

Legion of Mary

Celebrating 90 Golden Years



1921 - 2011

*The idea of the Legion is normal religion
It is intended for the ordinary man and woman*



7 SEPTEMBER 2011 NINETIETH ANNIVERSARY



Enda Dunleavy

The celebration in Dublin took the form of Open Days at Concilium with the offices, the Hostels and Frank Duff's House as the open venues and at Myra House, the cradle of the Legion, where the original format of the House was restored, historical display boards were erected and people could come in, view the exhibition, sit, chat and have a cup of tea.

One lady, aged 97, came along. As a girl of 14, she had gone on a Legion outing to Co. Wicklow, to Glendalough, one of those spots in Ireland where heaven and earth seem to meet. She had her seat in the bus but, as will happen, an extra person showed up and she had to yield up her seat for someone who was older. As a result, she had the privilege of sitting on Br. Duff's knee for the trip, a memory cherished in her heart over the span of 83 years.

Myra House was refurbished for the occasion. The ground floor was restored to what it was in 1921 when the Legion was born. The statue of the Sacred Heart, a gift of Frank Duff's to the house, was restored to its dominant position in the entrance foyer. Frank once gave a conducted tour of the House and I was honoured to be able to record it. So we have the text of his words. Members entering the House and leaving always knelt a moment in prayer. Perhaps we will restore this practice. Fr. McGregor, Concilium Spiritual Director, came in after Mass in St. Nicholas of Myra Church and renewed the consecration of the House to the Sacred Heart. The Planning Office would not allow the wall of the old passageway to be replastered as the House is to-day a protected building. So the long wall was draped and the drapes carried the faces of the more than 80 Envoys who spread the Legion over the world and the faces of the more than 80 legionaries who held the first anniversary reunion in September 1922.

The faces and figures were life-size and so startlingly clear that you felt you could almost talk to each one or at least that they were in close communion with us.

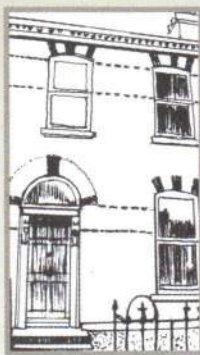
Frank Duff called them the "spirited nucleus".
And many people remarked "Weren't they all lovely girls".

Fr. Michael Toher, Frank Duff and Mrs Elizabeth Kirwan were identified seated in the middle.

FOUNDER OF THE LEGION OF MARY

EARLY LIFE

Francis Michael Duff was born in Phibsboro, Dublin on 7th June 1889. He was the eldest of seven, two of whom died as children. He attended Belvedere and Blackrock Colleges and was a gifted student. However, due to his father's premature illness money was in short supply and a university education was no longer an option. Frank joined the Civil Service taking first place in the entrance examination. He was assigned to the Department of Finance, devised a system of calculus which was subsequently adopted by the Treasury in London. He was a keen cyclist, played tennis and enjoyed a good social life. He was invited by a colleague to join the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) and in October 1913 joined at the age of 24. He was affected by the chasm he saw between the society he moved in and the poverty, hunger and squalor he witnessed. Many who lived in tenement squalor were forced to attend soup kitchens for sustenance, and some of the natural consequences of abject poverty, alcoholism and prostitution were rife in Dublin.



97 Phibsboro Road



Young Frank Duff



Sporting Frank Duff

Accustomed to reading copiously he started reading more spiritual and theological books about God and the saints. Besides the physical needs of the people he encountered, Frank saw that many neglected the practice of the faith and needed encouragement.

1914, in parallel to his work with the St Vincent de Paul Society, Frank commenced his own personal apostolate visiting tenement houses where he received a kindly welcome. Proselytism was rife in Dublin at the time. SVP member, Joe Gabbett and some women had set up an alternative food centre for those in need. Frank involved himself in this work. Frank joined the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart. In 1915 he joined the Third Order of the Carmelites and made the first of 49 pilgrimages to St. Patrick's Island, Lough Derg.

In 1916, he wrote a booklet "Can We Be Saints", his thesis being "in the heart of every right thinking Catholic, God has implanted the desire to become a saint." In 1917 he found a second-hand copy of "True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary" by St. Louis - Marie Grignon de Montfort. He had difficulty in coming to terms with the contents.



Joe Gabbett

Joe Gabbett's formidable appearance belies his gentle heart. Gabbett, a former British Army Sergeant-Major, and Frank's early co-worker.



In 1919 he went to Mount Melleray Cistercian Abbey and read a book entitled "The Knowledge of Mary" by Fr. Januarius deConcilio, that opened up a new world for him.

It gave him a theological knowledge of Our Lady which was assumed in St. Louis de Monfort's book.



Mount Melleray

On 7 September 1921, fifteen women, Fr. Michael Toher CC, St. Nicholas of Myra parish and Frank Duff met in Myra House, 100 Francis Street, Dublin, to discuss how they might better serve the poor. The Legion of Mary was born.



The first work of the Legion of Mary was the visitation of the South Union Hospital (now incorporated as part of St James's Hospital), Dublin, to a section of the hospital frequented by few, if any, visitors to patients suffering from cancer.



Father Creedon had visited a well-known Dublin house of prostitution and had appealed to its 31 women to abandon their way of life and return to the practice of their religion.

He approached Frank Duff and the early legionaries. This gave rise to the retreat in the Sisters of Charity in Baldoye, which 23 women attended.

Father Philip, the Franciscan priest who conducted the Retreat, was marvelous. The girls listened with rapt attention to his talks. Faith triumphed, the sort of faith that can move mountains.

Convent Church Baldoyle (Irish Sisters of Charity)

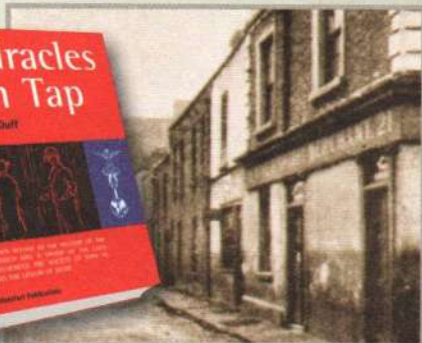
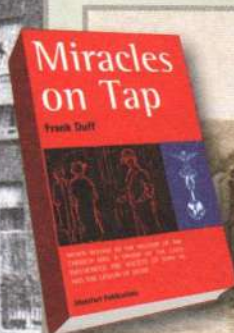


Thanks to the good offices of the then Minister for Local Government, W. T. Cosgrave, a premises was procured in Harcourt Street Dublin, into which the girls moved at the end of the retreat which became known then as Sancta Maria Hostel.

There was at the time in Dublin an area of ill-repute known worldwide as Monto, a no-go area for law and order. In large run-down tenement houses resided many girls who plied the trade of prostitution. Legionaries decided to make a visit to this area and despite initial fears were made welcome by those living there. This was the Apostolate to Bentley Place. See Frank Duff's book '*Miracles on Tap*'.



Sancta Maria Hostel



Bentley Place

LATER LIFE

Frank Duff served in several Government departments until 1932 when he retired from the Civil Service to give his complete attention to the Legion of Mary, which, after the International Eucharistic Congress in Dublin, was expanding worldwide.



In 1965, Pope Paul VI invited Frank Duff to attend the Second Vatican Council as a Lay Observer, an honour by which the Pope recognised and affirmed Frank Duff's work for the lay apostolate.

He took to heart the words of Our Lord to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque:

"My Heart is so inflamed with Love for men that it is no longer able to keep within itself the flames of its burning Love. It must make itself known unto men in order to enrich them with the treasures it contains".

CAUSE FOR CANONISATION

In July 1996 the Cause of Duff's Canonisation was introduced by the Archbishop of Dublin, Cardinal Desmond Connell. Wednesday January 14, 1998: The Tribunal for the Cause for his beatification was inaugurated by Archbishop (Cardinal Connell) on behalf of the Archdiocese of Dublin in Nazareth Hall at the Legion of Mary headquarters. The salvation of souls dominates the life of every saint. Frank found it difficult to imagine how you could save your own soul

without seeking to save the souls of others. The desire to save souls defines also the reason why he founded the Legion of Mary. 'Frank Duff was great in the small things, and heroic in doing the commonplace, and his purpose in all things great and small was his immense desire to love God and to be an instrument with and through Mary and the Holy Spirit in the conversion of sinners and the salvation of souls.'

Fr. Bede McGregor O.P.



At the introduction of the Cause for Frank Duff, pictured above from left to right, Father Innocenzo Venchi, O.P., Postulator, Desmond Cardinal Connell, Father Bede McGregor, O.P., Vice-Postulator, and Father John Dolan, Assistant to the Chancellor of the Archdiocese.

November 7, 1980

FRANK DUFF R.I.P.



On 7 November 1980, Frank Duff died at the age of 91.



TELEGRAM FROM THE HOLY FATHER



The Legion of Mary throughout the world mourns the death of its founder, Frank Duff. I join with the members in praying for the eternal repose of his soul. The association that he founded has made countless lay catholics aware of their indispensable role in the evangelisation and sanctification and has enabled them to fulfill that role zealously and effectively. To all legionaries I impart the Apostolic Blessing and comfort in their loss and encouragement in their future task.

John Paul II



WORDS OF FRANK DUFF

I do not think St. Ignatius would be comfortable with either word in the phrase 'Ignatian Spirituality'. 'Spirituality', the word, is bloodless, often too self-conscious, artificial, cut off from the noises and smells of God's world. And as for 'Ignatian', well he would say that Christian teachers do not stand on their own. They take their places in the river of tradition and all they do is to try to live the Gospel. There is one way - the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Frank Duff



November 7, 1980

1980 – A talk to The Peregrinatio Pro Christo Conference – Frank drew on the comment of Pope Paul VI, what he liked best about the Legion of Mary “that it knew how to utilise the little people of the world” followed by Pope John’s “the Legion of Mary presents the true face of the Catholic Church”



AN IRISHMANS DIARY - KEVIN MYERS THE IRISH TIMES 1980 AN IRISH NEWSPAPER OF NOTE

‘Dublin was paralysed by the hugh traffic jam resulting from Frank Duff’s funeral. Allow him a small chuckle from the grave. At the age of 91, he spent his last summer on a cycling trip around Ireland. Frank had planned a short trip with some friends around the Hill of Howth for 8 and 9 November 1980. When he died, his bicycle was in the hall downstairs and his packed bag was on the carrier ready for the planned departure the following morning.’

*'His message is radically rooted in the Gospel
and the Tradition of the Church.
This is why it is so important'. Fr Bede*

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...

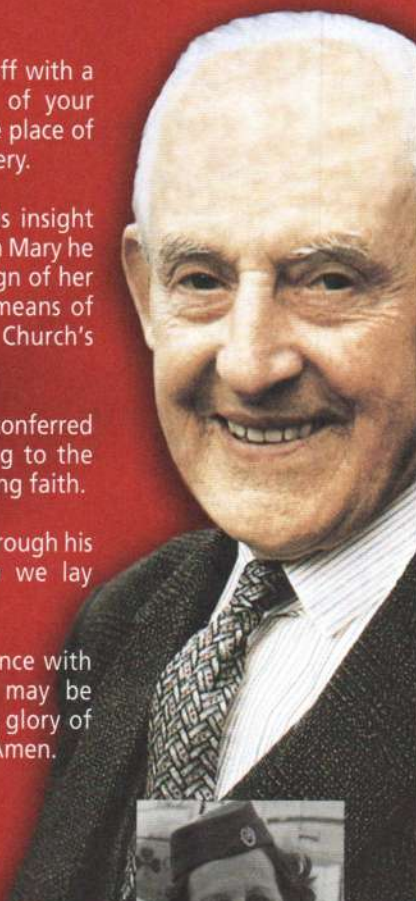
We ask too that if it be in accordance with your will, the holiness of his life may be acknowledged by the Church for the glory of your Name, through Christ our Lord, Amen.



Frank's grave,
Glasnevin, Dublin



Frank's only surviving
relative, Carmel



PARISH OF ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA AND MYRA HOUSE

Francis Street follows the course of the ancient road named Slí Cualann linking north to south and crossing the Liffey at Áth Cliath, the “hurdleford”.

St. Patrick would have passed that way when he came to these parts and baptised his first converts at the well ever since called after him, St. Patrick’s Well close by where St. Patrick’s Cathedral stands to-day.

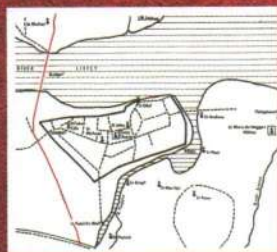
In 1235/6, just 9 years after the death of St. Francis, Ralph de Porter founded and built a house and chapel for the Franciscans on the east side of this road. Houses were built along the road and it became Francis Street. It was outside the city walls and in the Liberty of St. Thomas in which justice was dispensed by the Prior of the Augustinian monastery of St. Thomas.

The Franciscans of Francis Street were dispossessed under Henry VIII about 1534. The Friary was dismantled and its stonework sold for building material. The Franciscans never left Dublin however and by 1678 had re-acquired the site for rebuilding when the Titus Oates plot brought fresh persecution. However, by 1709, a parish church had been erected on the site and Archdeacon Austin was appointed Parish Priest.

In 1709, Archbishop Edmond Byrne took up residence in Francis Street and the church served as a pro-Cathedral for him and eight Archbishops after him. The present church, begun in 1829 was completed in 1834 under Archdeacon Flanagan.

By coincidence, the Parish Priest at the time of the founding of the Legion of Mary was a namesake, Fr. (later Canon) Flanagan, who gave his blessing and support to the fledgling society. He was succeeded by Rev. Patrick (later Canon) Hayden in October 1923.

The curates who played a vital role in the establishment and development of the Legion were Fr. Michael Toher and Fr. Michael Creedon.



Ancient Map



St. Patrick's Cathedral



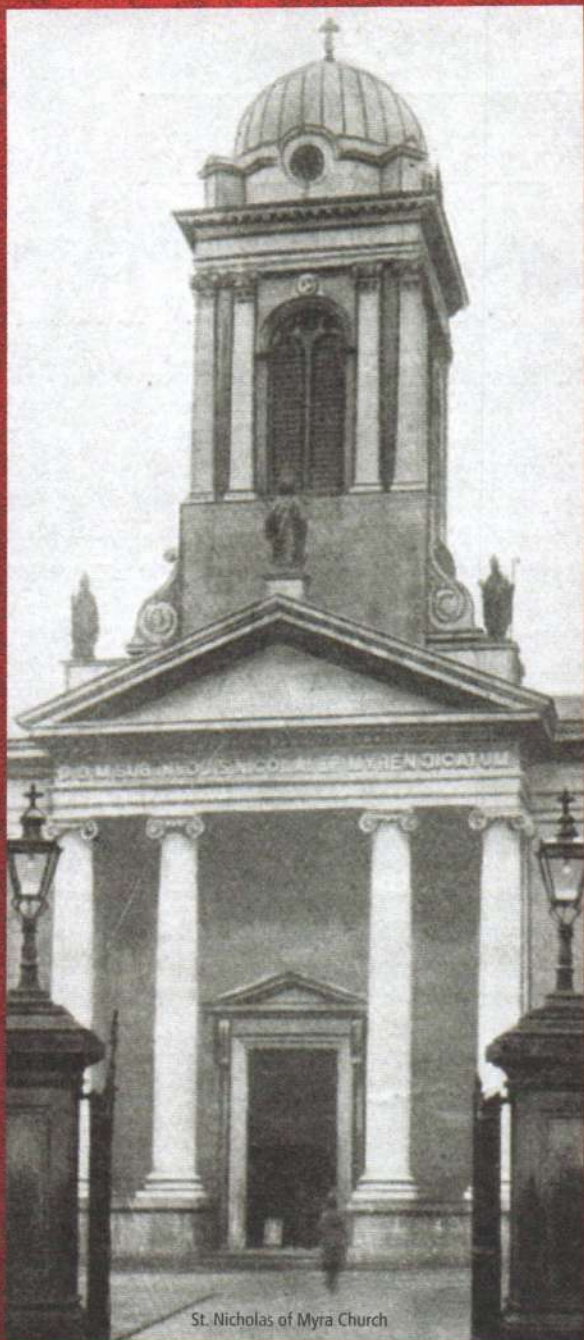
St. Patrick's Well



Franciscan monk



Titus Oates



St. Nicholas of Myra Church

MYRA HOUSE AN EARLY HISTORY

In 1798, Anthony Metcalf, Chandler and Tobacconist, occupies a house in Francis Street then known as No. 46. (Thoms Directory.)

In 1834/5, Anthony Metcalf, soapboiler and Chandler, occupies a house then numbered 106 but later re-numbered as No. 100, the present Myra House.

In 1844, No. 106 is still occupied by Anthony Metcalf, tallow Chandler and No. 100 by Matthew Kehoe.

In 1854, No. 100 was listed as occupied by Matthew Kehoe (Keogh) provisions dealer while No's. 103 and 104 are occupied by Patrick Keogh.

In 1887, a book entitled "The Industries of Dublin" published by Spencer Blackett of London lauds the firm of Mathew Kehoe & Son, Ham and Bacon Curers, Lard Refiners and Export Merchants, of 100 Francis Street, said to be in business over 60 years. The building with its white granite frontage is described as an architectural ornament to the district.

By 1900, the firm's name has changed to Kehoe Donnelly & Packenham Ltd.

By 1911, the main workfloor has been adapted for use as a children's play centre by the Iveagh Trust, the philanthropic arm of Guinness' Brewery. Here King Edward V and Queen Mary on their coronation visit to Ireland are entertained by the children of the Liberties.

By 1915, No. 100 is described in Thoms Directory as being "in tenements" while at No. 103 Patrick Kehoe Ltd, Provision Merchants, continue to operate.

In 1916, on November 18th, Margaret M. Keogh, widow, by deed makes a gift of No. 100 Francis Street to Frank Sweeney, Barrister, as President of the St. Vincent dePaul Conference of St. Nicholas of Myra for the residue of a lease of 500 years from 25th March 1844.



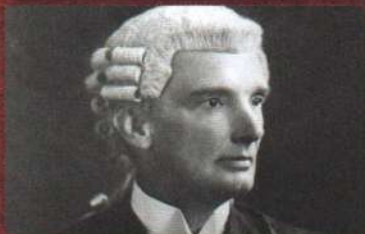
A Sope-boyler



ITS HISTORY, INDUSTRIES, AND TRADE.



King George V (1865–1936), King of Great Britain since 1910, with his queen-consort Queen Mary (1867–1953), at Collier Hospital on a visit to Dublin.



Frank Sweeney, Barrister.
President of the SVP Conference of
St. Nicholas of Myra and described by Frank Duff
as the founder of Myra House.



THE COMING OF THE LEGION

In 1916, No. 100 Francis Street is christened "Myra House" and the former factory floor (and recent play-centre) becomes the "Myra Hall". Frank Sweeney appoints Frank Duff - member of St Vincent dePaul - as liaison with the ladies group who provided free breakfasts on Sunday mornings to poor children, a service begun in conjunction with the Iveagh Play Centre since transferred to Bull Alley. In a survey carried out on Easter Monday 1917, it is found that only a few of the children came from poor families and, after discussion, this service was terminated. The ladies helped with other activities - the Penny Bank, catechism sessions for children after Sunday Mass, the Penny Library.

On 2nd February 1917, the St. Vincent dePaul Conference of St. Patrick is established in the House with Frank Duff as President. On April 27th, the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart is established under the patronage of St. Patrick to promote temperance on the south side of the City. The Pioneer Council, all male, is set up on 5th May to man the Pioneer Centre open weekly to applicants for membership. In November, Frank Duff inaugurates the "League of Daily Mass" in Myra House which in four years numbers over 1000 members.

On 7th October 1918 as further compensation to the ladies for the closure of the free Sunday breakfasts for children, a decision is taken to invite ladies on to the Pioneer Council. Frank Duff approaches Mrs. Elizabeth Kirwan who begins to attend the monthly meeting from 4th November 1918.

In 1921, on Sunday August 14th, in a room in Myra House known as the Boardroom, a meeting is held to discuss the teaching of St. Louis Marie de Montfort in regard to devotion to Our Lady.

On Sunday August 28th, at the regular monthly meeting of the Council now incorporating the Pioneer Council, members of the former ladies group and a group of men calling themselves the Guild of St. Camillus, Matt Murray reports on his visit to the women's cancer ward in the South Dublin Union Hospital.



St. Vincent dePaul
Conference of St. Patrick



Young Elizabeth Kirwan



Matt Murray



Myra House 1921



St. Louis de Montfort

Early history

Two of the women, Mary and Emily Dooley, ask to be allowed do this work. The answer they get from Fr. Toher and Frank Duff is "Why not? Can you count on support?"

On Wednesday August 31st, a meeting was held by Fr. Toher and Frank Duff with six of the ladies to discuss the proposal and arrangements were made to begin.

On Wednesday September 7th, Frank Duff and 15 women inaugurate the first branch of the Legion of Mary under the title "Our Lady of Mercy". The preliminary and inaugural meetings were held in a back room whose location is marked for visitors in the courtyard of Tandy Court at the rere of Myra House. Elizabeth Kirwan of Dean Swift Square is chosen as first President.



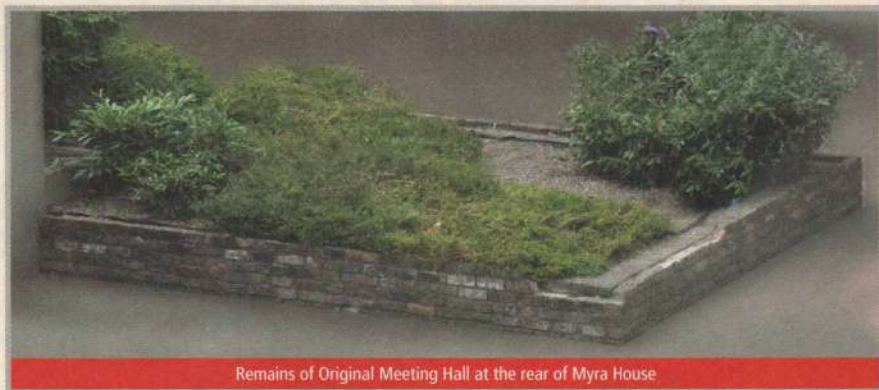
Mrs. Kirwan



Dean Swift Square

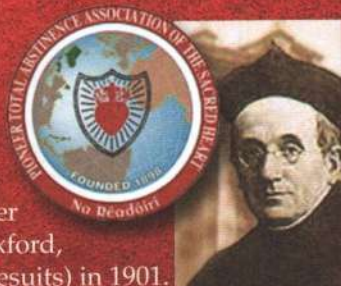


Commemoration Plaque



Remains of Original Meeting Hall at the rear of Myra House

The Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart was founded by Fr. James Cullen S.J. in the Church of Saint Francis Xavier, Gardiner Street, Dublin, on 28 December 1898. Fr Cullen was born in New Ross, Co Wexford, in 1841 and entered the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) in 1901.



Fr. Cullen was always concerned with social issues, and his motivation in setting up the Pioneers was to address the enormous damage that he saw excess alcohol was doing in the Ireland of his times. Alcohol was the greatest drain on the weekly earnings of the family.

He had four co-founders: all of them were women, Mrs. A. Egan, Mrs. M.L. Bury, Mrs. A.M. Sullivan, and Miss L. Power, as Fr. Cullen's early vision was of an all-female organisation which, through its prayers and sacrifice in pledging to abstain from alcohol for life. After a very short time, Fr. Cullen extended the membership to all.

From the beginning, members - who joined in their thousands - pledged three things: to abstain from alcohol for life (which Fr. Cullen referred to as "The heroic sacrifice"); to say the Pioneer prayer twice a day; and to bear witness by wearing the pioneer pin at all times. The PTAA has always been underpinned by devotion to the Sacred Heart, and its emblem reflects this.

Fr. Cullen was a tireless and good organiser. He put his considerable energies into building up the association which he founded. In 1905, after five years, there were 43,000 members. In 1906 there were 70,000, and by 1910 there were 100,000. In the 1950s, as many as one in three Irish adults were members. And even though membership has declined considerably since then, there are still more than 100,000 Pioneers in Ireland today.

The Pioneers have played a very important role in Irish society in the 20th century. The historian Ulick O'Connor claims that the two organisations that contributed most to the building of modern Ireland were the Pioneers and the GAA. Some influential members include:

Venerable Matt Talbot (1856 - 1925), Venerable Edel Quinn (1907 - 1943), Servant of God Frank Duff (1889 - 1980). Many Pioneers were subsequently to become members of the legion of Mary as well as the PTAA.

MYRA HOUSE A MORE RECENT HISTORY

In 1931, the Guide to Catholic Dublin (Trinity Press) says that in Myra Hall "some 2000 children of the poor of the parish are entertained at Christmas and there too is annually held the Myra Feis which develops each year in greater importance to the social, educational and Irish-speaking aspects of Dublin life". Several of Dublin's stage personalities developed their talent in the Myra Hall, among others Noel Purcell, once caught in the act of stealing a slice of Mrs. Murray's plum pudding while the Christmas Pantomime was in progress, and Jack Cruise, who later nominated Frank Duff for the prestigious "Golden Heart" award of the Variety Clubs International.

At this time, the Legion of Mary, still lacking a mandate from the Diocese, leaves Myra House and receives shelter from James Larkin who helps with accommodation in Union premises in Thomas Street and later in Liberty Hall.

In 1965, the Legion returns, purchasing Myra House from the St. Vincent de Paul Society who had built themselves a place on Nicholas Street. Repairs are carried out in preparation for an All-Ireland Whitsun Congress attended by Frank Duff.

In 1971, Dr. McQuaid, Archbishop of Dublin has a plaque erected on the building to mark the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Legion.

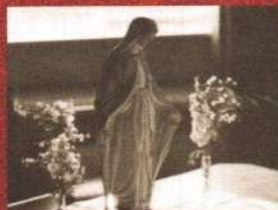
In 1981, ANCO carry out a programme of renovations to the front building, Myra House.

In 1998, the Myra Hall is considered unsafe and is sold as part of the Tandy Court development. However the site of the backroom in which the Legion was founded is outlined in brick and marked with notices by order of Dublin Corporation.

In 2011, Myra House, thanks to Architect Georgina Hutton, puts on its best garb to welcome guests who wish to share in the joy of the Legion's 90th Anniversary.



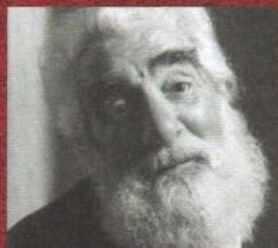
Plaque erected to mark 50th Anniversary



Altar, first meeting, in Myra House



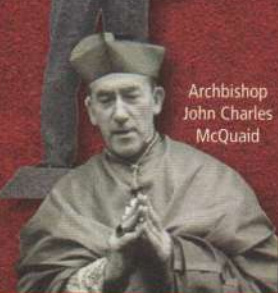
Current Legion Altar in Myra House



Noel Purcell



Big Jim Larkin



Archbishop
John Charles
McQuaid

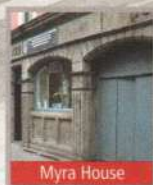


The Myra Feis
(Feis - Irish Music, Dance, Song, Poetry)

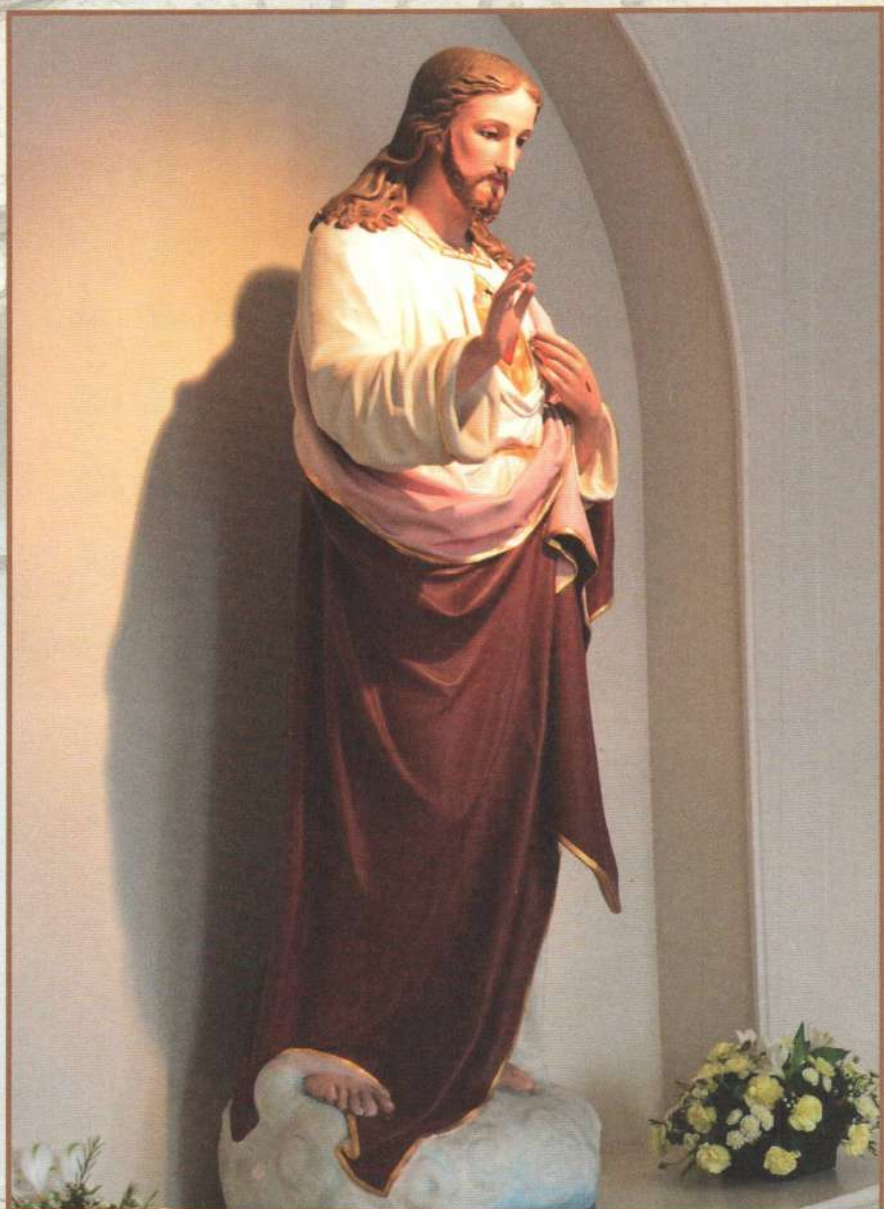
90th Anniversary Celebrations

MYRA HOUSE

100 FRANCIS STREET, DUBLIN 8, IRELAND



Fr. Anthony (Xiao) celebrating Mass in the foyer of Myra House, the layout of this foyer having been restored to its appearance as it was at the founding of the Legion in 1921.



The refurbished Sacred Heart statue purchased by Frank Duff and gifted to Myra House when the House was consecrated to the Sacred Heart on 7th June 1917 to inaugurate a programme of enthronement of the Sacred Heart in the homes of the parish.

Myra House Celebrations



Commencement of Mass at Myra House



Ann Winterlich aged 96, a former active member who, as a little girl travelled, on a Legion outing from Myra House to Co. Wicklow. Because she had to yield her seat to an older person on the bus (Frank Duff) she sat on his knee for the duration of the journey.



A Much Loved Legionary

The Original Site of Myra Hall



Joe Quinsey and Friends



Moving Moments

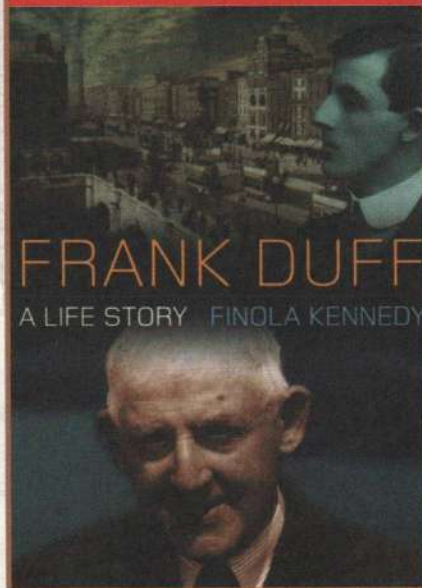


Joyful Legionaries at the Myra House Celebrations

Myra House Celebrations



Finola Kennedy - Author of Frank Duff - A Life Story
with on the left Marie Dunleavy



Visitors at Myra House Exhibition



Anne McCawley



Annette Mulrooney and Alice Creaton



Mr. Enda Dunleavy hosting a lively Questions & Answers Session at Myra House



New Exhibition Installation at Myra House

First Anniversary Meeting

Society of Our Lady of Mercy.
Meeting held on Wednesday, 7 Sept. 1921

There were present:

~~Mr. J. Duff~~
Mrs. Kirwin, ^{in the chair} ~~and~~ Mrs. Leech,
Miss N. Owens, K. Hanvey, L. Keogh,
S. McNamara, K. Fagan, B. O'Callaghan
M. Jacob, ~~E.~~ Dooley, B. Rooney, E. C. Shea
M. Dooley, E. Dunne and V. Woodhead.
Father John and Mr. J. Duff also attended the meeting.

The opening prayers and Rosary of our Blessed Lady were recited, after which a short spiritual reading was read by the chairman.

The following Sisters were nominated to hold undermentioned offices for an indefinite period:-

President:	Mrs. Kirwin
Vice President:	Miss Connelly
Secretary:	" Woodhead
Asst. Secretary:	" Rooney
Treasurer:	" Dooley

The wards in the S. D. Union were allotted as under:-

Nos. 6 and 7.	Sisters L. Keogh & N. Owens
No. 1.	" K. Fagan & K. Hanvey
" 5.	" E. C. Shea & E. Dunne
" 2.	" M. & E. Dooley
" 3.	" B. Rooney & B. O'Callaghan
" 4.	" M. & M. Jacob
Cancer wards	" Leech & V. Woodhead

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Meeting of 7th Sept. continued.

Sisters gave accounts of their visits to the Union.

It was advised by the chairman that Sisters should learn from their in-charge of each ward really deserving cases and if necessary reserve help for such patients. It was also suggested that Sisters should give gifts personally to patients, thus helping the latter to appreciate their visitors.

Should a Sister find it impossible to visit all her patients in the course of one visit it was decided that she give all her attention each week to the same patients rather than dividing her ward to see patients every second week.

The Meeting closed with usual prayers.

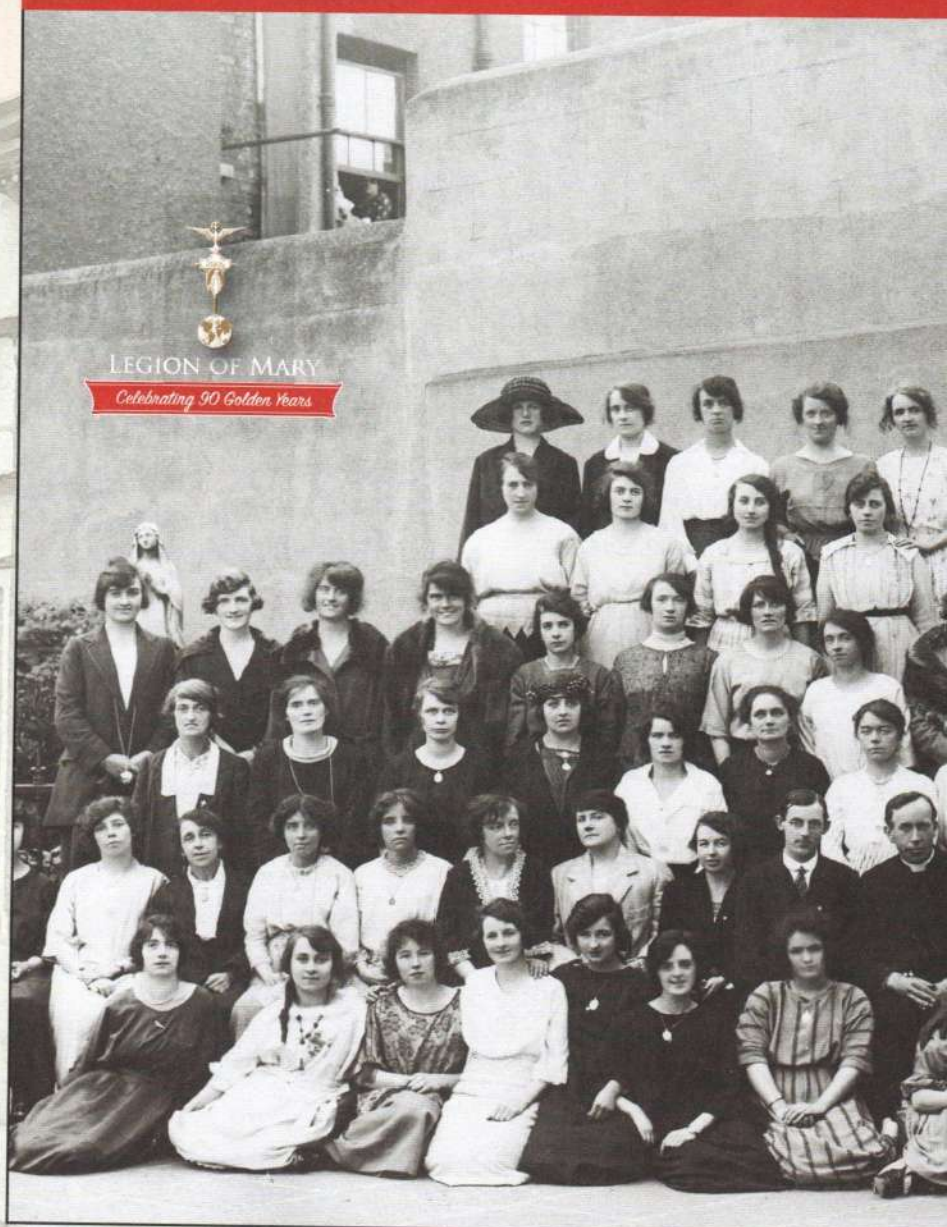
Secret collection was made realising amount of 15/-

Elizabeth Hixson

Per Sec

14/9/51.

First Anniversary Meeting



LEGION OF MARY

Celebrating 90 Golden Years

This photo was taken in 1922 at Myra House, celebrating the first anniversary of the Legion of Mary and includes Frank Duff, Fr. Creedon & Mrs Kirwan.



Legion Envoys Around the World



Mary Duffy
(Ireland)
USA, Canada,
1934-1946
D.1997



Ruby Dennison
(Ireland)
South Africa
1934-1938
D.1961



Edel Quinn
(Ireland)
East Africa, Mauritius
1938-1944
Declared Venerable 1994
D.1944



John Murray
(Ireland)
USA, Canada,
Mexico, Philippines
1936-1947
D.1989



Veronica O'Brien
(Ireland)
France, Greece,
Yugoslavia
1940-1950



Dorothy Wynn
(S.A.)
South Africa
1944-1952
D.1995



Joaguina Lucas
(Philippines)
South America,
Portugal
1946-1963



Ruby Roberts
(S.A.)
Sudan, Egypt
1947-1957
D.1970



Maurice O'Connor
(Ireland)
West & Central Africa
1947-1950
D.2008



Andre Chamagne
(France)
Algiers
1948-1961



Teresa Su
(Hong Kong)
Indonesia
1948-1958



Anatol Kaszozuk
(Poland)
Poland
1948-1952



Peter Norman
(Ireland)
India
1948-1952
D.1996



Henriette Talabat
(France)
Belgium
1949-1953
D.1989



Pacita Santos
(Philippines)
Spain
1950-1959



Agnes Orelabar
(England)
Japan
1950-1959
D.1994



Cecil D'Souza
(India)
India, Pakistan
1951-1957
D.1981



Lydia Villegar
(Switzerland)
Switzerland
1952-1956



Alfie Lambe
(Ireland)
South America
1953-1959
D.1959



Helen Lamy
(Canada)
Canada
1953-1956



Seamus Grace
(Ireland)
Colombia, Venezuela
1953-1956

Legion Envoys Around the World



Marie O'Connell Froc
(France)
West Africa
1954-1956
D.1992



Ellen Moller
(Denmark)
Denmark
1954-1959



Joan Lynch
(Ireland)
Thailand, Vietnam, Laos
Cambodia
1955-1960



Rose Reynolds
(Ireland)
Wales
1955-1968
D.1979



Anne O'Connor
(Ireland)
Zaire (Rep of Congo)
1955-1964
D.2003



Delphine Madill
(USA)
Canada, Haiti,
West Indies
1955-1960



Mary Clerkin
(Ireland)
Brazil
1955-1960
D.1983



James O'Hanlon
(Ireland)
Norway, Iceland
1956-1958
D.2008



Paddy Stenson
(Ireland)
South Africa
1956-1958



Marie Victoire Zacherl
(Austria)
Greece, Turkey,
Netherlands
1956-1962 & 1970-1972
D.1987



Anita Agostini
(USA)
Mexico
1966-1966



Una Twomey
(Wales)
Bolivia
1956-1963



Maureen McPolin
(Ireland)
West Africa
1957-1960



Diarmuid O'Donovan
(Ireland)
East Africa
1958-1960



Marjorie Quinn
(Ireland)
North Africa
1958-1961



Mairead Brady
(Ireland)
Portugal
1959-1960



Noel Lynch
(Ireland)
Argentina
1959-1967



Joan Cronin - (Ireland)
Portugal, Angola,
Mozambique, Guinea
Equatorial, Middle East,
Brazil, Indonesia
1959-1978 D.1980



Tadgh McMahon
(Ireland)
Brazil
1959-1962



Dick Maher
(Ireland)
Portugal
1960-1965
D.1979



Louis O'Neill
(Ireland)
Chile
1960-1963
D.1986

Legion Envoys Around the World



Nuala Burke
(Ireland)
Sudan, Egypt
1960-1964
D.1986



Gerard Reynolds
(Ireland)
Pakistan, India,
Burma (Myanmar)
1961-1965



Fergus Roche
(Ireland)
Mexico, Paraguay
1961-1964



Tom Honey
(Ireland)
Brazil
1961-1963



Pauline O'Donnell
(Ireland)
Madagascar
1961-1963



Celia O'Donovan
(Ireland)
West Africa
1962-1965



Brian McKeown
(Ireland)
Zaire (Rep of Congo)
1962-1966



Joseph Pilendiram
(Sri Lanka)
Kenya, Uganda
1962-1965



Harriet Cullen
(Ireland)
Botswana
1962-1965



Teresa DeRidder
(Holland)
Chile
1963-1968



Mary Kennedy
(Ireland)
Canada
1963-1968
D.2008



Jerry O'Sullivan
(Ireland)
Venezuela
1963-1970



Vachel Sampson
(Ireland)
Switzerland
1964-1967
D.1988



Isabel Edelen
(USA)
Mexico,
Central America
1964-1968
D.1997



Anna Boylan
(Ireland)
Central America
1964-1967



Anne Lavery
(Ireland)
Argentina
1964-1967



Kathleen Murphy
(Ireland)
Central America
1964-1969



Brendan Shorthall
(Ireland)
Tanzania
1964-1969
D.1996



Anna Lynch
(Ireland)
Zaire (Rep of Congo)
1964-1968



Juana Mateu
(Spain)
Bolivia
1965-1969



Vincent Ryan
(Ireland)
Nigeria
1965-1969

Legion Envoys Around the World



Jean Gillespie
(Scotland)
Mexico
1966-1969
D.2004



Lina Vacarro
(Argentina)
Brazil
1966-1972



Maurilyn Landers
(Ireland)
South Africa
1966-1968
D.1987



Ann Murray
(Ireland)
Peru
1966-1971



Freda Coyne
(Ireland)
Ecuador
1968-1971



Maria Senra
(Portugal)
Portugal, Angola, Brazil,
Cape Verde
1962-1965



Dick Soulliere
(USA)
Mexico 1968-1971
Ordained Priest,
Spiritual Director,
Miami Regia



Julio Cesar Cirillo
(Argentina)
Uruguay, Ecuador,
Central America
1969-1989



Roberta Connon
(Scotland)
Chile, Argentina,
Mexico
1970-1974



Mary Murphy
(Ireland)
Kenya
1973-1977



Robert Menner
(Australia)
Japan
1974-1977
D.2000



Terence McGuckin
(Ireland)
Tanzania
1974-1975



Margaret Brodigan
(Ireland)
Malawi
1974-1977



Socorro Cruz
(Philippines)
Thailand
1979-1986



Perlita S. Chongko
(Philippines)
Japan
1980-1983



Herman Mazuelo Leyton
(Bolivia)
Latin America
1983-1988



Bernardo De Nardo
(Argentina)
Armenia, Kazakstan,
Nepal
2006-2008



Anna Donachyl
(Ireland)
Congo
1964-1968



Eileen Sheehy
(Ireland)
West Africa
1956-1960



Katherine Dickson
(England)
East Africa
1946-1943

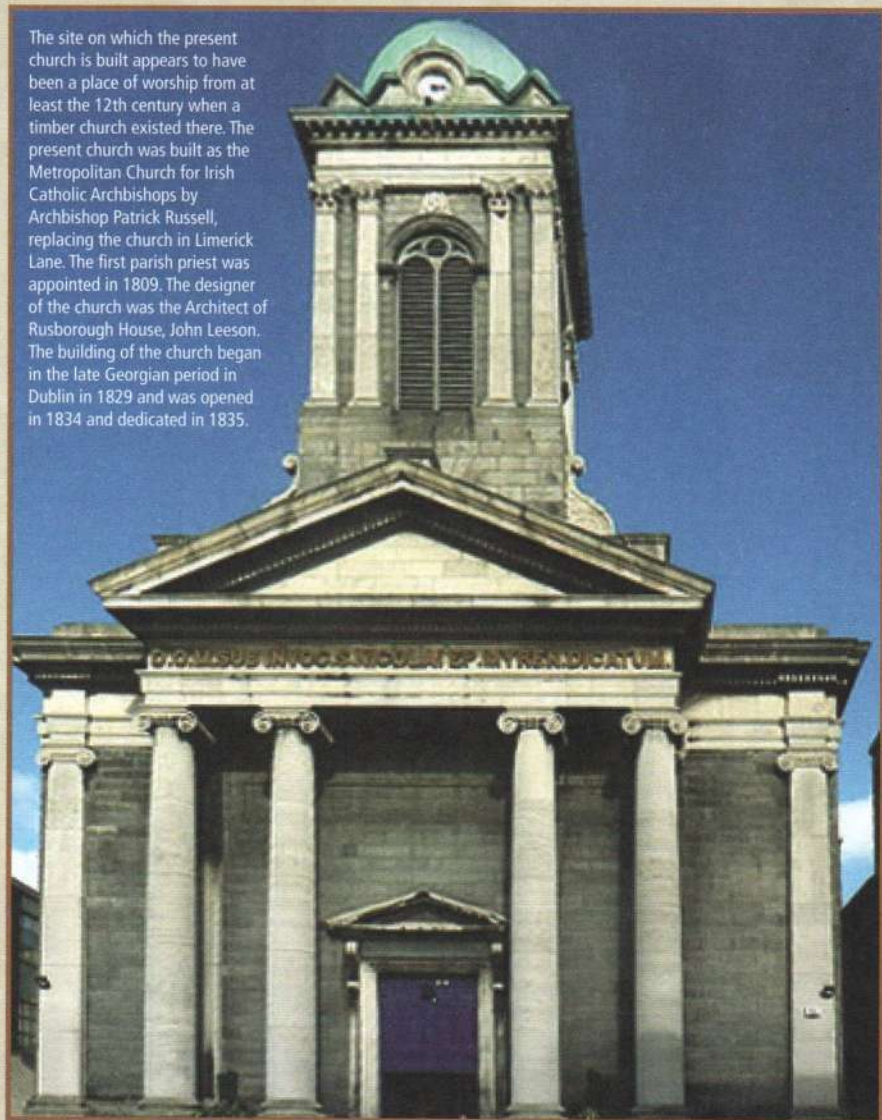
Clair Connolly-Pater
(Ireland)
Poland
1988-1990

Maria Smilga
(USA)
Lithuania
1995-1998

90th Anniversary Celebrations

ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA

The site on which the present church is built appears to have been a place of worship from at least the 12th century when a timber church existed there. The present church was built as the Metropolitan Church for Irish Catholic Archbishops by Archbishop Patrick Russell, replacing the church in Limerick Lane. The first parish priest was appointed in 1809. The designer of the church was the Architect of Rusborough House, John Leeson. The building of the church began in the late Georgian period in Dublin in 1829 and was opened in 1834 and dedicated in 1835.





Homilist: Fr. Bede McGregor, O.P., Postulator of the Cause of the Servant of God Frank Duff and Spiritual Director of Concilium



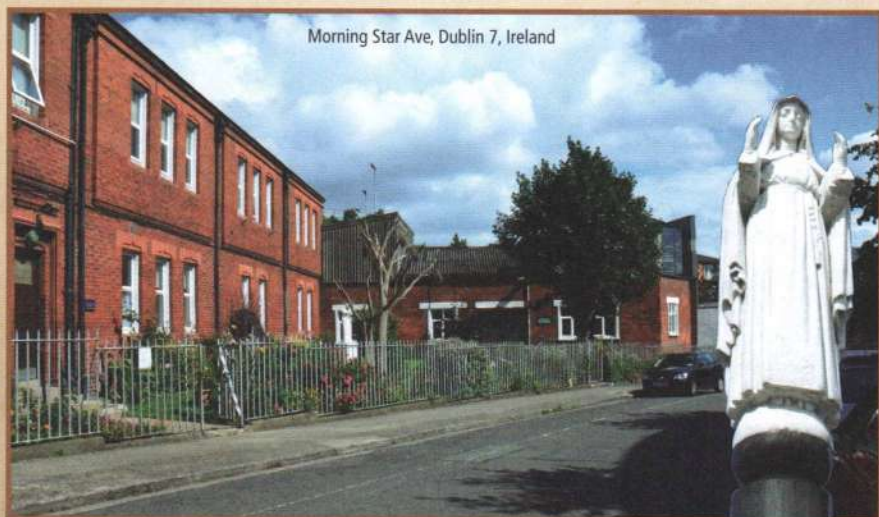
Paddy Fay

CONCILIUM EXHIBITION



The Concilium office which is situated between the Regina Coeli and Morning Star Hostels, on Morning Star Avenue, Brunswick Street, had an Open Day on Wednesday 7 September for the 90th anniversary. The large room at the front of the building, where many meetings are held, had a display of souvenirs which had been donated to the Concilium, and other items of interest. Images of Our Lady from various countries, such as Our Lady of Guadalupe from Mexico, Nossa Senhora Aparecida from Brazil and Our Lady with the Child Jesus in traditional Korean dress, were among these. A large selection of Legion Handbooks in a variety of languages was also on display. The centrepiece of this room was Our Lady's Altar with the Statue used at the first Legion meeting in 1921.

The large hall, known as Nazareth Hall, where the monthly meeting of the Concilium, the central council for the world is held, was used for the main exhibition, which was quite extensive. Large display boards were used for photographs and text showing some aspects of Legion history.



Morning Star Ave, Dublin 7, Ireland

Regina Coeli Hostel

Concilium

Morning Star Hostel



Blackrock College Centenary Garden Party 1960. Left to Right: Dr. Charles Heerey, CSSp, Mgr Alfred O'Rahilly, Cardinal D'Alton, President Eamon De Valera, Dr John Charles McQuaid and Frank Duff - all Blackrock College men.

A very valuable part of the exhibition was a number of stands on loan from Blackrock College (C.S.Sp.) showing photographs of the Servant of God Frank Duff as a student at the College and also in later years at special events in the College with some other alumni of the College who became prominent in ecclesiastical and political life. There was a display of photographs of Legion Envoys and there was also information on the Legion Hostels.

Visitors, to the number of about 300, who came from various parts of the country, such as Antrim, Cork, Donegal, Wexford, etc. as well as Dublin, and some from as far as Mexico, had the opportunity also to view Frank Duff's house, a short walk from the Concilium office. There they could see the various rooms, where Frank's mother and some of the family as well as Frank himself lived. Various items, including the bicycle on which Frank travelled many of the roads of Ireland, were on display in one of the rooms. The most significant room now is the bedroom where Frank died on 7 November 1980. Some of the visitors were able to avail also of a shuttle bus to visit Frank's grave in Glasnevin Cemetery.



The Duff Family, with Frank on the far left



Frank Duff House



His Bicycle



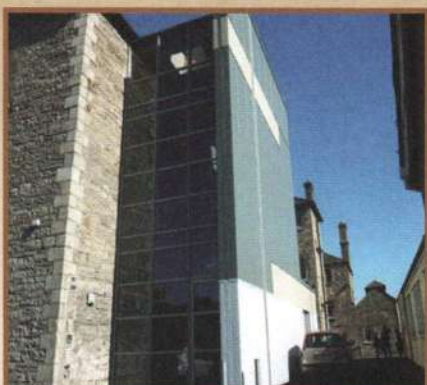
His Rosary Beads



Where he breathed his last breath



His Writing Desk



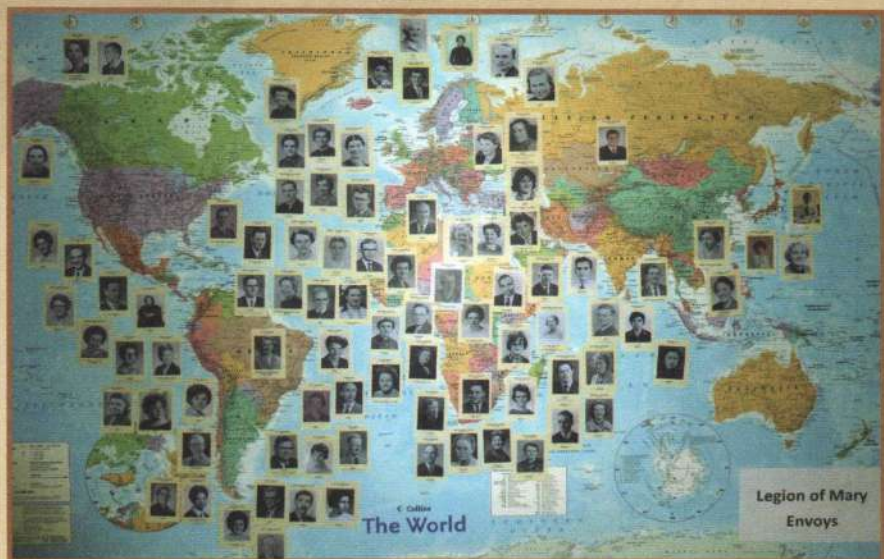
Visitors at Concilium Exhibition



Visitors at Concilium Exhibition



A selection of gifts from overseas including the beautiful statue of Our Lady with the Child Jesus in traditional Korean dress



Legion of Mary Envoys around the world



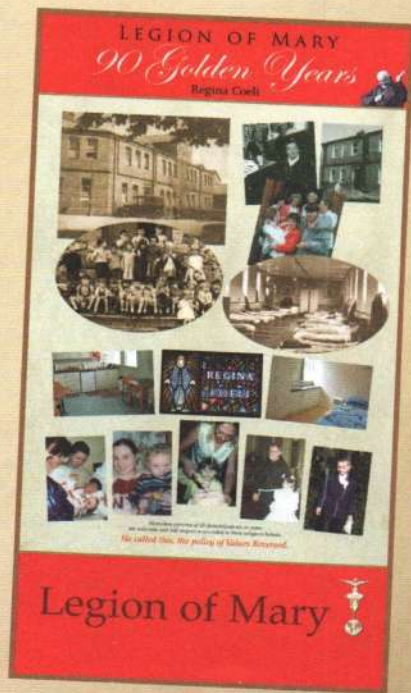
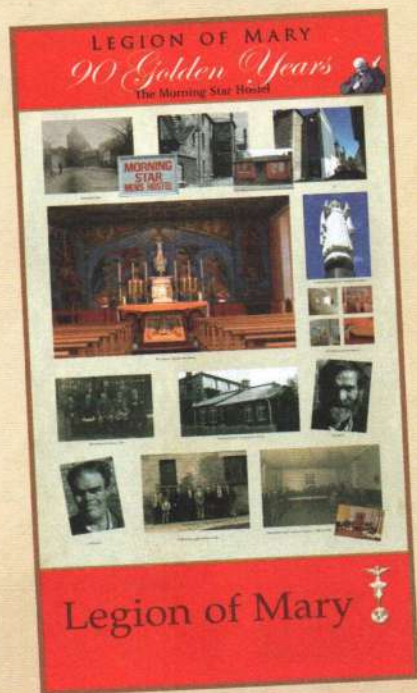
Cartoon Artist Letitia Dunleavy-Harkin and daughter Siofra



Pat O'Hora from Tipperary



Visitors to Concilium exhibition



90th Anniversary Celebrations

CHURCH OF THE ANGELS CONCELEBRATED EVENING MASS



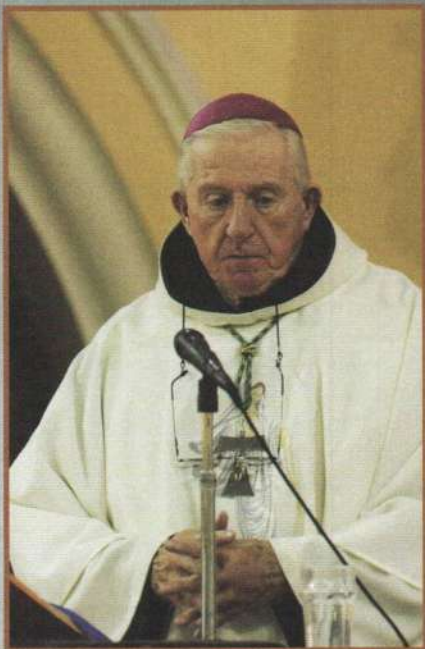
Concelebrated Mass



Part of the Celebratory Congregation



Homilist: Fr. Padraig O'Chochlain



Chief Celebrant Bishop Fiacra O'Kelly



Reader Mary Murphy



Congregation

The Legionary World

The Legion of Mary an apostolic organisation of lay people in the Catholic Church, has well over 3 million active members in almost every country in the world.

Works include, door to door evangelisation, parishioner visitation, prison ministry, visitation of the sick or aged, crowd contact, religious education, visiting the newly baptised and daily recitation of the Rosary. Legionaries are under the guidance of a Spiritual Director, named by the Parish Priest. The Legion is, in essence, an extension of the heart and hands of the Parish Priest.

Countries are arranged in Zones for reporting purposes, some have additional territories which are too small in size to indicate accurately on the map above. Reports are presented to the Ruling Council of the World, the Concilium Legionis Mariae. Communication is maintained monthly by many means but specifically through a system of Correspondents.

Zone numbers are marked in red on the map

1 CENTRAL AMERICA

Belize
Honduras
Nicaragua
Costa Rica
Guatemala
Mexico
El Salvador
Panama

2 SOUTH AMERICA (A)

Argentina
Brazil

3 SOUTH AMERICA (B)

Bolivia
Columbia
Paraguay
Uruguay
Chile
Cuba
Peru
Venezuela
Ecuador

4 NORTH AMERICA & WEST INDIES

USA
Canada
Jamaica
Bahamas
Trinidad & Tobago
Dominican Republic
Haiti
Puerto Rico
Virgin Islands

5 ASIA (A)

Bangladesh
Pakistan
India
Sri Lanka
Kazakhstan
Thailand
Myanmar
Vietnam

6 ASIA (B)

Hong Kong
Macau
Indonesia
Malaysia
Singapore
Japan
Taiwan
Korea Republic

7 ASIA (C) OCEANIA

Philippines
Australia
New Zealand
Papua New Guinea



8

EUROPE (A)

Cyprus
Malta
Gibraltar
Greece
Italy
Portugal
Spain
Egypt
Syria
Albania
Turkey

9

EUROPE (B)
& MIDDLE EAST

Belgium
Israel
Lebanon
France
Luxembourg
Switzerland
England
Scotland
Wales
Germany
Netherlands
Scandinavia

10

EUROPE (D)

Austria
Belarus
Latvia
Poland
Lithuania
Poland
Russia
Ukraine
Hungary
Romania

11

AFRICA (A)

Angola
Cape Verde
Ghana
Guine-Bissau
Lesotho
Mozambique
South Africa
Zimbabwe

12

AFRICA (B)

Ethiopia
Gambia
Kenya
Liberia
Malawi
Nigeria
Sierra Leone
Sudan
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia

13

AFRICA (C)

Benin
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Congo
Guinea
Guinea
Equatorial
Ivory Coast
Togo

14

AFRICA (D)

Burundi
Central African Rep.
Chad
Madagascar
Mauritius
Reunion
Rwanda
Congo Dem. Rep.

The Legionary World

ROME



USA - NEW MEXICO

The first Legion praesidium in the U.S.A. was set up in Raton, New Mexico, on the November 27, 1931

SCOTLAND

Annie McGurnaghan



"A little while ago," Archbishop Donald McIntosh confided, "I was asked by Rome to further my suggestions in regard to Catholic Action. How unfortunate that I didn't have your letter and your ideas before me at the time; I could have done something worthwhile." The interview lasted two hours. The Archbishop gave full permission for the founding of the Legion of Mary in his Diocese.

ARGENTINA



Alfie Lambe 1932 - 1959
with Seamus Grace
and Frank Duff, July 1953

In her book on Alfie Lambe, Hilde Firtel says: "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."

KENYA



Archbishop Ribieri

In far-away Africa, Bishop Heffernan was awaiting a reply to his appeal for a Legion Envoy to be sent to his Diocese. After discussing Edel's situation with his fellow officers and looking at it from every angle, Frank Duff decided to ask her if she would be willing to go as a Legion Envoy to east Africa.



Venerable Edel Quinn
1907 - 1944

BRAZIL



Legion celebrates 50 years in Sao Paulo, Brazil



NIGERIA



Michael Ekeng

Michael Ekeng, former slave-boy, was chosen by Divine Providence to be the first legionary in Africa. The first praesidium was founded on September 7, 1933.

Fr. Moynagh and Ekeng worked hard to build up and extend the Legion. Bishop McGetterick, of Ogoja, wrote about Ekeng: "Michael Ekeng's capacity for work is amazing. I have known him to start from Calabar at 1:00 a. m. travel by canoe to Oron, a distance of eighteen miles, go from there to a Legion meeting fifty-five miles away, and, after the meeting, cycle another twelve miles to the nearest mission to receive Holy Communion. He fasted during the whole journey."

MADRAS, INDIA



Mrs. McKenzie-Smith
(centre)

Mrs. McKenzie-Smith who succeeded in establishing the first praesidium in India under the spiritual direction of Fr. Laurence Murphy, S.J. of Loyola College, Madras, in 1931.

AUSTRALIA

Eventually, when Louisa Gavan Duffy arrived in Australia, she was delighted to discover that Archbishop Mannix had already granted permission to Father Bakker a Melbourne priest, to start a praesidium in Ascot Vale parish. He too had been met by Frank Duff when he visited Dublin to attend the Eucharistic Congress.

KOREA

Since January 2005 the Korean Legion of Mary members included the success of the Congress in the intentions of their daily Rosary invoking the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the Church and the Country.

In Korea, almost 7% of the Catholic population are members of the Legion of Mary.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Curia at Waigani

SHANGHAI



Praesidium Meeting c.1940

CAMBODIA



Newest Praesidium in
Koh-Norea

The Legion today

THE LEGION FAMILY WORLDWIDE



On all continents

In over 170 Countries

4 Million Active members

5 Million Auxiliaries

**"Mary is
Apostleship"**

Legion Aim

The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active co-operation in Mary's and the Church's work.

Legion Unit

The unit of the Legion of Mary is called a praesidium, which holds a weekly meeting, where prayer is intermingled with reports and discussion. Persons who wish to join the Legion must apply for membership in a Praesidium.

Come, O Holy Spirit...and renew the face of the earth!

The Holy Spirit has made Mary His spouse and helpmate in this Renewal, and likewise her devoted children.

Frank Duff lived to see the legion become, as prophesied by St. Louis Marie de Montfort, "that mighty legion of brave and valiant soldiers of Jesus and Mary, of both sexes, to fight the devil, the world, and corrupt nature in those more than ever perilous times that are to come."

Works of the Legion

The Legion sees as its priority the spiritual and social welfare of each individual. The members participate in the life of the parish through visitation of families, the sick, both in their homes and in hospitals and through collaboration in every apostolic and missionary undertaking by the parish. Every legionary is required to carry out a weekly apostolic work in the spirit of faith and in union with Mary.

Auxiliary Membership

This membership is open to Priests, Religious and lay people who wish to associate themselves with the Legion by undertaking a service of prayer in its name.

Jesus knocks at our hearts

The Son of God did not take flesh from her (the Virgin Mary) without her consent. Every time the Lord wants to take a step forward with us towards the 'promised land', he first knocks at our hearts. He waits, so to speak, for our 'yes', in small decisions as well as important ones."

Pope Benedict XVI, speaking on, The true reason for humanity's hope.

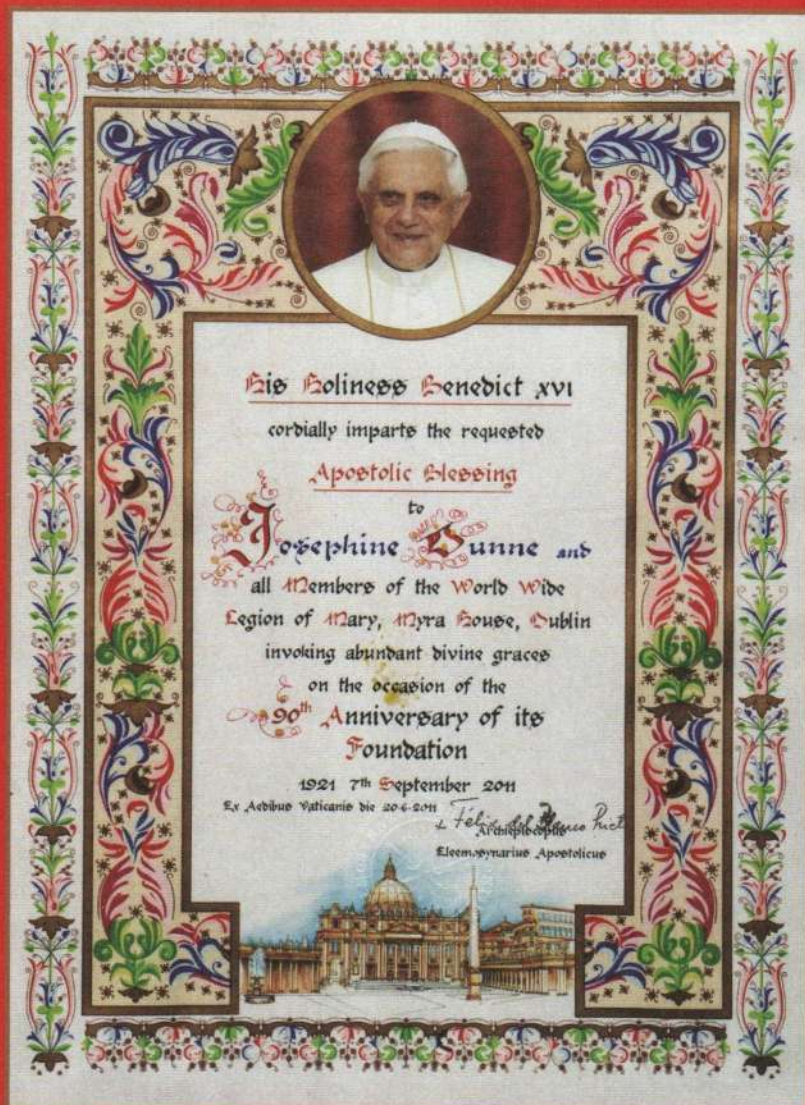
Vatican Letter

'His Holiness encourages us to persevere joyfully in our important mission, and reminds us that with Mary and the Church, we are not alone, and that Christ himself is present and active in our midst (cf. Mt 28:30).'

Extract from Vatican letter on the 90th Anniversary.

Will you say "yes" to the Lord's call to serve?





A member, Josephine Dunne, on her own initiative went to the PP in Francis Street to request a Papal Blessing just as one does for a wedding. He sent her to Veritas. Veritas told her she must submit a name or names so she submitted her own name plus all the members of the worldwide Legion of Mary. And so, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI bestowed his Apostolic Blessing on Josephine Dunne and all the members of the worldwide Legion of Mary on the occasion of the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the Legion.

1921 - 7th September - 2011