in the conclusion, which may be invalid.

John Henry Cardinal Newman will be beatified in September this year at a ceremony in Wembley Stadium, London, England.

Guadalupe Morad's Visit to Alphonsus (Alfie) Lambe's Homeland

by Janet Lowthe

Miss Guadalupe Morad, a historian from Argentina, whose help had been enlisted by those working on Alfie's Cause in Argentina, paid a visit to Ireland in July 2009. The Cardinal of Buenos Aires appointed her as Chairperson of the historical commission for the Cause of The Servant of God Alfie Lambe in Buenos Aires in January 2009.

Having met a number of the Concilium officers, she visited Alfie's house in Tullamore and members of Alfie's family, including his sister Kathleen, Fr. Lorenzo Bracken, a former school classmate and a number of the local legionaries. In Kinnegad she met Fr. Oliver Skelly, Vice Postulator for Alfie's Cause and attended the Committee meeting of legionaries from the Meath Diocese, whose aim is to promote Alfie's Cause.

Miss Morad's visit to Ireland gave great encouragement to all those working on the Cause of Alfie Lambe, her wonderful interest in the life of Alfie encouraged all to look more closely at his life, see his

wonderful qualities, his life as one of great hope, it's relevance in today's world, especially his acceptance of the change in direction his life took, his motivation to seek the positive and in doing so achieving so many visible results but probably even more hidden ones!



Listening to Miss Morad, the words of Hilda Firtel in her short biography on Alfie spring to mind:

"The life of Alphonsus Lambe was like a meteor. It flashes suddenly before us, soaring to giddy heights, but hardly have we admired its splendour, than it is gone. But whereas a meteor leaves no trace, Alfie's work is thriving and flourishing in all the countries where he was active. The flame which consumed the Irishman and which he knew how to enkindle in all those who surrounded him, has become a wildfire which has seized an entire continent."

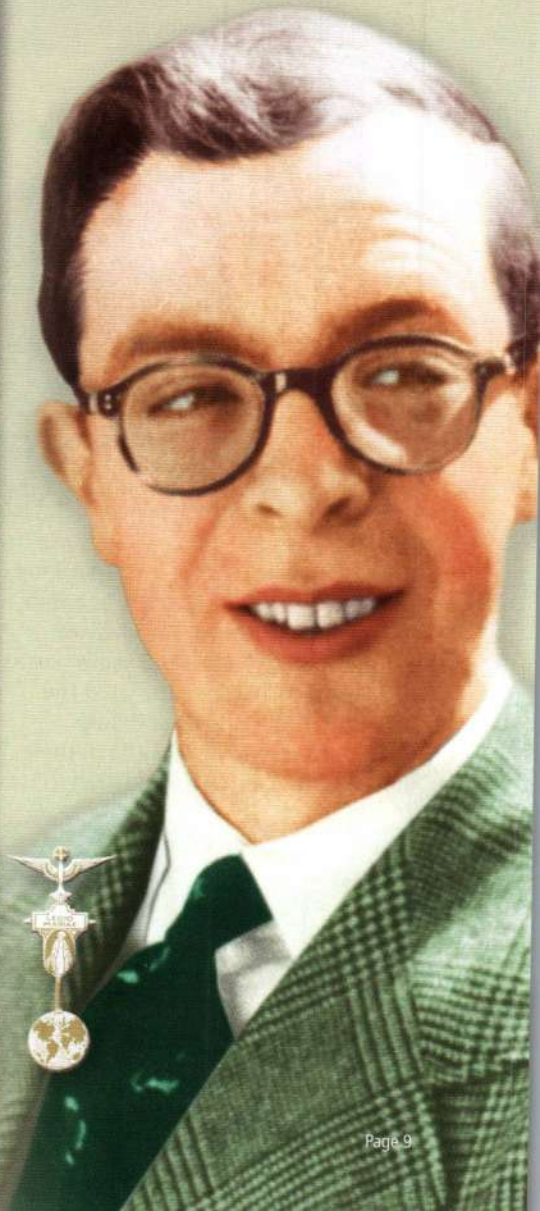
(Hilda Firtel)

Dr. Michael Smith, Bishop of Meath, closed the tribunal on 15th July 2009 and all the paperwork from the Meath Tribunal has been sent to Buenos Aires. When the work of the Cause is completed in Buenos Aires, all the documentation will then be sent to Rome. In the meantime there is need to make Alfie better known and encourage people to seek his intercession and report favours attributed to his intercession to Concilium.

The year (2009) marks the 50th Anniversary of the death of The Servant of God Alphonsus Lambe.

The Servant of God **Alfie Lambe**

*FAVOURS ATTRIBUTED
to his intercession should kindly be reported to:
Concilium, Legion of Mary,
Brunswick Sreet, Dublin 7, Ireland
Leaflets with prayer for his beatification
may be obtained from Concilium.*



Kazakhstan

By Bernardo de Nardo



The Legion of Mary began in Kazakhstan in 1999, when a husband and wife team, Bill and Morag Mitchell, from Scotland, arrived to start the first praesidium.



They worked very hard, sometimes in very difficult conditions and founded many praesidia. Their work in harsh conditions in vast remote areas of Central Asia (which is the same size as all of Eastern Europe) attracted the attention of the priests and laity. They started many praesidia in their subsequent visits to Kazakhstan in

2000, 2002 and 2004. Their work in such difficult conditions showed the people of Kazakhstan their deep love for the Church and the Legion of Mary and set an example for future legionaries. On my arrival in Kazakhstan in November of 2006, thanks to the work of Bill and Morag, the harvest was ready to be reaped.



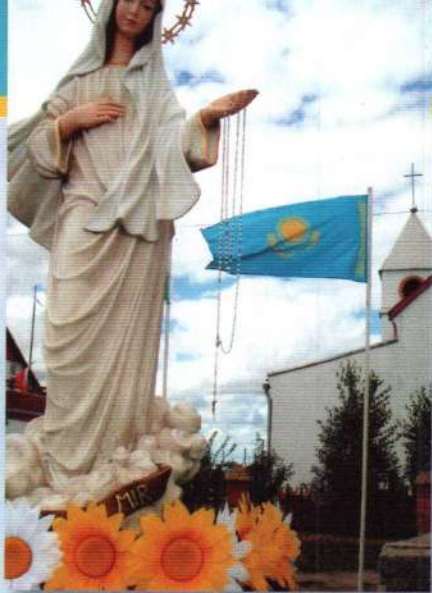
Astana City



National Shrine of Kazakhstan Mary Queen of Peace in Ozornote village

My first goal was to try to visit all the existing praesidia. On my arrival in the new capital of Kazakhstan, Astana, my travels began over this vast and beautiful country. Travelling takes a lot of time, due to the vastness of the country, and although sometimes it could be a little bit tiring, the beauty of the landscape makes it worthwhile. Whether in winter, when the temperature can drop to -40°C or in summer when it can go up to $+40^{\circ}\text{C}$, the majesty of the vast Kazak steppe is always present to enlighten the soul and to make it easy to praise God for His work.

All the praesidia visited were doing excellent apostolic work, such as hospital visitation, helping alcoholics, visitation of the sick and lonely, catechism, etc. With the support of all the Bishops, a few more praesidia were started in three different dioceses. On one occasion at the request of the Rector of the Seminary in Karaganda Diocese, I gave a talk to the seminarians to explain the spirituality, system, work of the Legion of Mary and its presence in Kazakhstan and the whole world. The opportunity was taken to talk to them about the lives of the Servants of God Frank Duff and Alfie Lambe and of Venerable Edel Quinn.



Mary Queen of Peace, Patroness of Kazakhstan

Even though the work was always very intense, there was time to relax and play some sports. One day when I accompanied a priest to celebrate Mass in a little village, we played an ice-hockey match in the street. The temperature that day was minus 20 degrees centigrade, but we had a lot of fun. Some memorable volleyball matches were played with the seminarians.



Junior praesidium in Krasnokievka, Astana Archdiocese



Enjoying hockey at 20° below zero



Praesidium Mary Queen of Kazakhstan Karaganda

After several months of work and of struggling to improve my knowledge of the Russian language, we started thinking of establishing two Curiae in Kazakhstan, one for Astana Archdiocese and the other for Karaganda Diocese. That is how in September of 2007 with the support of Archbishop Jan Pavel Lenga, Bishop of Karaganda, the Curia in Karaganda Diocese was started with four praesidia. We were honoured to have Monsignor Athanasius Schneider, Auxiliary Bishop at the first meeting. His words were really inspiring, he encouraged the legionaries to keep working in union with Our Blessed Lady in order to work on our personal sanctification and also to bring many souls to Jesus.

On 8th of December of 2007, a date, which surely was chosen by Our Lady,



Praesidium Mother of the Good Council Kokshetau, Astana Archdiocese

the Curia for Astana Archdiocese was started in the city of Kokshetau. For the inauguration ceremony, the Archbishop, Monsignor Tomasz, presided at the Mass that was concelebrated by 4 priests.

Thirty legionaries were present at the first meeting; many of them had travelled 400 km in order to be there, a real commitment to Our Lady. Before leaving the place to attend another meeting, the Archbishop gave a present of a Miraculous Medal to each member of the new Curia. It would be impossible to narrate all the marvellous work that every praesidium is doing, so this is just a glimpse of some of the more remarkable experiences.

Two praesidia involved in hospital visitation were praised by the authorities of the hospital for their



Praesidium Mary Mother of the Church, Karaganda



Members of Karaganda Curia



Praesidium Mary Mother of God, Petropavlovsk,
Astana Archdiocese

work of love and compassion to people of different religions.

In a nursing home that legionaries visit regularly, a young lady was baptised and received Holy Communion and Confirmation. A Lutheran man who had been visited by legionaries for a while asked to be received into the Catholic Church a day before he died.

In Kazakhstan people of more than 100 different ethnic groups live in harmony. This represents a source of richness for the country and also a unique opportunity for the Church to show the universality of the Gospel.

The challenges for the future will be dialogue with the members of other religions, and to bring the message of Jesus to all the different ethnic groups that live in Kazakhstan. No doubt the



Members of Kokshetau Curia
Astana Archdiocese

Legion can do this, because it has the experience required in the apostolate and especially in giving legionaries a deep knowledge of the role of Mary in the work of salvation.



Archbishop of Astana Archdiocese Monsg. Tomasz Peta,
celebrating Mass for the inauguration of the Curia
in Kokshetau



Praesidium Mary Queen of the Confessors, Karaganda



Junior praesidium in Atbasar, Astana Archdiocese



Saint Joseph

Husband of Mary,
Foster Father of Jesus,

Feast Days: March 19, May 1

Patron of: the Universal Church, of workers (May 1st),
fathers, the poor, craftsmen, and a happy death.

Saint Joseph was chosen by God to be Jesus' father on earth, to raise him, teach him and protect him. The Bible tells us that he was a 'just man.'

An angel appearing to Joseph in a dream told him that Mary's child was the Messiah, conceived by the Holy Spirit. Joseph trusted God's angel. He married Mary and took her into his home.



Saint Joseph, the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster father of our Blessed Lord was a descendant of King David. This fulfilled the scripture prophecy that the Messiah would come from 'the house of David.'

After Jesus was born, the angel again appeared to him, warning that the Child was in danger. Joseph responding to the angel's message took his family to Egypt to escape from Herod's soldiers.

After many years, the Holy Family returned to their home village of Nazareth.

The only other event in the Bible about Saint Joseph is the 'Finding in the Temple', when Jesus was missing for three days. Eventually, Joseph and Mary found him in the Temple with the scribes and elders.

Jesus returned home with Mary and Joseph and 'was subject to them', meaning he was obedient and respectful of their parental authority.

After the Mother of God herself, no one has ever been so blessed with virtues as Saint Joseph, the divinely appointed head of the Holy Family. In purity of heart, in chastity of life, in humility, patience, fortitude, gentleness and manliness of character, he shows us the perfect model of the true Christian.

Saint Joseph is father to all of us.

In 1870 Pope Pius IX declared him Patron of the Universal Church.

Prayer to Saint Joseph:

St Joseph, you are the chaste and loving spouse of the Virgin Mary, the foster father of Jesus, the protector and provider of the holy Family and all families. We have complete confidence in your loving care for new life and in your fidelity to the family. We commend our efforts to your prayers and protection. Help us always to defend the gift of human life that it may grow to the abundance of human life promised and bestowed on us by your son, our brother Jesus Christ. *AMEN.*



More than any other woman



The Virgin Mary was the most perfect creature who ever came from the hands of God; yet her stay in the world was barely noticed by her contemporaries!

Mary, Pattern of All Womanhood

Despite the fact that she was so elevated by grace as to approach the borders of the divine, she remained none the less a woman. It was her divinely planned role to be true woman and true mother, and it would mar our relations with her for us to lose sight of that. All the wonders accomplished in her did not diminish her womanhood, but indeed intensified it; so that she was more a woman than any other woman. This sounds startling, but it is a truth proceeding from the circumstance that, unlike any other, she did not suffer from the warping of original sin. She began as a perfect woman. Then she became subject to the law of grace; her practice of virtue brought increase. She grew in holiness. With apparent contradiction in terms, her perfection became each new moment more perfect. When her earthly career finished, she was so full of grace that she had reached the limit of the human condition. She had responded faithfully to God's giving. He had had His way fully with her.

She was the original pattern in God's mind for all womankind. No other has achieved it. All other women fall short in some respects and in varying degrees. Some are too feminine. Others are insufficiently feminine. Softness need not mean gentleness, nor hardness strength. Interest may be only curiosity. Sentiment may not mean love. Prudery is not modesty. Prudence may be only worldly caution. Courage may be really recklessness. Calm may mask indifference. Honesty be no more than shrewdness. Refinement may cover a multitude of sins. And so on through the gamut of human qualities.

MORE THAN ANY OTHER WOMAN

But there is in all these things an ideal point where balance lies. To fall short of it means defect. To go beyond it means defect. So if we were to think of the human race as a great mass inside a circle, all of its members would be at various distances and directions from that perfect point, the exact centre. Mary is that centre, and there is no other with her or indeed anywhere near her.

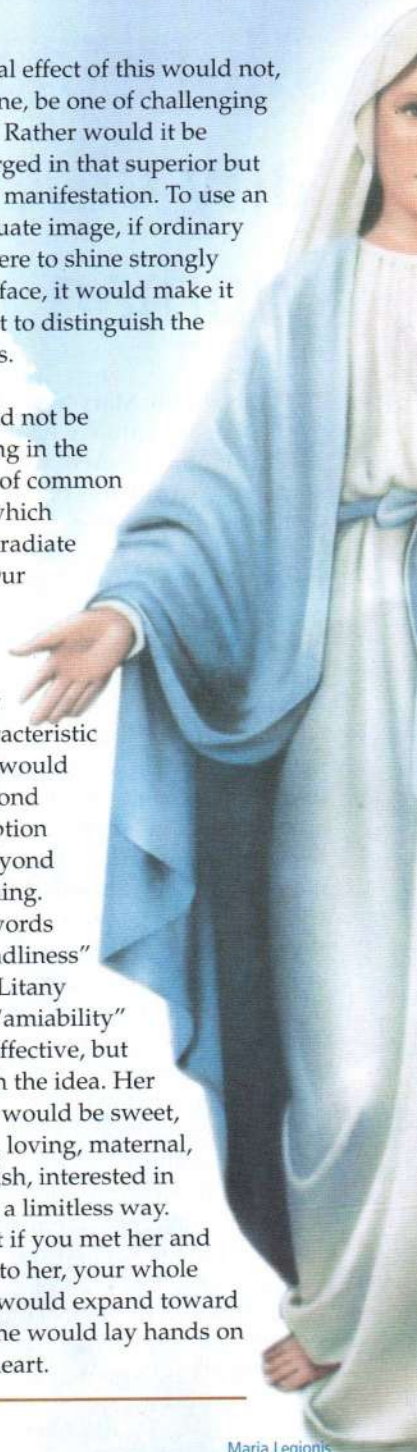
Let us have an enquiring, reverent look at this extraordinary creature: So great that it has been said that the angels rejoice more in her birth than in their own creation. So modest and normal that she could live under the intimate gaze of 3,000 Nazareans without attracting undue notice.

What did she look like? We must not be misled by those pious pictures of her, which show good-looking faces without character. Neither was she the spectacular type, which would draw the eyes of everyone in a street. That would not be fitting. Obviously her beauty would be of a different sort, a quieter, nobler, unobtrusive kind. Truly there would be a perfection of feature. But her face would possess a spiritual quality, which would be its supreme attraction, but which would at the same time tend to veil the physical beauty. Plainly no artist could be expected to depict such a combined projection of nature and grace.

Therefore in Our Lady we have to consider the presence and the interaction of those two types of beauty – or perhaps more than two? We will have an exquisite regularity of form – and then the Mother of God looking out through that lovely frame.

The total effect of this would not, I imagine, be one of challenging beauty. Rather would it be submerged in that superior but elusive manifestation. To use an inadequate image, if ordinary light were to shine strongly from a face, it would make it difficult to distinguish the features.

It would not be anything in the nature of common light, which would radiate from Our Lady's face, but a quality or characteristic which would go beyond description and beyond imagining. Such words as "kindliness" or the Litany word "amiability" are ineffective, but contain the idea. Her aspect would be sweet, gentle, loving, maternal, unselfish, interested in you in a limitless way. So that if you met her and spoke to her, your whole being would expand toward her. She would lay hands on your heart.



Probably she would not even be smiling. The expression would go deeper than that. I do not mean that she would never smile. Of course she would. But the abiding note would be that interest, love, motherhood, and – hidden in all those things – strength. For she was a tremendous character, the strongest after her Son that ever lived. And in this connection it is to be remembered that it was from her that He got His human character and disposition. God did not do violence to that part of human generation.

Strength of character and mind was her special feature. She was an unparalleled person. The Immaculate Conception put her mind and body into a superior category to all others. She was intellectual, not in the ordinary sense of that word which concentrates rather on what the mind knows than on its essential quality. Degree of knowledge is a different thing from purity and perfection of intellect. So let it suffice to say that her mind was supremely great. She did not possess knowledge useless to her.

But she had every quality in its highest form and in strict proportion, unlike ourselves in whom everything is unbalanced. She was that perfect centre which we always manage to miss.

She was educated in the precincts of the Temple. She was there from three years of age. This meant that she received an education at the very height of that imparted to women of her time. It would be the equivalent of our best University training, but more suited to a woman's future. She would have a knowledge of the Scriptures, for this would be strictly necessary to her mission. Her acute memory and intelligence would lay open to her all the richness and hidden meanings. She probed the prophecies and sensed more of the symbolism than any of the scribes or scholars. One thing they did not reveal to her: that she herself was the promised Virgin, the Woman of Genesis.



Arts & Crafts

Unquestionably she would have been versed in some of the arts and handicrafts. She probably spoke several languages, because the Jews were a far-flung people. She would be capable in weaving, knitting, needlework, embroidery, and probably in drawing and painting. Her supreme genius would have to assert itself in all those departments, but it would not be in our modern technical method which to ideal standards probably represent exaggeration, and to Heaven perhaps a distortion.

She would be expert in those arts in a healthy, rational way which would not be conspicuous. The purest water, you will realise, and the clearest glass, approach invisibility, and the same would apply to all her qualities.

Most likely she was musical; that she sang much and merrily as a girl, and then to her Babe. Afterwards – we know not. The holy home was definitely not the seat of gloom. But likewise it was too much a place of destiny for light-hearted singing.

What way did she talk? It must have been according to the best rules of speech. For it was she who taught Our Lord to speak, and that had to be well. When men exclaimed of him “that never did man speak as He did”, they were no doubt referring to the subject matter. But we may be sure that it was expressed in a worthy way, both as to accent and manner. Undoubtedly Mary came back to her native place speaking with the choicest Jerusalem accent, and

exhibiting cultivated manners. Normally this would draw down on the returned one the imputation of airs, pretence, affectation; but not on her. Her transparent sincerity would ward off any such criticisms.

She would have been a good pen-woman, notable in a time of general illiteracy. She must have written many letters. It would be lovely to see one; what would the handwriting experts make of it? Botticelli's pictures and others show her often as with pen and inkbottle. One Sicilian town claims to have an actual letter of hers written to thank them for some service to the infant Church.



The Human Mary

How would she be dressed? After her marriage to St. Joseph she was not so well off. Some say they were very poor, but this is not certain, though they may have been in difficulties during the Egyptian exile. It is sure that at her marriage she was elegantly clad, as every Jewish maiden had to be. It is evident that at the Cana wedding feast her position was one of respect and authority.

At all times and in all circumstances she would be neatly, tastefully dressed; even though her clothing might be mended and patched. Cloth had to last long in those days when it was all laboriously made by hand.

She did not go barefoot, though many of the apparitions show her thus. Presumably she used the national footwear, sandals.

A shoe of hers is preserved at Soissons in France, which is reputed to have worked many miracles. Probably people in those days, as ever since, had two outfits, one for common wear and one for celebrations.



It is necessary when considering Mary to preserve that balance already insisted on. The contemplating of her as co-operator with the Holy Trinity, as Mediatrix of all Graces, and as Mother of every man – must not lead us to dehumanise her; that would be disastrous.

So side by side with that vital, higher aspect, we must dwell on her as the real woman, with the woman's mind and qualities and with all the woman's problems.

So far from being removed from us by her closeness in soul and blood to God, she is thereby brought the nearer to us. For she is our Mother in the most intimate sense, more loving by far than our natural mothers, more solicitous, more understanding, more necessary.

It is imperative to know her!

Frank Duff

The Gentle Persuasion of a friend in the life of Frank Duff



by Marie Dunleavy

Frank Duff was born on 7th June 1889 just as the first pneumatic tyre (air filled) appeared on the market and the bicycle became the rage of the day. That was a lucky coincidence for Frank because the bicycle was to be an almost inseparable companion to him during his life. In those days, children's bicycles were un-thought of so Frank would have learned to ride his father's bike 'under the bar'. However in 1903, the father had to retire from his job through ill-health, and he gave his bicycle to Frank. He was then 14.



When he was 18 and got his first job, he bought himself the best bicycle of the day, a Dursley-Pederson, which had a slung saddle. In 1914 on the eve of his 25th birthday, he got up very early on Sunday morning, cycled to the Carmelite Church in Whitefriar Street, in Dublin's south inner-city where he attended early Mass and oversaw the commencement of the picket duty at the proselytisers' free-breakfast centre. Then he hit the road for Drogheda, a town some

40 miles north of Dublin. From there heading north again, he went on to Castlebellingham and Dundalk, then westwards to Ardee and from there south through Kells, Navan, Athboy, Trim (Freffans), Rathmolyan, Maynooth, Leixlip and Lucan before heading east for home. But for a puncture, he would have headed on for Bray, a seaside town in County Wicklow some 15 miles south of Dublin, in order to bring his total mileage to 200. As it was, he completed 155 miles in 15 hours 20 minutes, having started at 8.00 in the morning and finished at 11.20 pm. From Dundalk, Kells, Navan and Athboy, he sent postcards to friends in the Land Commission, where he worked, giving them the time and the distances covered and we are lucky to have those cards today.

In the first he says to his friend Hinton: "This is to prove that I thought of you in this town". Now these were days of rising nationalism and Hinton was an Englishman from Somerset. He goes on to tell Hinton that it had rained for half the distance and blew a gale in his face so that he had to bend double over the bicycle the whole way. In the card from Kells, he tells another friend, Stephen Murphy: "The wind has been dead against me since I started although I have now gone North, West and South", but in the next one from Navan to A.G. Lewis he says: "Came from Kells at great speed. Going to have a drink". It was in October 1916 that he became a member of The Pioneer Total Abstinence Association (The Pioneers)



Nine months earlier before this epic trip, he had joined The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP), not because he wanted to but because his friend, Jack O'Callaghan, was such a nice fellow he could not say "no" to him.

At that time Frank was into athletics, running, swimming and cycling. He had even got an operation done to his nose to increase his intake of oxygen to increase his speed. He was a member of two tennis clubs at the same time, Kenilworth and Herbert Park. So he had told Jack O'Callaghan that he was too busy to join. But Jack did not give up on him and so, in October 1913 he went with Jack to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Conference of the SVP attached to Whitefriar Street Church.

Soon all that brimming energy was turned into a new channel, working among the poor, among the girls on the street, the men and women who slept in lobbies, many so down that they went to the proselytisers for the free breakfasts where virulent anti-Catholic bias damaged their Faith.

For extra oxygen, he turned to prayer. It seems to me that we are looking at a stupendous miracle of grace here because, in 1916, to help the newly formed Catholic Truth Society of Ireland which had lost premises, stock and records in the flames of Ireland's rebirth, he wrote a small but significant pamphlet "Can we be Saints". In the final part of this booklet one reads: "Our hearts were made to hold the biggest and the purest of

loves. For nothing less than this did God intend them. It is dishonouring such vessels to keep in them a love based only on motives of reward or punishment, wholesome though these are. So let us try to send our love for the Good Shepherd to summits far above such thoughts of self, and love him – not that in heaven we may reign, – not to escape eternal pain, – nor in hope of any gain but for Himself, that we may satisfy with something clean that great love of His which craves for our love. And as this pure love strengthens in our hearts, it will soon, like the eagle, grown impatient even of the mountain peaks, and hunger after heights of heights, till – with the Little Flower – we cry out in longing: Jesus! Jesus! I would so wish to love you ... Love you as you never yet have been loved."

So, like Jack O'Callaghan long ago, let us not give up on trying to enlist our friends in the Legion because the Legion can be their date with destiny.



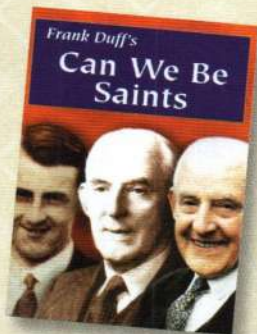
Think of Mrs Lily Kirwan, already a widow, when asked by Frank to come to Myra House. She was to become the first President of the Legion and the first President of Concilium.

Prayer for the Beatification of the Servant of God Frank Duff

God our Father,

You inspired your servant Frank Duff with a profound insight into the mystery of your Church, the Body of Christ, and of the place of Mary the Mother of Jesus in this mystery. In his immense desire to share this insight with others and in filial dependence on Mary he formed the Legion of Mary to be a sign of her maternal love for the world and a means of enlisting all her children in the Church's evangelising work. We thank you Father for the graces conferred on him and for the benefits accruing to the Church from his courageous and shining faith. With confidence we beg you that through his intercession you grant the petition we lay before you... We ask too that if it be in accordance with your will, the holiness of his life may be acknowledged by the Church for the glory of your Name, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Favours attributed to the intercession of Frank Duff should be reported to:
Legion of Mary, De Montfort House, Morning Star Avenue
Brunswick Street, Dublin 7, Ireland.



The booklet referred to
"Can we be Saints"

is available for €0.50 + p& p

For this and other publications please
write to: Literature Department,
Concilium Legionis Mariae,
De Montfort House, Morning Star Avenue,
Brunswick Street, Dublin 7, Ireland.

PRAISES OF MARY



Let us not imagine that we obscure the glory of the Son by the great praise we lavish on His Mother. The more Mary is honoured, the greater is the glory of her Son.

Saint Bernard of Clairvaux

When we speak the name of Mary, heaven becomes more beautiful, and earth rejoices. The demons are terrified, and vanish like dust in the wind.

Saint Francis of Assisi

I command all my brothers, who are living now and who will live in the future, always to praise the Mother of God, and with every means to honour her everywhere as well as they are able, and have recourse to her with the greatest respect and surrender.

Saint Francis of Assisi

How beautiful you are in soul and resplendent in body, Mary, my Mother. In this world, the Blessed Virgin was poor and unknown, but in heaven, she is glorious and beautiful, the Queen of Angels.

Saint Anthony of Padua

The whole world is indebted to Jesus for His Passion. Similarly, all of us are indebted to Our Lady for her compassion.

Saint Albert the Great

Those who enjoy the favour of Mary are recognised by the citizens of heaven. And those that bear her stamp, that is, those that have the grace to be her servants, are inscribed in the Book of Life.

Saint Bonaventure



Nearness to Jesus

His Grace Mgr. Paul Cremona
Metropolitan Archbishop of Malta,



Allocutio at
Regia of Malta
August 2009

While thanking you for your invitation, I wish to express the gratitude of the Church in Malta and Gozo for the work carried out by the Legion of Mary.

I had the opportunity to serve as a Legion of Mary Spiritual Director during my convent days in Rabat, later in Gwardamangia and finally in my short span as a Parish Priest in Sliema

The Handbook reading taken from Chapter 2 about the aim of the Legion, offers two interesting trends worth reflecting upon. The legionary absorbs the holiness radiated by Mary and then helps in her priority role of taking people to Jesus.

First of all I think that the legionary's personal sanctity derives from nearness to Jesus. The ultimate goal is Christ through Mary. If the legionary wants to arrive to Christ, the path to be mapped and followed is Mary. In this respect I want to share with you three experiences which Mary had with Jesus.

The first kind of experience was physical in the sense that Mary could embrace Jesus as a baby, touch him and wave to him; basic human interactions so common to us all. Only Mary could have an experience of this kind, perhaps

also the apostles, in part. Anything similar which we can think of is prayer. The Church, even Pope Benedict in his first encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, claims that our encounter with God has an identity, one cannot converse with utterances but with a face, and this face is God's. We try to live this experience in the moments of recess with Jesus.

The second experience is a Sacramental one.

Following the Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit, Mary's relationship with Christ shifted to an exclusively sacramental one. Christ's presence persisted but in the form of a life-giving sign of which Mary partook together with the earliest Christian community. Instead of a dialogue with Her Son, she could only listen to what the apostles had to say of Him, especially about the last three years of his life when He was absent from home. Imagine her spiritual curiosity to know her Son's words.

Instead of embracing Jesus, Mary had the Sacrament. The Church is a Sacrament, the Church is Jesus; and in the Church Mary is the paramount disciple of Christ. Recall that incident when Jesus was preaching and somebody told him that his mother was there.

NEARNESS TO JESUS

What was Christ's reaction: Who are my mother and my brothers? Meaning that it was inconceivable that Mary could actually divert him from his mission, as some are led to think. Mary could see with the eyes of faith; behind the man Jesus, there was the Son of God. Even with us, before judging a person by his looks, whether he has our views and beliefs, we must go beyond and see an image of God.



The third aspect is the striving of Our Lady.

We must return to the earliest days of the Church. Today things have changed and many are living a cultural religion, which we must eradicate. This was what the first Christian community did, and circumstances were hardly favourable. In personal contacts we should first ask whether that individual has taken the radical decision that Christ is relevant for her/him.

Forty years ago this was a foregone conclusion, because everyone came to Church to be baptised. Not today! Today we have to lead them to this decision through evangelisation.

Firstly it must be an evangelisation of the cake. What does that mean? Imagine a housewife passing on a recipe to another; she does not tell her to try it; but tells her instead, that the previous day she had prepared that mouth-watering dish and all the family ate with relish to the last crumb. Do not urge people to recite the Rosary but rather tell them what a heavenly experience it was to have prayed the Rosary together in the family. Make your interlocutor ask; What was this singular feeling that I missed? This is the approach; do not tell people what they should do, but share with them your personal spiritual experience and make them crave for it.

Secondly do not be afraid to sow the seed with every possible chance you get. During the last Bishops' Synod I heard a moving story from an African Bishop. A native was narrating the parable of the sower to a group of farmers. Suddenly one of the audience, in no unsure terms, denounced the sower's laziness. On being asked to explain, he replied that before sowing the seeds he should have tilled the land in preparation. How astoundingly different is God's reasoning! He throws the seeds without having ploughed the land expecting them to take root. This is my exhortation; never stop throwing the seeds; there is nothing to lose.

Let me illustrate. Some time ago I was coming out from prayers when a woman approached me and told me that she had a Bible with my signature. 'What's the big deal!' I thought. 'You signed my Bible when I was in prison,' she went on. 'Now you must repay the Lord, repay Him by doing a lot of good,' I added jokingly. A man by her side replied, 'Father I came for Adoration because she brought me with her.' Just a signature, it could have been a smile; these are the seeds to sow. Do not say it is futile – always throw the seeds. Who knows how many times Mary told of Jesus' childhood habits to everyone she met. She could not possibly have kept them for herself - could she?

Vatican Bulletin

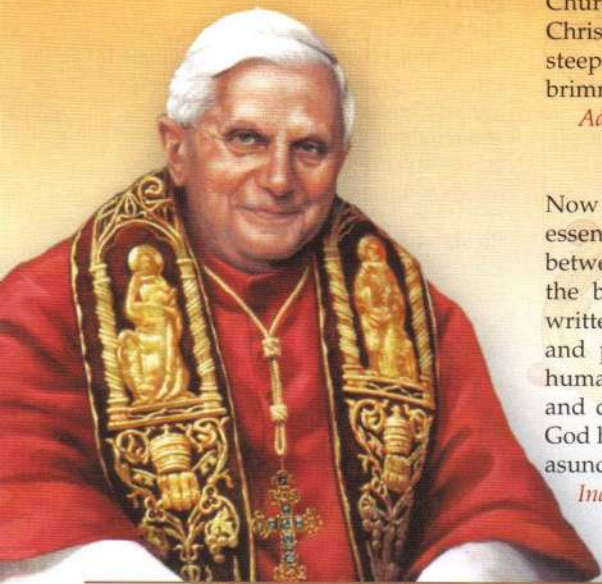
Words from Pope Benedict XVI

Always let yourselves be transformed and renewed by the Gospel, to follow, what is truly good and pleasing, to God

*Reflection on the Solemnity of the Holy
Patrons of the Church of Rome*

The power of faith, the power of God, is the truth. The truth about the world and about ourselves becomes visible when we look at God. And God makes himself visible to us in the face of Jesus Christ.

Homily at conclusion of Pauline Year



In the end, truth does conquer, not by force, but by persuasion, but by the heroic witness of men and women of firm principle, by sincere dialogue which looks beyond self interest to the demands of the common good.

Vespers at Cathedral of St. Vitus, Prague

Man needs to be liberated from material oppressions, but more profoundly he must be saved the evils that afflict the spirit. And who can save him if not God, who is love and has revealed his face as almighty and merciful Father in Jesus Christ? Our firm hope is therefore Christ.

Mass at Turany Airport, Czech Republic

We take confidence in knowing that the Church's proclamation of salvation in Christ Jesus is ever ancient and ever new, steeped in the wisdom of the past and brimming with hope for the future.

*Address to Ecumenical Council of the
Czech Republic*

Now life – as we well know – is essentially expressed in the union between the man and the woman and in the birth of children; the divine law written into nature, is therefore stronger and pre-eminent with respect to any human law, according to Jesus' concise and clear affirmation: "What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder" (Mk 10:9).

*Inauguration of the Second Assembly
for Africa*

Sourced from L'Osservatore Romano by kind permission of the editor

THE HOLY FATHER

The Roman Pontiff, as the successor of Peter, is the perpetual and visible principle and foundation of unity of both the bishops and of the faithful.

LUMEN GENTIUM, 23





ASIA AND OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

Melbourne Senatus: Constant attention is given to extension and new senior and junior praesidia are set up fairly regularly. The main apostolate includes home visitation, visiting nursing homes and hostels, bringing Holy Communion to the sick and assisting in parish activities.

Sydney Senatus: The Legion exists in 10 of the 11 dioceses covered by the Senatus. Works listed include visits to Catholics and non-Catholics among the Koreans, Indonesians, and Vietnamese with excellent results; evangelisation at market fairs, operating a Catholic information centre and book barrow, teaching state school catechism and visiting prisons, seamen and hostels.

Solomon Islands: The Legion is in 2 of the 3 Dioceses. There are 11 and 21 praesidia respectively in each Curia. Recently 4 new praesidia were established. Visitation to homes, seamen and a prison were reported. Twenty-six children were Baptised and Exploratio Dominicalis projects were carried out.

Brisbane Comitium: The Comitium celebrated their 70th anniversary at the July meeting. A Mass and reception preceded the meeting. A congratulatory letter received from Concilium President was read and appreciated. The Legion is in 13 parishes of the Brisbane Archdiocese. There is a Legion presence in each of the dioceses of Queensland and recently 2 new praesidia have been formed.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland Senatus: Four new praesidia were set up in parishes where the Legion did not exist. Auxiliary rallies are held by all and great care and attention is paid to their membership. A Patrician meeting has an average attendance of 18. **The Junior Curia** has 8 praesidia and

130 members who work with seniors on hospital and nursing home visitation, run a religious stall and help with the Sunday liturgy, altar serving and rosary apostolate. In May, 11 Maori New Zealanders aged 13 to 15 years were Baptised and Confirmed.

Papua New Guinea: Conversions from the sects features in most reports. Legionaries are helping Basic Christian Community groups by encouraging their leaders to get members involved in the apostolate. **Rabaul Regia,** Two letters were received in March and July outlining progress and expansion in areas where the Legion did not exist particularly on the large island of Bourgainville.

PHILIPPINES

Mindanao Senatus: The Biennial conference for all Filipino councils was held in Cagayan De Oro and was judged a huge success. Members learned a great deal especially regarding the government of the Legion. Conversion is a priority with the council and many inspiring reports of returns from the sects were detailed.

Bicolandia Senatus: The Senatus marked the 50th anniversary of the death of the Servant of God Alfie Lambe by organising a Mass and talk on his life. Two praesidia in a jail have 24 members. A junior Curia set up 4 new praesidia. Legionaries help the priest in preparing children for their First Confession. Returns to the faith of Born again Christians and Seventh Day Adventists were reported.

Western Visayas Regia: Exploratio Dominicalis is promoted. There are university and seminary praesidia and a good presence of junior legionaries. A new Comitium was set up and more are being organised. Conversion of a Muslim mother and Baptist woman and her children were reported. Illoilo Curia arranged a "Day with street children". Junior legionaries



in Oton Curia encouraged 653 persons to attend Mass.

Cebu Senatus: Eleven new senior and 4 junior praesidia were set up as a result of extension work. Assisting in the training of disabled and handicapped is the work of juniors. Four Comitia have 13 senior and 1 junior Curiae. Three Regiae reported a membership of over 9,000 members and 700 on probation with over 15,000 auxiliaries, 690 praetorians and 332 Adjutorians. Computer cafes are targeted for recruitment of juniors.

Maasin Regia was inaugurated in February with Concelebrated Mass led by the Episcopal Vicar. 4,000 legionaries attended.

Senatus of Northern Philippines: The Senatus celebrated the 69th anniversary of the founding of the Legion of Mary in the Philippines. Conversions of Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, and Born again Christians were reported. Junior members graduated to senior ranks. Silang Comitium supervise 28 praesidia at Boystown and 33 at Girlstown; both are institutions. Imus Comitium reported 147 individuals from various religious dominations converted to the Catholic faith. Visits to orphanages, institutions for street and abandoned children are the work in Tarlac Comitium. Different praesidia take turns in leading the weekly broadcast of the Rosary at the only Marian Radio station in Asia.

prisoners and distributed Rosary beads and Miraculous Medals. Contact will be maintained with the prisoners through correspondence.

Frankfurt Senatus: The German Legion website is updated and supervised by the officers of both Frankfurt and Munich Senatus. Work reports include railway station apostolate, a bookstand in the city centre and a retreat for non-Catholics. The nine praesidia in the Korean Curia Frankfurt arranged the Baptism of 6 adults and one child, and held Advent retreats. Curia Bodensee organised a retreat and runs 3 Patrician groups.

Cologne Regia: The new Dusseldorf Comitium gave its first quarterly report. 160 Korean legionaries attended an annual retreat. There is a new praesidium in Bochum Stiepel, which is attached to Essen Comitium. There is a new Vietnamese praesidium of 10 in Dusseldorf. The Regia was represented at the Church Evangelisation Day in Cologne.

LUXEMBOURG

Quarterly meetings with the officers of Curia Luxembourg are held by the Cologne Regia officers. Two officers from Luxembourg Curia attended the February Regia meeting and gave a report.

NETHERLANDS

In the Senatus of Amsterdam the Cape Verdian Curia organised 3 coaches to take pilgrims to Fatima. The praesidium visiting street girls reported that some of them had left the area and had asked for help to start a new life. Legionaries carry out the works asked for by various Parish Priests.



EUROPE

GERMANY

Munich Senatus has 2 directly attached comitia, 10 attached Curiae and 13 attached praesidia with a total of 533 active and 5,620 Auxiliary members. Extension is being pursued and a new praesidium has been set up. When visiting a prison, legionaries spoke to female



DENMARK

The praesidium in Copenhagen has a membership of 20. There are 104 Auxiliary members. The apostolate includes block rosaries, visitation of hospitals and sick people in their homes as well as other types of church service.

NORWAY

The praesidium in Tonsberg has six members and their apostolate includes teaching catechism, visiting the sick and housebound and assisting the Parish Priest with church services and activities.

SCOTLAND

The Senatus based in Glasgow with 17 directly attached praesidia governs two local Curiae and 4 other Curiae. Extension and recruiting efforts are being made and a visit was made to Aberdeen where 8 people attended a meeting there. A praesidium set up in 2008 in Glasgow University has 5 members who attend the Wayside Club, visit homes with the Pilgrim statue and do fruitful contact work with a book barrow outside the University Library.

FINLAND

Scottish legionaries took part in a PPC project in Jyväskylä in July. A prayer group set up in Oulu following a previous PPC project, meets twice a month. The members who are all Finnish converts pray the Rosary and the Legion prayers.

BELGIUM

Brussels Senatus: A new praesidium has been set up in Molenbeck. Four Peregrinatio teams worked in the Brussels area in 2009.

Antwerp Senatus: Works consist mainly of visiting the sick and elderly and bringing Holy Communion to them.

SWITZERLAND

In Fribourg, legionaries work apostolate

includes visiting the sick at home and in hospital, bringing them Holy Communion, contacting people on the streets and public areas, works of service and helping with Church activities.



AFRICA

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Bata and Malabo Comitia both now correspond by email, which ensures correspondence is received regularly. Both councils are extending.

CAMEROON

Douala Senatus and Yaounde Regia:

2,000 French Tesseræ and 1,000 English Handbooks are being printed and will soon be available; this will greatly enhance their extension plans.

CAPE VERDE

Cape Verde Regia: All praesidia reporting carry out Exploratio Dominicalis projects. Besides the regular visitation of homes, works also include apostolate to the crowd and catechesis with one Comitium reporting that 120 youths were prepared for Confirmation, 450 children for First Holy Communion and 40 for the Sacrament of Baptism. **Guinea Bissau** reported via Cape Verde that they have 571 active members in the Comitium with 7 directly attached Curiae and 8 praesidia. They held a congress at which there were 300 participants.

BURKINA FASO

The newly appointed National Spiritual Director of the Legion by the Archbishop of Ouagadougou, Monsignor Campaore, is assisting in the development of the Legion in the country.



CONGO REPUBLIC

Brazzaville Regia comprises 26 praesidia, 19 Curiae and 7 Comitua. The Regia visits its upcountry councils and follows the Handbook in French and in Lingala.

IVORY COAST

The Regia is making plans for the development of the Legion to Regia level at Bouaké in the centre and Korhogo in the north of the country.

MOZAMBIQUE

Maputo Regia: One Curia with 28 praesidia set up five new praesidia. Among other works Legionaries visit the sick and prisoners. They prepared 20 couples for Marriage. Another Curia set up a new praesidium with 15 members. The Curia has 30 catechists.

ANGOLA

Benguela Senatus: The new Bishop, D. Eugénio dal Corso attended the February 2009 meeting and thanked the legionaries for their courage and perseverance. The Vicariate Apostolic of Namibe, where the Legion is very well established has been raised to the status of a Diocese. The new Diocese has a Comitium, which is affiliated to the Benguela Senatus.

Luanda Regia: A pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima at Kalulo was held in July. During the Mass, Bishop Dom Benedito gave an inspiring homily. The Regia organised a meeting of officers of councils in Luanda and a meeting with young people, which was considered very positive. A junior Curia in Muxima affiliated two new praesidia and is proposing the setting up of a new junior Curia in Golf. A praesidium of 22 members visited 140 prisoners.

GHANA

Senatus of Accra distributed 10,000 copies of the Frank Duff leaflet and 14,000 more have been printed. They have also made great efforts in promoting the True Devotion to Mary, purchasing literature and organising talks etc. Two of the Senatus officers met with 28 Seminarians, 9 of these are deacons who are all legionaries in Cape Coast Seminary.

Sunyani Regia asked its 6 attached Comitua to organise three-day retreats, the main theme was to be *"The relevance of Lay Apostolate in the Church today"*. Among the activities of the retreat was home visitation. Reports indicate many Catechumens being prepared for the Sacraments and a lot of contact with couples experiencing marriage difficulties; legionaries found that many of these difficulties were overcome following meeting and discussion with the couple.

Lesotho Senatus: The Senatus has 12 Comitua, 3 Curiae and 5 praesidia. Work reports in minutes include return to the sacraments and marriages regularised in church. Many Acies seem to be a two-day event. Work is nearly complete in translating the handbook into Sesotho.

GUINEE

The Legion comprises of a Comitium at Conakry and 10 Curiae throughout the country.

ZIMBABWE

Harare Comitium: The legionaries plan to visit the local seminary.



SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg Senatus: Included in the work of a praesidium of 16 members is teaching the Rosary to the local Anglicans who appreciate the efforts of the legionaries and they are improving immensely. Legionaries have a lot of contact with the Chinese community; they regularly visit the Chinese home for the aged and arrange an annual retreat for the Chinese.

Cape Town Senatus: Works include home, hospital, and prison visitation, and the organisation and attendance at funerals. The Cause of Frank Duff is promoted. Legionaries make Novenas to Frank Duff for praesidia no longer functioning and for the growth of the Legion. **Namibia** presented its annual report at Cape Town Senatus. **Soweto Comitium** has 7 attached praesidia. The Senatus is making efforts to extend the Legion and visits attached councils.

Marian Hill Comitium: The Legion is functioning well and good reports are received. A couple about to split up were counselled by legionaries and had their difficulties resolved.

Durban Comitium: A praesidium of 10 members visit an Aids centre on a monthly basis and also do home and hospital visitation. Fifty-five adults were Baptised at the Easter Mass. Kwamashu Curia in Durban has 66 active members and had a full attendance at the Acies.

Matatiele Comitium: A praesidium of 17 members do home visitation, teach catechism and have public stations-of-the-cross in Lent. They organise an Exploratio Dominicalis project every September. Bizane Curia had 56 catechumens received into the church and 66 youths and 27 adults are ready for First Communion.



NORTH AFRICA

EGYPT

Senatus of Egypt: Heliopolis Curia held an annual conference on "The Secular and the Priestly Life" with an attendance of 57 officers. A spiritual day is held every 3 months, all the legionaries in the Curia attend with their families. Forty juniors attended a spiritual day of formation held by **Shobra Curia**. The reports on meetings sent recently show that various councils and legionaries are extremely involved in organising conferences at all levels.





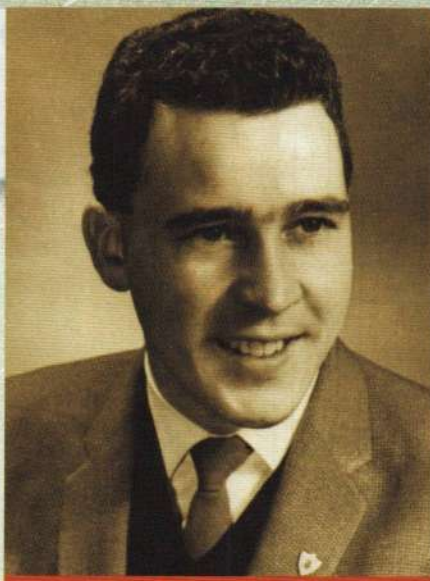
BRIAN MCKEOWN R.I.P.

FORMER LEGION ENVOY
TO THE CONGO

Brian McKeown, who died recently, was one of four members of his family who joined the Legion of Mary. He was 18 years of age and his work mainly was involved in approaching non-Catholics. When Pope John XXIII suggested that Catholics become aware of the infiltration of the various sects in South America, the Legion in Belfast set up a group known as the Latin American Apostolate. Brian became an enthusiastic member. Then, in 1961 he took part in one of the earliest 'Peregrinatio pro Christo' (Adventuring for Christ) projects in Nevers in central France. Returning home, he organised a 'French circle' among legionaries interested in the francophone world

Four of these members including Brian became Envoys and Brian was appointed as Envoy to the Belgian Congo at the age of 22. He was a Post Office engineer with a very good wage but he gave that up to offer his services to the Legion. He worked there for some four years and was very successful in his apostolate. He related very well with the Congolese people and would have stayed at times in their homes. He said that the Legion system of legionaries helping people to help themselves was great and obviously he carried this through when he became involved in the various countries through Trocaire, the special agency of the Irish Bishops for helping third-world development.

At the time he was in the Congo, civil war erupted creating terror everywhere and travelling about was very dangerous. Frank Duff said that Brian could be the first Envoy martyr! On one occasion he was asked to help rescue a mission of nuns in the interior. He had no hesitation in travelling to the Mission and highlighting it by using the headlights of his



Brian McKeown R.I.P.

Volkswagen to bring in the helicopter just before dawn, the usual time for the Simbas to attack... The mission was successful.

When he came home he took up his Legion work for a couple of years but his yearning to help in poor countries took up much time through study and various projects. He moved to Dublin and ultimately organised and set up Trocaire which pioneered new forms of Aid work and help for the Third-World and the rest is well known. He always acknowledged his debt to the Legion in the experience he gained through his membership and Envoyship. A touching aspect is that he was instrumental in recruiting his Dublin cousin Maura Leslie, who had lost her sight, for the Legion. Joining the Legion, she developed a new courage, went on PPC to England where people, impressed with her sincerity, introduced her to a training centre for the blind. As a result, she got a job for life as a telephonist and remained a legionary to the end.

May he rest in peace.



SAINT PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE

CHRIST WITH ME,
CHRIST BEFORE ME,
CHRIST BEHIND ME,
CHRIST WITHIN ME,
CHRIST BENEATH ME,
CHRIST ABOVE ME,
CHRIST AT MY RIGHT,
CHRIST AT MY LEFT,
CHRIST IN THE FORT,
CHRIST IN THE CHARIOT SEAT,
CHRIST IN THE SHIP

CHRIST IN THE HEART OF EVERYONE WHO THINKS OF ME,
CHRIST IN THE MOUTH OF EVERY ONE WHO SPEAKS OF ME,
CHRIST IN EVERY EYE THAT SEES ME,
CHRIST IN EVERY EAR THAT HEARS ME.