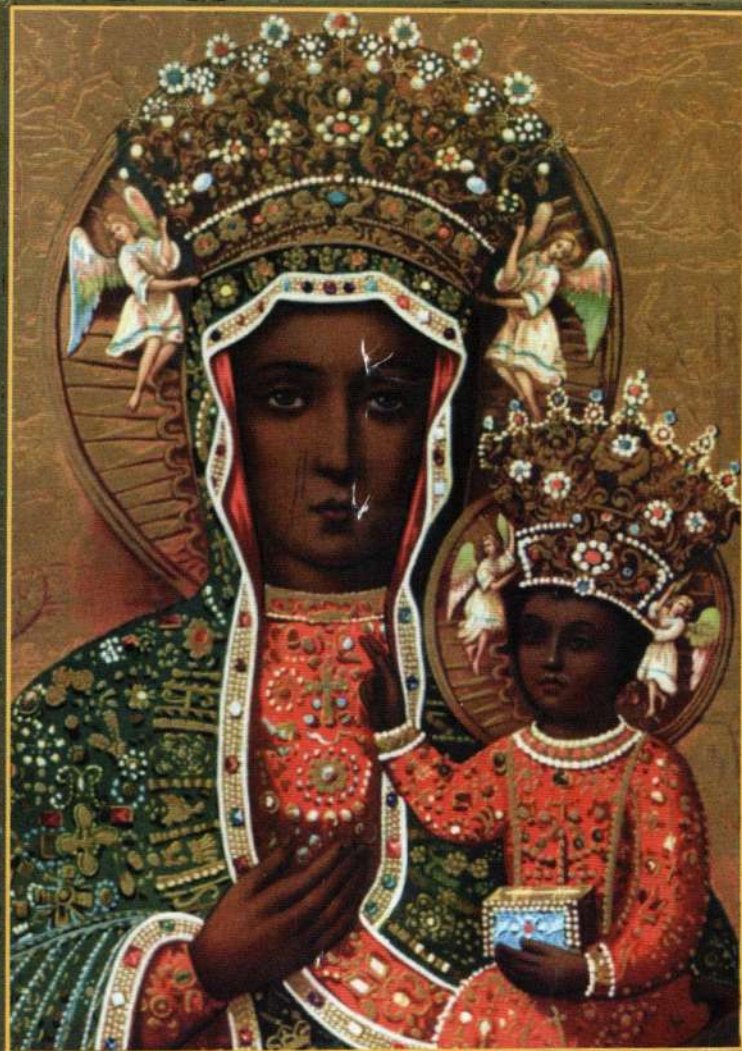




Maria Legionis



Maria Legionis

The Voice of the Legion of Mary



Edition 3 of 2011

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"Our Lady of Czestochowa - Queen of Poland"

"The origin of the image of Our Lady of Czestochowa, is unknown for absolute certainty, but according to tradition the portrait was discovered in the Holy Land in the fourth century. One of the oldest documents of Jasna Gora states that the picture travelled from Jerusalem, via Constantinople, to finally reach Czestochowa in August 1382. The Black Madonna is credited with saving the monastery situated on the hill of Jasna Gora on the edge of the town of Czestochowa from the Swedes. Since then, the monastery and the icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa are the symbols of the suffering and resistance of the people of Poland."

The Feast of the Sanctuary is celebrated on August 26th



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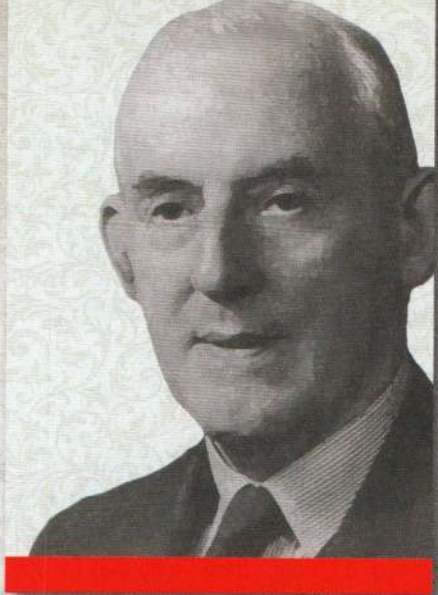
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With What Vast Respect Does God Treat Us

*The Servant of God
Frank Duff*



“St. Francis honoured all men, that is, he not only loved but respected them all. What gave him his extraordinary power was this: that from the Pope to the beggar, from the Sultan of Syria in his pavilion to the ragged robbers crawling out of the wood, there was never a man who looked into those brown, burning eyes without being certain that Francis Bernadone was really interested in him, in his own inner individual life from the cradle to the grave; that he himself was being valued and taken seriously.” G.K. Chesterton



Legionaries are told: “The source of influence is love. St. Augustine’s intriguing saying is repeated to them:

“Love and do what you will”

Pious stuff? Exaggeration? No – true as Christianity is true, for those phrases express Christianity. But there is need for a little amplifying. Do not suppose that influential love to be the mere emotional discharge which is the theme of tale and talkie. The Christian faith is a matter of facts and fixed truths – not a set of opinions which vary with one’s feelings. The love which is founded on that faith should have the same substance. It must be no creature of our thoughts – a sort of barometer indicating mental climate. It must be an active love, turning into force the things the Faith has taught us.

We must also love our neighbour for his own sake. For our Faith tells us that he is a very wonderful person, worth more than the whole material universe; indeed an infinite type of being, made to the image and likeness of God; in fact that God is in him, so that what we do to him is done to God.

Love by Action

Every Christian will admit that duty of love. That is a first, substantial step. But to acknowledge it merely in our hearts or in our speech does not suffice. To go thus far and no further will only earn a condemnation, and the hearing of dire words: "...sounding brass...a tinkling cymbal...profiting nothing...depart from me..."

So on from faith to charity, from theory to practice, from words to deeds, must all proceed. Wherefore, have we "taken our places in the ranks of the Legion and ventured to promise a faithful service." Various tasks are placed before us and we set ourselves to perform them with thoroughness and out of the motive of love.

But even in its apostolic stage it is possible for one's love to be defective and one's motive flawed. It is more than possible in the non-apostolic members of the Church. It is almost inevitable in the rest of mankind. We may be producing something that looks like loving service of our neighbour, but which may be a hollow sham. It may be only a projection of ourselves. It is possible to be immersed in works of charity and yet to be ministering to ourselves alone. Such self-centred piety is a hideous thing.

It is possible to overflow with gentleness, tenderness, forgiveness towards others, and yet to have only a subjective attitude towards those people – by which I mean that we ourselves are the centre of the circle, and the whole performance revolves around us and is for our sole benefit. We manifest those qualities because we believe that they are proper to us and should proceed from us, not because they should proceed to others. The whole thing is an exercise of vanity; self-cultivation and not Christian love.

Thus we make what amounts to an idol of ourselves. Virtually we are saying: I am kind, therefore I must show kindness. I am generous, so I must show generosity. I am patient; I am sweet; I am thoughtful; I am forgiving; I am just; I am merciful – and accordingly I must cause all that loveliness to shine forth from me over the world around me.

Plainly that thing is not love, but only as gold plating on base metal.

Respect – Hallmark of Love

Then how are we to judge as to the real gold? I give the answer in a single word – Respect. Respect is the first-fruit of Charity. Therefore its presence is the mark of the genuineness of that thing called love. It defines love which otherwise is incapable of definition.

Respect can only proceed from the conviction that our neighbour is in himself a worthy subject of our respect, and hence that he must get it from us.

It must not depend on our just feeling that way; for in ten minutes' time perhaps we may feel differently, nor on that person's possession of certain qualities or assets. Tomorrow those qualities may not appeal to us, and those assets may be gone.

In ways innumerable we deceive ourselves.

Monsignor Benson somewhere warns us



against that glow of benevolence which comes to us at a warm fire on a winter's evening after a good meal and a little wine. Likewise, the expectation of gratitude is a powerful but unspiritual incentive to do good to others.

Neither is awe equivalent to respect. It may be nearer to fear.

Christian respect is none of these emotions, but a realisation of the supreme dignity of our neighbour as a soul in whom God is living. If that is really appreciated by us, the automatic response in us will be that delicacy of behaviour which I call Respect.

Respect is the very kernel of our love, the living germ of our service of others. In that light God looks on it, and for that reason insists on it. But even the crudest worldling prizes it uniquely. It is the "healthful binding" in all human relationships. It is the ingredient which gives savour to all the amenities of life.

Among these latter, it is (as a writer says in another connection) "like fire among the elements, or gold among the metals, or the carnation among the flowers, or the diamond among the precious stones."

Perhaps you recoil from this as being too sweeping? Is Respect any more precious than freedom and justice? And what of the lesser but still important items like generosity, tenderness, civility, good living conditions? Yes, significant – all of them. But not sufficing the heart of man except, and to the degree, that they bear with them that vital element of respect between parties. Freedom itself, that jewel for which men die so gladly, freedom without the enjoyment of respect is a misnomer; for it is empty of the dignity which is the essence of true liberty. Such liberty is nearer to slavery; and so may all those other amenities, without respect, be found in slavery and be bestowed on slaves.

*"taken our places
in the ranks of
the Legion and
ventured to promise
a faithful service."*

Christ in our Neighbour

You know full well – for all have had the painful experience – how some people can give you courtesy, fair dealing and all the outward seemings of Christian charity, and yet leave it evident that they have no real respect for you. In such cases how do you instinctively react? You bristle like a dog. Those civilities only rile you – as if they were insults. Grateful? Attracted by the givers? Not at all! For they are considerate to you only as they would be kind to animals. It is their code, and they meticulously conform to it where it touches you. In much the same spirit they would oil and clean their cars. You are little more to them than those animals or the mechanisms that they own. You are only a device for serving them or through which they love and serve themselves. You are only the stage on which they are playing their effective role. You are the screen on to which they throw their imagined perfections, so that they appear substantial and real. You are the mirror into which they gaze and see what they want to see about themselves. It is not your colour, warmth, beauty, life, that they see in you, but their own.

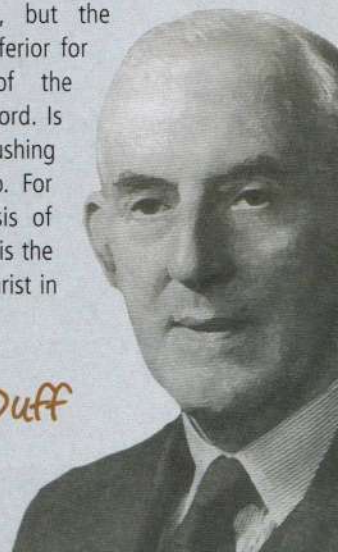
If people have that detached attitude in regard to you, nothing that they do for you will satisfy you. Their acts of service will only seem like offensive patronage to you. A cynic has said: "One would need a godlike nature to receive a favour and yet love the giver." What! Yes; therein is hid a mighty truth. For most favours imply superiority – which men resent, however great the favour.

So, if I have not been vehement enough up to the present, let me now be stronger and say: You can be unkind, unjust to men; steal from them, oppose them, ill-treat them in divers ways; you may even make war on them. All that they can allow for and forgive. But stop short at that capital sin against your fellow-man – that attitude of impersonal contempt. For it will stir up in him gall of a peculiar kind which will permanently poison his system against you.

Have I been depicting a monster? No, simply digging down a little into human nature and exposing the Old Adam who lurks there stinking with pride and self-sufficiency. He will absorb us if we play his game. So we must do the opposite. The opposite to being proud is to be respectful to all men.

But note two paramount considerations: (a) the acid-test of respect is that it is to be manifested towards people at times when – humanly speaking – they do not deserve it; (b) the Legion Handbook, when laying down the law on this subject, does not propose to us the sort of respect which equal offers to equal, but the respect of the inferior for the superior, of the servant for the Lord. Is this prescription rushing to extremes? No. For the ultimate basis of Christian respect is the recognising of Christ in our neighbour.

Frank Duff



HENCEFORTH ALL AGES WILL CALL ME BLESSED

By Alice Creaton



Do we appreciate the treasure we have been given in *Mary's Magnificat*, which forms part of the Catena, a prayer recited by all legionaries, active and auxiliary every day? Take for instance "*Henceforth all ages will call me blessed.*" This should be a source of great joy and consolation for all.

Why is Mary called blessed? It is because the Almighty works marvels for her and holy is his name. At no stage does Mary attribute the graces and privileges, which she has been freely given to any merit on her part. In fact as the Legion Handbook rightly reminds us she is more indebted to God than any other creature. "*She was humble because she was likewise aware that she was more perfectly redeemed than any other of the children of men.*" (Ch. 6 The Imitation of Mary's Humility is both the Root and Instrument of Legionary Action).

If we are among those who want to call Mary blessed then we must strive to adopt *her spirit*. Mary is the humble handmaid of the Lord and without humility we cannot hope to achieve anything in the spiritual life.

Mary is our model of perfect *obedience*. Once she is told by the Angel Gabriel that by the power of the Most High she will conceive the Holy One of God while remaining a virgin, she proclaims "*I am the Handmaid of the Lord. Let what you have said be done to me.*" (Lk. 1.38)

We proclaim Mary's blessedness by striving to imitate *her angelical sweetness*. We can never picture Mary being harsh or critical of anybody.

No person ever deserved as much to be called blessed as Mary does because of *her continual prayer*. We can picture her doing the ordinary household chores at Nazareth and yet her soul being continually absorbed in the presence of the Most High. Surely even the sad drama at Calvary did not interrupt her union with God.

Mary is our model of *mortification*. She knows the high destiny she has been called to and yet this does not make her want to set herself on a pedestal. In fact she raised no objection when Jesus, at the wedding feast at Cana, says "*Woman why turn to me. My hour has not yet come*", (Jn. 2:4).

Mary has every right to be called blessed because of her unique spotless *purity* from the moment of her Immaculate Conception.

Where do we expect to find greater *patience* among the children of Adam and Eve than that of our Blessed Mother? She sees her poor sinful children wandering aimlessly and making feeble efforts at repentance. Yet she never judges anybody but intercedes unceasingly for all her wayward children. Look at the Good Thief at Calvary and remember Mary's prayers must have had a major role in his instant and profound conversion. This should give us hope.



Mary is full of *heavenly wisdom* because the Divine Wisdom dwells in her soul and because she has never had it tarnished by even the slightest taint of sin. She longs for all her children to have a love of the Eternal Wisdom.

Mary's *self-sacrificing courageous love of God* enables her not to become despondent when she sees her Son scorned and rejected by the very people he had come to redeem from their slavery to sin.

Mary's *faith*, which can never be equaled, leads her to proclaim with conviction that all ages will call her blessed. Her faith and this conviction never waver as she sees her Son, whom the Angel Gabriel has told her will be great; given the throne of his ancestor David; rule over the House of Jacob forever, die on an infamous cross as a common criminal between two thieves.

We her children have every reason to believe that inspired by Mary's love and faith we can do every work for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

The Magnificat



My soul doth magnify the Lord:
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
Because He hath regarded the lowliness of His Handmaid:
for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For He that is mighty hath done great things to me: and holy is His Name.
And His mercy is from generation unto generations, to them that fear Him.

He hath showed might with His arm:
He hath scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the lowly.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich He hath sent empty away.
He hath received Israel His servant,
being mindful of His mercy;
As He spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his seed forever.

Luke 1: 46-55



IEC 2012

50th INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS



In July 2009, Pope Benedict approved the theme of the 50th International Eucharistic Congress "The Eucharist: Communion with Christ and with one another." Communion is a personal relationship of love and self-giving. The theme will help us to explore not only how our relationship with Jesus can be deepened in the Eucharist, but also how the Eucharist challenges us to look more closely at how we live with one another.

The Programme of Events for the week will include: Prayer, Eucharist, workshops, discussion groups, cultural events, a youth space, tours, exhibitions and more.

Pastoral Preparation Programme

Preparation:

The journey towards the 50th International Eucharistic Congress is taking place locally both country and world wide. It is divided into four stages, each reflecting on an aspect of communion with Christ and one another as it is celebrated in the Eucharist and lived in our daily lives.

It began with:

Stage One - Autumn/Winter 2010 - Christ gathers us as a Eucharistic Community, reflects on the Introductory Rite of the Eucharist.

It continues with:

Stage Two - Spring/Summer 2011 - Christ gathers us to listen, to hear, to be nourished and to be formed into community by God's word, reflects on the Liturgy of the Word.

Stage Three - Autumn/Winter 2011 - Christ gathers us to be nourished for Communion by the Bread of Life, becoming the Body of Christ, reflects on the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Stage Four - Spring 2012 - Christ gathers and strengthens us for Mission by the Word and the Bread of Life, reflects on the Concluding Rite.

Along with this catechetical programme the journey will feature the 50th International Eucharistic Congress Prayer and Hymn and the pilgrimage countrywide by the Eucharistic Congress Bell.

For information, news and resources for each stage of the journey visit: www.iec2012.ie



Dates & Venues:

June - 10th — Opening Ceremony: RDS Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

June - 11th - 16th - Daily Mass and Workshops: RDS Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

June - 17th — Closing Ceremony: Croke Park Stadium, Dublin 3

Registration: Groups and individual pilgrims will be able to register online from June 2011 on our website www.iec2012.ie.

You can also register an expression of interest now on www.iec2012.ie

Lord Jesus,
You were sent by the Father
to gather together those who were scattered.
You came among us, doing good and bringing healing,
announcing the Word of salvation
and giving the Bread which lasts forever.
Be our companion on life's pilgrim way.

May your Holy Spirit inflame our hearts,
enlighten our hope and open our minds,
So that together with our sisters and brothers in faith
we may recognise you in the Scriptures
and in the breaking of bread.

May your Holy Spirit transform us into one body
and lead us to walk humbly on the earth,
in justice and love,
as witnesses of your resurrection.

In communion with Mary,
whom you gave to us as our Mother
at the foot of the cross, through you may all praise,
honour and blessing be to the Father
in the Holy Spirit and in the Church,
Now and forever.

Amen



50th International Eucharistic Congress
10th - 17th June 2012 www.iec2012.ie



Vatican Bulletin

Words from Pope Benedict XVI

What is the essential? The essential is never leaving a Sunday without an encounter with the Risen Christ in the Eucharist; this is not an additional burden but is light for the whole week. It means never beginning and never ending a day without at least a brief contact with God.

General audience in St. Peter's Square

If our relationship with God is disturbed, if the fundamental orientation of our being is awry, we cannot truly be healed in body and soul. For this reason, the first and fundamental healing takes place in our encounter with Christ who reconciles us to God and mends our broken hearts.

At the Chrism Mass

The criterion that throughout his life guided every decision Jesus made was his firm determination to love the Father, to be one with the Father and to be faithful to Him; this decision to respond to his love impelled him to embrace the Father's plan in every single circumstance, to make his own the plan of love entrusted to Him in order to recapitulate all things in God, to lead all things to Him.

General audience in St. Peter's Square

Dear brothers and sisters, let us turn to the Virgin Mary, who previously shared in this Resurrection, so that she may help us to say faithfully: "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God" (Jn 11:27), to truly discover that he is our salvation.

Prior to the recitation of the Angelus

Redemption in the fullest sense only becomes recognisable when God becomes recognisable. He becomes recognisable in Jesus Christ. In Christ, God entered the world and set up the criterion of truth in the midst of history.

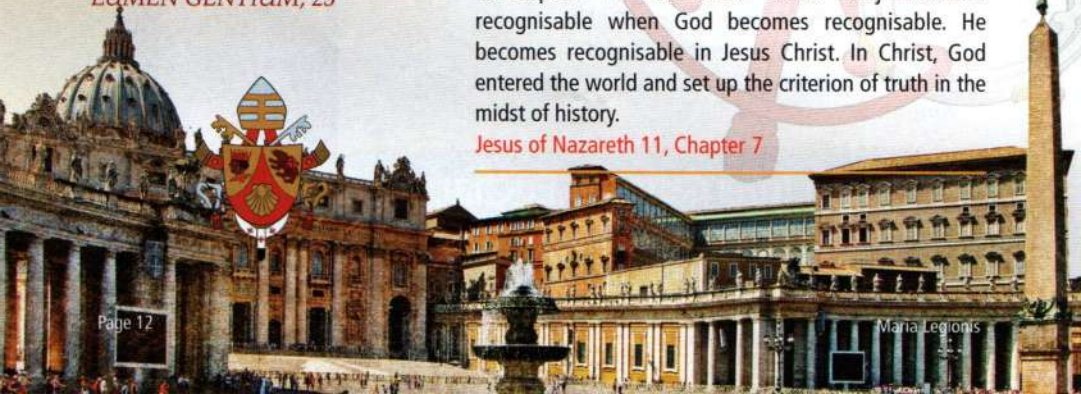
Jesus of Nazareth 11, Chapter 7

Benedictus PP XVI

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

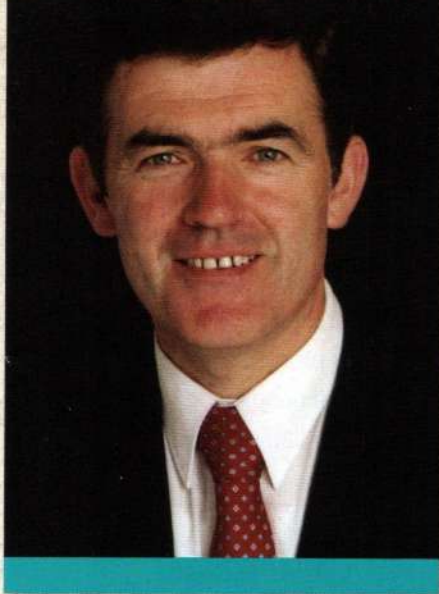


Sourced from L'Osservatore Romano by kind permission of the editor

Imitating Our Founder

*The Servant of God
Frank Duff*

*Tommy McCabe, President
Concilium Legionis Mariae*



Thoughts I Cherish

Live a long life!!!

Frank Duff lived to 91 years of Age. He was active up to the very end. The Church needs you; the Legion needs you whatever age you are. We all have a role to play. The older you are, the more experience you have. You have a duty to share that experience and to pass on wisdom to the next generation.

Promote our founder

Distribute the Frank Duff prayer leaflet and encourage people to pray to him for help in their personal lives as well as in the Legion world.

Be a reader

His greatest writing is the Legion Handbook. Read the Handbook every day if you can. "The only real way of learning the Legion is to work its system" (Ch 36). Spend 5 minutes a day reading it; it will produce huge benefits for you, for the Legion and for the Church.

Be a writer

Become a correspondent. Frank Duff wrote about 33,000 letters during his lifetime. They were letters of encouragement. They showed his deep interest in the person, and he provided suggestions on how to cope with life's problems, and offered possible solutions. They urged people and persons and Legion Councils to turn to Our Lady and do great things for God.



Learn a language

Any one who has gone on Peregrinatio pro Christo (travelling for Christ) abroad can testify how useful it is to speak another language. In Concilium we are always looking for legionaries who can speak another language and thus promote the Legion around the world.

Don't lose heart

A legionary service must be one of holding on, of absolute and obstinate refusal to lose heart. (Ch 4). In the times we live in where so many people are losing heart, legionaries should give hope to all by their refusal to lose heart and their perseverance in serving the Church through their Legion membership.

Have courage

Frank Duff wrote in the Handbook: "The Legion's demand is especially for moral courage" And went on to say: "Faith is ordinarily not lacking but courage is. "(Ch 30, section 3) Let us take heart from these words and act courageously. Remember the concluding words of this section, the quotation from St Therese of Lisieux: *"What does it matter even if you have no courage, provided you behave as though you were really brave"*

Mobilise, organise, think in Christ

"This mobilising principle, this effort to join others to our own efforts, is a vital part of common duty." (Ch 40 section 1). Let us seek new members through our enthusiasm, our faith, our courage, our reliance on Mary and the Holy Spirit. In particular the Irish saying "Moll an Oige agus tìochfaidh siad" – ("Praise the young and they will come") should in my view be an essential part of all legionaries' thinking.

Stay focussed

Every soul must be approached. Follow-up in all walks of life is a key factor for success. How much more important it is in the spiritual order!

Come back to Mass

Frank Duff entitled one of his articles "The Mass – a thrilling Adventure". Let us act upon this and seek to share it with all we meet.

Be a person of hope

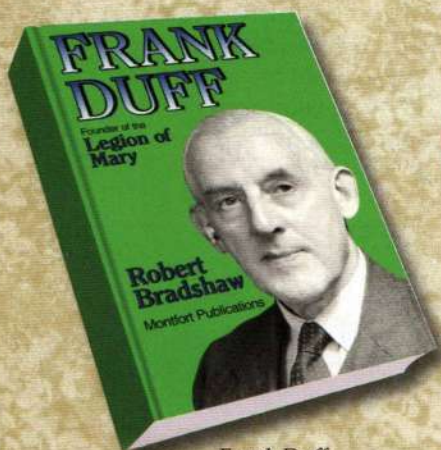
"It's not mission impossible!" said His Eminence Cardinal Nicholas of Seoul, Korea when speaking of: "Proclaiming Jesus Christ in Asia Today". This was the theme of the Special Congress held in Korea in September 2010 for Catholic lay organisations. There are 4 billion people in Asia and just 120 million Catholics i.e. about 3% of the entire population. "The holiness of our lives is the key to conversions" said the Cardinal.

Remember

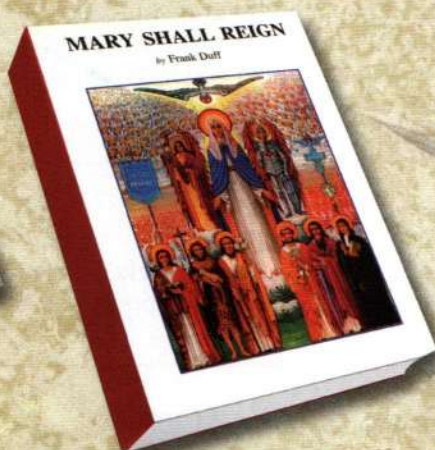
"The Mark of the Cross is a Sign of Hope". This title of section 24 in Ch 39 of the handbook is very insightful. It states " Friends fail, good people fail, ones instruments fail, and all whereon we lean is traitor to our peace. It must always be remembered that the work of the Lord will bear the Lord's own mark, the mark of the cross. God's work is never done in ideal conditions, never as we should have imagined or chosen."



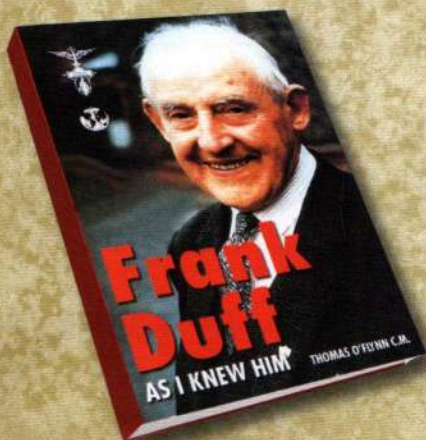
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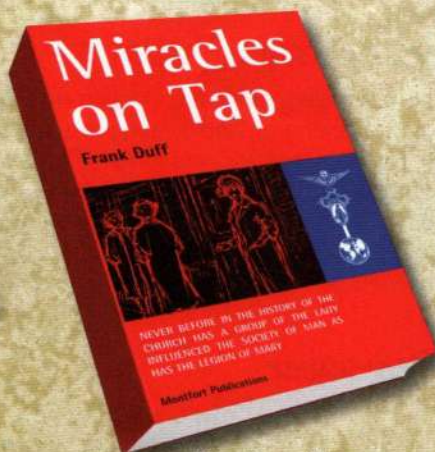
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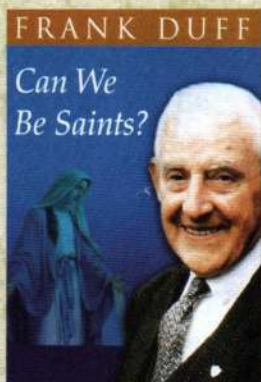
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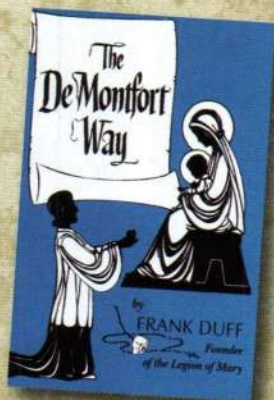
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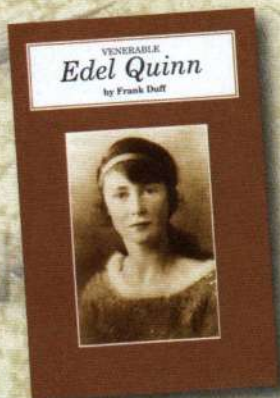
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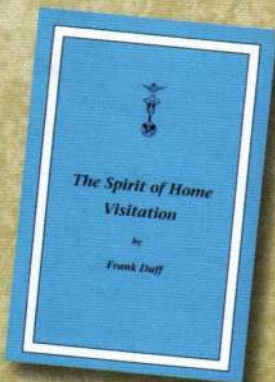
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by Frank Duff
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True Devotion to Mary
3 Copies €1.00 + p&sp



The Spirit of Home Visitation
3 Copies €1.00 + p&sp

ature Department, Concilium Legionis Mariae
Brunswick Street, Dublin 7, Ireland



Praises of Mary

The Rosary, which appears to be vocal, is the most spiritual of all prayers. This prayer, which seems rudimentary, is the most contemplative of all. This prayer, which seems slavish, is the most emancipated of all.

Georges Goyau

The mother of God is our mother. May the good mother ask and beg for us, may she request and obtain what is good for us.

Saint Anselm of Canterbury

Mary is the treasury of Jesus Christ. It is He Himself whom she possesses, He Himself whom she gives.

St. Peter Julian Eymard

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.

St. Francis of Assisi

Give your heart completely to Mary. And beg her to make it like the Heart of her Divine Son.

St. John Eudes

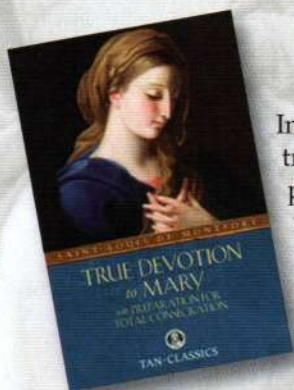
Mary adorns her clients with her merits, assists them with her power, enlightens them with her light, and kindles them with her love. She imparts her virtues to them and becomes their security, their intercessor, and their all with Jesus.

St. Louis Grignion de Montfort



Basics of Saint Louis Marie Grignion DeMontfort's True Devotion to Mary

By Joe Jackson



In this paper I will be trying to explain what perplexes people about what is necessary in practising De Montfort's True Devotion to Mary.



St. Odilon



Card. Peter Damien

Devotion to Mary was not a first for St. Louis-Marie. In 1040, some 700 years before his appearance on earth, there was strong devotion to the Holy Mother of God. St. Odilon, Abbot of Cluny, was one of the first who publicly practised this devotion in France and Cardinal Peter Damien relates that in 1036 his brother Blessed Marino made himself the slave of the Blessed Virgin, to name just a few. However these devotions were focused on Our Lady only, whereas St. Louis made the devotion more directly to Jesus and the proper title would be True Devotion to Jesus through Mary.

The first thing to remember – something that may not be properly appreciated by legionaries in general is that Frank Duff read, re-read, and re-read again some six times this True Devotion before he started the Legion. This devotion was in his blood so it would be logical to accept that in preparing the Handbook to describe the spiritual aspects of this new organisation devoted to Mary that his presentation would embody this devotion, which he took to heart.

WHOEVER FINDS MARY SHALL FIND LIFE

This is seen in five characteristics, which the devotion mentions viz:

1 Our spirituality is an interior one in that it comes from the mind and from the heart.

2 It is tender in that the trust is like the confidence of a child in his mother where we look to Mary for all our needs, at all times and in all circumstances, in doubts, in our straying, in our temptations, in our weakness and in our discouragements.

3 It is holy and quotes on this holiness are many in the Handbook.

4 It is constant in that it strengthens us in doing good, gives us courage (must not turn from labour and painfulness) and must not fluctuate in our devotional feelings.

5 And finally it must be disinterested in that it inspires the soul to seek, not itself, but God alone, through His Holy Mother.

As mentioned above, it is a far stricter form of devotion to Our Lady than all the earlier ones – and even after De Montfort's publication of his treatise; some say it is too extreme.

Even St. Louis-Marie appreciated this when he says that there are three stages in obtaining perfection in the practice of his work. He writes that it will not be understood to an equal extent by everyone. Some – the vast majority indeed, will not get beyond the exterior aspect of this devotion. He then asks, "Who will mount to the second?" And then "Who will succeed in reaching the third?" After many, many years of this practice I would have to admit that I am still mainly in the first, and in the last twenty years possibly touching on the second stage. It would have to be a person of exceptional holiness that might be able to progress to the last stage.

This spiritual movement upwards of the True Devotion is represented in the Handbook when we are asked to attain to the spiritual heights of Our Lady. This we know is impossible, but the belief is that we must constantly try to reach that summit of perfection otherwise we stay static or start falling down. Whoever finds Mary shall find life, that is, shall find Jesus who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

But he cannot find Mary who does not seek her; nor will he seek Mary unless he knows her, for one does not seek or desire an unknown good; therefore Mary is to be better known than ever before, to the greater knowledge and glory of the Most Holy Trinity.

“WHAT DOES IT PROFIT A MAN IF HE GAINS THE WHOLE WORLD AND SUFFERS THE LOSS OF HIS SOUL”.

Our job as legionaries is to propagate the importance of Our Lady in the knowledge that by doing this we are making Jesus Christ better known.

Many members are reluctant to take on this devotion in the mistaken idea that they lose everything both spiritual and material. In the spiritual field, many have special devotions and a great loyalty to a variety of saints and fear that they must give them up. This is not so. One may still pray to them but add that the saint of preference implore for that petition through the good offices of Mary. In the petition they would have to add that in their prayer to the particular saint but ultimately it will become second nature and they will naturally accept that their prayer is ultimately going through Our Lady and will no longer have to add on that proviso.

In regard to the material aspect of the devotion I think the offering is misunderstood. It says:

“I give and consecrate to you, as your slave, my body and my soul; my interior and exterior possessions; and even the value of my good actions – past, present and to come. I give you the full and entire right to dispose of me and all that I have, without the least reservation, in accordance with your good pleasure etc.”

If one is worried about their worldly possessions then cease to do so. When mentioning them in the act of consecration one is passing them to Our Lady as we pass on our spiritual possessions and she will help to look after them on the understanding that if material benefit is required that we will not be found wanting. Remember the feeding of the five thousand where the young boy offered up his very small offering of loaves and fishes even though it was all he had. But he had faith in Jesus and look at the result! Our worldly goods are of secondary importance remembering the quote, “What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and suffers the loss of his soul”.

The True Devotion is not a Confraternity, it is a way of life and great graces will flow from it even in its elementary stage.



“I AM ALL THINE MY QUEEN AND MY MOTHER AND ALL THAT I HAVE IS THINE”

The Legion Handbook is steeped in its spirituality and I believe that the legionary, who is following its rules and spirituality exactly as laid down, is practically practising this devotion. However, it must be stressed that as the True Devotion is a way of life so also must the legionary observe his membership of the Legion; otherwise he won't be able to attempt it. Earlier I mentioned the exterior practices of the devotion and a few of them are:

First, of course, is the act of consecration; then a few practices; the Hail Mary, the Magnificat. Might I mention here that the Hail Mary is the greatest honour to Our Lady as it was Almighty God who addressed her as such whereas the Magnificat though a most beautiful prayer was composed by Our Lady.

Understandably then the Rosary which legionaries love is the great exterior practice. An addition to these could be the prayer we say at the Acies – “I am all thine my Queen and my Mother and all that I have is thine”.

This brief introduction to DeMontfort's True Devotion is the easier part. The spiritual side of it is quite difficult in that it aims for lofty heights of spirituality.

The ideal time for the Act of Consecration is March 25, so there is time to study it and think of whether one wants to undergo the preparation

and then the Act of Consecration. This devotion is primarily a commitment to come as close to Mary as is humanly possible so that we may be closer to Christ.

I think we must appreciate St. Louis-Marie in that he foresaw, I believe, this army of ours. This is the army he futuristically saw, especially the more positive role of women in the Church and I quote:

“I foresee clearly that angry beasts trembling with fury, will arise to render with their satanic teeth this little book, and him whom the Holy Ghost has used to write it; or at least they will strive to stifle it in the dumb silence of a forgotten box, so that it may be swallowed up in oblivion.

They will even attack and persecute those who read this book and who practise its doctrine. But this is of no consequence – rather, indeed, it is better so! This prevision encourages me and makes me hope for a mighty success – for a great Legion of brave and valiant soldiers of Jesus and Mary, recruited from both sexes, to war against the world, the devil, and corrupt human nature, in the time of even greater peril that is to come.”

“He that readeth, let him understand ... He that can take it, let him take it.”

(Matt, 24, 15; 19, 12)

Peregrinatio Pro Christo

Organisers' Conference
Concilium Office
29 January 2011

*Address by Paddy Fay,
Concilium Secretary*



This conference has great significance. If we are open to the action of the Holy Spirit, then we cannot limit what the effects of this gathering and the Peregrinatio Pro Christo movement may have on souls including our own.

We are presented with a great challenge. We are living in difficult times for Religion and the Church. We can lie down under all this and adopt a kind of siege mentality in that we batten down the hatches and seek to shelter ourselves from the big bad world or we can take Our Divine Saviour at His word "I am with you until the end of the world"; "I have overcome the world"; "Go out to the whole world and preach the Good News"; "Do not be afraid"; "I am sending you as sheep among wolves" "Take and eat - this is My Body"; "Behold your Mother";

Our Lord is talking to us today. He is with us today. He is living in us. The

Blessed Trinity dwells in us. Nothing should frighten us. We have the example of Our Lord and the Apostles on the Sea of Galilee, when he calmed the storm which had terrified them. "Why are you afraid?" We see later on how the Apostles, who in a kind of a way had battened down the hatches after the Ascension, changed after the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, that great Feast and Birthday of the Church, and went out boldly to preach the Gospel and they suffered for it. But they never doubted that they were on the road which the Lord wanted them to travel. They never doubted that it was the right road. We, too, are on that road.

The Catholic Church is the Mystical Body of Christ and we are members of that Body. We are on a journey or a pilgrimage. There may be many knocks on the way but we can be fully confident that, like the Apostles we are on the right road.

PEREGRINATIO PRO CHRISTO

It is only the Catholic Church that can give us that assurance. It is the sacrament of salvation. No matter what happens we are safe if we follow the Church's directions, that is, its teachings and draw life from it in the Mass and the Sacraments.

Now, obviously, it is not just a matter of keeping ourselves safe. Surely, we have an obligation to all those who do not know this road or who have strayed off it or deliberately chosen other roads. Jesus Christ died for them as he died for us. He Himself said:

"Other sheep I have who are not of this fold, these too...."

This then is what is ahead of us – seeking to bring everyone to Jesus, to travel the road he has travelled and wants everyone to travel. It would be a terrible thing to say "I am alright, Jack". "I am on the right road and I don't care whether you are or not or whether you are trying to plough your way through a quagmire." That sense of responsibility for others is surely the mark of a Christian. We know we are weak and we can be a bit knocked about by circumstances but we have been called through our baptism, to be co-workers in mission. If we have been called then we can count on the grace to answer that call. Our Lord said:

"Without Me you can do nothing."

When we realise that we can do nothing of ourselves that is when we become liberated. We are not inhibited by our own weaknesses, even by our sins. We

are filled with the Holy Spirit, who can do great things in us and through us. As we know, Our Lady, in her Magnificat, says:

"The Almighty has done great things for me, Holy is His Name".

And He certainly did great things in her and through her. God became Man in Her and through her draws all people to Himself. The True Devotion to Mary can also liberate us. When we give everything to Jesus through Mary then we don't have to worry about ourselves – how I am doing? How many brownie points have I earned today? It is almost like being able to fly – we are not weighed down with suitcases full of good works and merits which we want to carry around with us for security.

In these times of difficulty for the Church we like to get some good news. I came across a website before Easter last year which showed that about 18,000 people were to be received into the Catholic Church in 16 dioceses in the United States at Easter. I certainly found that heartening. I think the Archdiocese of Westminster in England was expecting to receive about 700 people. There were people being received into the Church in Ireland too. So, we can see how the Holy Spirit is working in the world.

The Holy Father has just published an address for Mission Sunday in October this year. I think it is fortunate for the legionaries who will be going on Peregrinatio Pro Christo during this year. The theme of the document is: *"As the Father has sent me, so I send you".*

The call to take the Gospel to everyone, "with the same enthusiasm as the early Christians", as the Venerable John Paul II wrote in the Jubilee Year 2000, "resounds every year in the celebration of World Mission Day", says Benedict XVI in his Message.

"The announcement of the Gospel is destined for everyone", the Pope writes. The Church "exists to evangelise", he says. "Her activity, in conformity with the word of Christ and under the influence of His grace and charity, becomes fully and truly present in all individuals and all peoples in order to lead them to faith in Christ.

"This task has lost none of its urgency", he adds. "We cannot rest easy at the thought that, after two thousand years, there are people who still do not know Christ, who have not yet heard His message of salvation.

"What is more, there are growing numbers of people who, though having received the Gospel announcement, have forgotten or abandoned it and no longer identify themselves in the Church; and many environments, even in traditionally Christian societies, are reluctant to open themselves to the word of faith. A cultural shift is taking place, which also draws nourishment from globalisation, from new schools of thought and from the prevailing relativism; a shift which leads to mentalities and lifestyles that ignore the Evangelical message as if God did not exist, and which exalt the search for wellbeing, easy earnings, career and success as the goal of life, even at the expense of moral values".

The Holy Father recalls how "the universal mission always involves everyone and everything. The Gospel is not the exclusive prerogative of those who received it, but a gift to be shared, a piece of good news to be passed on. This gift-commitment is entrusted not just to the few, but to all baptised people".

Evangelisation, The Holy Father goes on to say, also, includes helping to improve the living conditions of people affected by poverty and disease. He says: "In announcing the Gospel, she embraces human life in the fullest sense of the term". While the Peregrinatio Pro Christo is directed in a special way towards proposing the faith through personal contact we should have a sympathetic ear for the needs of people in difficulties of one kind or another.

The Holy Father concludes by saying:



"May World Mission Day revive in everyone the desire to 'go out' to meet humankind, bringing Christ to everyone."

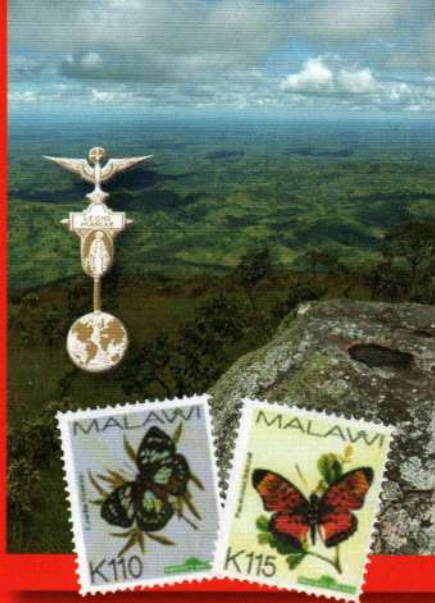
In inviting legionaries to participate in the Peregrinatio Pro Christo you are inviting them to share in a special way in the mission of the Church and to answer the call of the Vicar of Christ. May Our Lady sustain you in your great work.



The Raising of Legion Councils in Malawi

*"The Warm Heart
of Africa"*

By Anna B. O'Connor



Malawi is a small country located between Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique and is often referred to as 'the warm heart of Africa', the Malawians are a very warm hearted and friendly people.



It was a historic day for the Legion in Malawi, when in November 2009, Concilium approved the raising of Blantyre Regia to Senatus and also the raising of four new Regiae in the Dioceses of Mzuzu, Lilongwe, Dedza and Mangochi.

His Grace, Archbishop Tarcisius G. Ziyaye, Archbishop of Blantyre and the other Bishops of Malawi have given great encouragement and have expressed their gratitude for the apostolate of the Legion of Mary in their country.

Venerable Edel Quinn started the Legion in Malawi in 1940 and today there are in excess of 84,000 active members. In the last 70 years so many legionaries have given wonderful service to Our Lady, working tirelessly spreading the Legion and playing a major role in the apostolate to their fellow country men. Tremendous support has been given by the priests and hierarchy.





Blantyre Senatus officers

The Senatus to govern the Legion in Malawi was launched in June 2010 with a Mass concelebrated by Bishop Pagani of Mangochi Diocese, the chief celebrant, Bishop Montfort Stima, Auxiliary Bishop of Blantyre, Fr James Khembo, Spiritual Director of the Senatus and many other Priests, including the Spiritual Directors from the Dioceses of Mzuzu, Lilongwe, Dedza and Mangochi. Among the Congregation were officers from all the attached Councils and all the legionaries from the Archdiocese of Blantyre.

In his homily, Bishop Pagani placed emphasis on holiness and apostleship going hand in hand and legionaries should aspire to both. He referred to The Servant of God, Frank Duff's booklet "Can we be Saints" and he said:

"From this book, you see how much Frank Duff desires that everybody attain sainthood."

He also spoke about the concluding Legion Prayer and how it depicts Frank Duff's deep desire for souls to be saved. Bishop Pagani laid emphasis on the Causes for Canonisation of the Servants of God Frank Duff, Alfie Lambe and Venerable Edel Quinn and concluded his homily with a call to each and every legionary to take the apostolate with absolute seriousness.

Following the Mass, there was a procession to unveil a memorial Senatus Plaque, which had been erected in the grotto at the Parish, by Bishop Montfort Stima who appealed to men and youth to join the apostolate.

No doubt the Malawian legionaries will take to heart the encouragement of Bishops Pagani and Stima, which will result in further development of the apostolate and growth of the Legion in Malawi.

Sacrament of marriage was arranged for ten couples. Idaho Comitium was interviewed on Catholic Radio.

children, consecration of homes to the Sacred Heart, promotion of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart and a trip to Dublin.



world news



world news



CENTRAL AMERICA:

COSTA RICA: Senatus of San José: During the months of May and October legionaries organise and participate in a Rosary Procession carrying a statue of Our Lady, the Vexillum and the Legion banner through the streets. A Bible Circle appropriate for children is organised to help prepare them for the sacraments.

HONDURAS: The Senatus has some difficulties resulting from natural disasters. A new praesidium with 19 members is very active visiting homes and makes efforts in particular to contact young people.

EL SALVADOR: San Salvador Senatus: Legionaries in the Senatus area are directing their apostolate particularly to the young and the Junior Legion is progressing. Contact is made on home visitation with some families who have joined the sects and some have returned to the Church. Some legionaries have taken on the practice of studying the Legion handbook for five minutes a day.



ASIA

INDIA: Legionaries in **Pondicherry Senatus**, which has 10,566 senior members, 489 juniors and 3,225 auxiliary members, carry out an apostolate to lepers, the handicapped and orphans. They also make contact with drug addicts and those contemplating suicide. In **Vishakhapatnam** Christians and non-Christians welcome the visits by legionaries to hospitals. In **Tuticorin** 72 legionaries took part in an evangelisation project. Three hundred went on the annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows. Legionaries in **Tiruchy** do much good work making peace among families and having the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes. A ten day Bible Study venture in Palaymakottai had 85 boys and girls in attendance.

MYANMAR: A workshop was organised for legionaries willing to do extension work. Several visits were made to Pathein where the Bishop has given permission for more Curiae and Comitia to be established.

SRI LANKA: The Legionary apostolate includes visitation of homes and hospitals and an apostolate at funerals. Children of prisoners were looked after.

ARMENIA: A praesidium in Yerevan has eight active members, 14 auxiliaries and six adjutorians. Among works undertaken is helping with abandoned children.

VIETNAM: The legionary apostolate includes encouraging those who are away from the Church to return, preparing children for the sacraments and helping to bring about reconciliation among families.

AFRICA



ANGOLA: Benguela Senatus: A Comitium in the Diocese of Kwito-Bié was divided to form two new Comitia, making a total of five in the Diocese. The five Comitia have a total of 52 Curiae, 486 praesidia and 11,519 active members. Legionaries in some areas walk from 15 to 55 kms to attend meetings. A national conference of young legionaries was held in Sumbe, 16-19 September 2010. There was an attendance of 708. The themes were: The Legion of Mary and Youth; and How to bring Mary to the world. **The Luanda Regia** celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Regia in December 2010.

LESOTHO: **The Senatus** is planning a Congress. An attached Curia reported 31 returns to the sacraments.



MOZAMBIQUE: Maputo Regia forwarded its plan of activities for this year. The President of the Regia took part in a Diocesan Synod during which the Legion and how it works was discussed.

ZIMBABWE: Legionaries are involved in catechetical instruction.

CAMEROON: Douala Senatus reported two new Comitiums, several Curiae as well as many new praesidia were set up during the year. The legionary apostolate includes the visitation of homes, prisons, orphanages, the sick and helping with catechesis. They had over 33,000 street contacts. An apostolate to youth is also undertaken and they have 654 junior members. During the year nearly half a million homes were visited and a million sick people were visited in hospitals or at home. They recorded 876 couples receiving the sacrament of marriage and 4,418 people brought back to the sacraments. They are aiming to promote knowledge of the True Devotion to Mary among the members and to extend the Legion further.

GUINEA: Conakry Comitium has been making strong efforts to visit local praesidia and to strengthen contact with Councils. The Comitium President travelled over 2,000 kms during a ten day period in March to visit Councils in the interior of the country.

BENIN REPUBLIC: Patricians meetings are a feature in reports. Two legionaries from the **Cotonou Regia** made a ten day visit to the Legion in **Gabon** in May. They visited five dioceses and received the full support of the Church authorities and Legion Spiritual Directors.

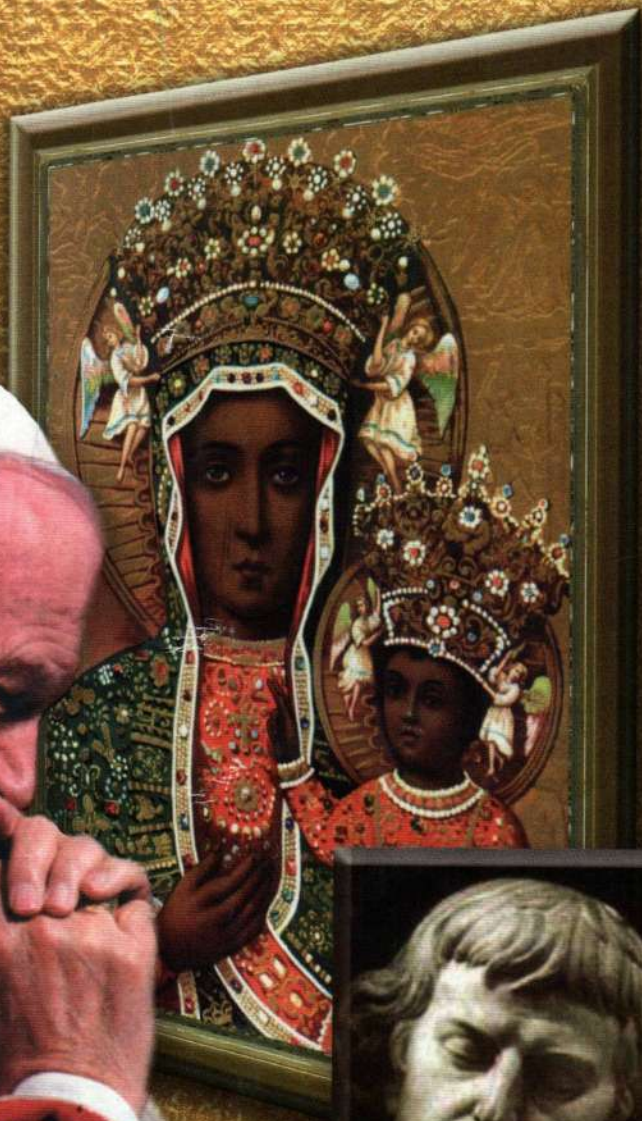
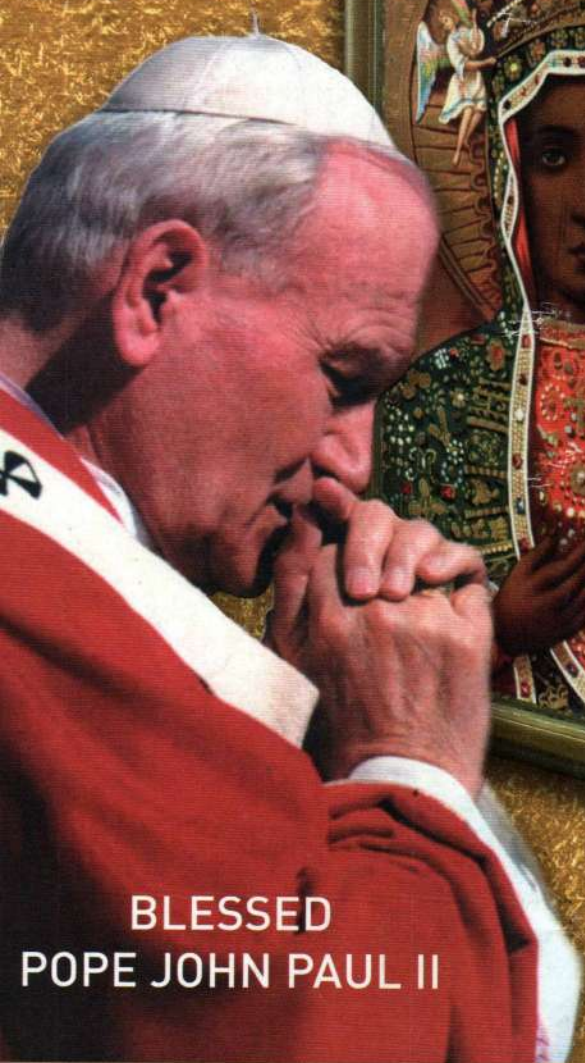
BURKINO FASO: Ouagadougou Comitium reports that legionaries are welcomed by non-Christians for their prayers and for their help to

the old with washing and drawing water and also by Christians for their care of families in irregular marriage situations. The Comitium is in the process of meeting Spiritual Directors and officers from various dioceses in different parts of the country. Young legionaries of Gounghin pray with the people at Basic Christian Community meetings and speak to them about the Legion. They also recruit young people for the catechetical programme.

IVORY COAST: Prayers are asked for the legionaries and people of this country, which has been going through very difficult times.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA: Malabo Comitium are planning to set up a new Curia. In Bata they had almost a 100% attendance at the Acies.





BLESSED POPE JOHN PAUL II

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