

Maria Legionis

Vol. 33, No. 1, 1990.



See EVANGELIZATION — The Gospel to every Creature! — page 3, col. 2

Maria Legionis

The Voice of the Legion of Mary

Vol. 33 No. 1 of 1990

35p

CONTENTS

Evangelization	3
Praises of Mary	5
And From the Juniors... ..	7
Mrs. Kirwan and the Crucifix	9
Bro. Julio Cesar Cirillo — Envoy	11
Edel's Singular Touch... ..	12
Nairobi Still Remembering Edel Quinn	15
Edel Mary Quinn Clubs	17
Mary Everett, R.I.P.	18
Peregrinatio Pro Christo	19
Dr. Leon O Broin, R.I.P.	21
From the Legionary World	22
A Consecrated Life for Single Women?	26
His Old School Honours Frank Duff	31



Sharing in threefold mission of Christ

“... With this Exhortation the lay faithful are invited to take up again and reread, meditate on and assimilate with renewed understanding and love, the rich and fruitful teaching of the Council which speaks of their participation in the three-fold mission of Christ. Here in summary form are the essential elements of this teaching.

The lay faithful are sharers in the *priestly mission*, for which Jesus offered Himself on the cross and continues to be offered in the celebration of the Eucharist for the glory of God and the salvation of humanity. Incorporated in Jesus Christ, the baptized are united to Him and to His sacrifice in the offering they make of themselves and their daily activities (cf. *Rom 12:1, 2*). Speaking of the lay faithful the Council says: “For their work, prayers and apostolic endeavours, their ordinary married and family life, their daily labour, their mental and physical relaxation, if carried out in the Spirit, and even the hardships of life if patiently borne, — all of these become spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (cf. *1 Pt 2:5*). During the celebration of the Eucharist these sacrifices are most lovingly offered to the Father

Our Cover Picture: The Baptism of Christ by St. John the Baptist. This is the work of Florentine painter Andrea del Verrocchio (1435-1488) equally gifted as sculptor, goldsmith engraver and mosaic worker, who numbered among his pupils the great Leonardo da Vinci.

along with the Lord's body. Thus as worshippers whose every deed is holy, the lay faithful consecrate the world itself to God”.

Through their participation in the *prophetic mission* of Christ, “who proclaimed the kingdom of His Father by the testimony of His life and by the power of His word”, the lay faithful are given the ability and responsibility to accept the gospel in faith and to proclaim it in word and deed, without hesitating to courageously identify and denounce evil. United to Christ, the “great prophet” (*Lk 7:16*), and in the Spirit made “witness” of the Risen Christ, the lay faithful are made sharers in the appreciation of the Church's supernatural faith, that “cannot err in matters of belief” and sharers as well as in the grace of the word (cf. *Acts 2:17-18; Rev 19:10*). They are also called to allow the newness and the power of the gospel to shine out everyday in their family and social life, as well as to express patiently and courageously in the contradictions of the present age their hope of future glory even “through the framework of their secular life”.

Because the lay faithful belong to Christ, Lord and King of the Universe, they share in His *kingly mission* and are called by Him to spread that Kingdom in history. They exercise their kingship as Christians, above all in the spiritual combat in which they seek to overcome in themselves the kingdom of sin (cf. *Rom 6:12*), and then to make a gift of themselves so as to serve, in justice and in charity, Jesus who is Himself present in all His brothers and sisters, above all in the very least (cf. *Mt 25:40*).

The participation of the lay faithful in the three-fold mission of Christ as Priest, Prophet and King finds its source in the anointing of Baptism, its further development in Confirmation and its realization and dynamic sustenance in the Holy Eucharist. It is a participation given to each member of the lay faithful *individually*, in as much as each is one of the *many* who form the *one Body* of the Lord: in fact, Jesus showers His gifts upon the Church which is His Body and His Spouse.

Extracts from Apostolic Exhortation “Christifideles Laici” of Pope John Paul II.

EVANGELIZATION — The Gospel to every Creature!

by Patrick Fay, President, Concilium Legionis Mariae
(Address to annual Peregrinatio Pro Christo Conference, November 1989)

The programme for our Conference today carries some extracts from our Holy Father's Apostolic Exhortation "Christifideles Laici." I think it is appropriate that it should do so. This Document is, to a large extent, the fruit of the Synod of Bishops, which was held in Rome in 1987 on the theme of "The Vocation and Mission of the Laity in the Church and in the World Twenty Years after the Second Vatican Council." In the Introduction to it, we are told that "This Exhortation intends to stir and promote a deeper awareness among all the faithful of the gift and responsibility they share, both as a group and as individuals, in the communion and mission of the Church." It would be a great pity, therefore, if this Document were put to one side and left unread. It is very wide ranging in its scope. It sets out to indicate the concrete ways through which the rich "theory" on the lay state expressed by the Second Vatican Council can be translated into authentic Church "practice." The Exhortation states that the "teaching of the Vatican Council has the capacity of enlightening and guiding the responses that today must be given to new situations."

The Vine and the Vineyard

The general theme running through the Document is "The Vine and the Vineyard." I think this is significant. It immediately strikes a note of involvement, of activity as against a passive role. And the note of challenge is also struck when it is stated that "The vineyard is the whole world which is to be transformed according to the plan of God in view of the final coming of the Kingdom of God." The stage is set for something very big, the transformation of the whole world. There is nothing petty about that. We are told that a new state of affairs today, both in the Church and in the world, calls with a particular urgency for the action of lay people. I quote, "If lack of commitment is always unacceptable, the present time renders it

even more so. It is not permissible for anyone to remain idle." That is pretty strong.

The Lay Faithful in the Church

The Exhortation goes on to describe the dignity of the Lay Faithful. The Church is not just a collection of people who share the same beliefs or ideas, it is not just an organisation which confers certain benefits on us or demands certain things from us. Through the Church, we share in the very life of the Blessed Trinity. The Vatican Council stated that "Through the Church we abide in Christ, without Whom we can do nothing." When Our Divine Lord said that "Without Me you can do nothing" He did not mean merely "without My help". Unless we are grafted on to the true Vine, Jesus, we cannot have supernatural life. This Exhortation makes the extraordinary statement "Rising from the waters of the Baptismal Font, every Christian hears again the voice that was once heard on the banks of the river Jordan: "You are my beloved Son: with you I am well pleased." Baptism not only joins us to Christ but it also joins us to one another. We are told that "The mystical union of Christ with His disciples and the disciples with each other is an image and extension of the mystical communion of the Blessed Trinity." We are told that "With the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation, the baptised share in the same mission of Jesus, the Saviour-Messiah."

The Call to Holiness

The Exhortation goes on to speak of the call to holiness, that this is not a simple moral exhortation but an undeniable requirement arising from the mystery of the Church, and that holiness is an irreplaceable condition for everyone in fulfilling the mission of salvation within the Church. We are called to listen to and meditate on the Word of God, to a conscious and active participation in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church, to personal prayer and to the service of others.

The Lay Apostolate — vocation to proclaim the Gospel to all

In regard to the Lay Apostolate, we are told that "In the present circumstances the lay faithful have the ability to do very much and, therefore, ought to do very much towards the growth of an authentic ecclesial communion in their parishes in order to reawaken missionary zeal towards non-believers and believers themselves who have abandoned the faith or grown lax in the Christian life." In regard to participation in the life of the Church, the Exhortation reminds us of the words of the Vatican Council that the group apostolate is a "sign of communion and of unity of the Church of Christ." Many Catholics dismiss associations or movements as unnecessary and are almost astonished to be asked to involve themselves in any of them. Do they ever consider what the Church is saying to them on this matter? In regard to associations or movements we are told that they have to be instruments leading to holiness; within them the faith must be proclaimed and taught in its total content; there must be loyalty to the Pope and Bishops; they should have a missionary zeal and they should help to bring about more just and loving conditions in society. Their fruits must include a renewed appreciation of prayer and the sacraments, a capacity for teaching the faith, helping to promote Vocations, a spirit of detachment and a reaching out for conversions to the Church and the return of the lapsed.

The Exhortation tells us that lay people have the vocation and mission of proclaiming the Gospel. We are told that the entire mission of the Church is concentrated and manifested in Evangelization. We are told that the command of Jesus "Go and preach the Gospel" demands a more ready and generous obedience in the present situation. "Whole countries and nations where Religion and the Christian life were formerly flourishing are undergoing a radical transformation due to indifference, secularism and atheism. Some people, particularly in the western world live 'as if God did not exist.'" "Only a re-evangelization can assure the growth of a clear and deep faith." Lay people have the responsibility to testify how the Christian Faith constitutes the only fully valid response to the problems and hopes that life poses to every person and society. We can only do this if we know how to overcome in ourselves the separating of the gospel from life. The Holy Father says that "through our

lives we must be able to show others that God loves them and that He is for them "The Way, the Truth and the Life".

Then we are told that as well as a re-Evangelization the Church must continue to reach out to the millions and millions of men and women who, as yet, do not know Christ the Redeemer of humanity. There is an important statement here: "Since the particular Churches are bound to mirror the Universal Church as perfectly as possible, let them be fully aware that they have been sent also to those who do not believe in Christ." We are told that "through the Incarnation, the Son of God has united Himself in some fashion to every person." The value of one person transcends all the material world.

The riches of Vatican II

We are often reminded that we should be attentive to "the signs of the times", that we should be aware of the changes taking place around us. I suppose this is another way of saying that we should not bury ourselves in the past, but face up to the present situation. When the Second Vatican Council was convened in 1962, the theme word was "aggiornamento", an Italian word meaning "updating". The Council was an opportunity for the Church to look at itself and renew itself in the light of the situation of the world in the second half of the twentieth century. This renewal was not intended to conform the Church to the world but to facilitate the transformation of the world through the Church by proclaiming the Gospel in a language which would be better understood by the world at that stage in its history. We know that the Gospel itself does not change. Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. But because the world changes, it was important that the Church should examine its methods and practices of presenting Christ to the world so that the world might acknowledge Him as its Saviour. From the Vatican Council came forth a wonderful blueprint for renewal in the Church. New insights into the Mystery of the Church, into its manner of Worship, into its role in the world were made known to us through the Decrees which issued from the Council. We were given an abundance of riches. The Council examined almost every aspect of the Church and spelt out the directions which should be followed.

continued on page 6

Praises of Mary

God has not only set an enmity but enmities, not simply between Mary and the devil but between the race of the Holy Virgin and the race of the devil; that is to say, God has set enmities, antipathies and secret hatreds between the true children and servants of Mary and the children and servants of the devil.

— St. Louis Marie de Montfort

* * * * *

God said “I will put” and not “I put” in order to make it clear that He was not speaking of Eve.

— Bucceroni

* * * * *

The devils fear the Queen of Heaven to such a degree that on only hearing her powerful name, they fly from him who pronounces it.

— Thomas à Kempis

* * * * *

Mary so loved the world that she gave up her only Son.

— St. Bonaventure

* * * * *

Just as the great cathedrals under the name of Our Lady are tabernacles of the Host, so Mary gleams in the Church as His monstrance.

— Zundel

* * * * *

Mary is the standard bearer and mistress of virginity.

— St. Ambrose

* * * * *



It is with good reason, writes St. John Damascene, that we give to Mary the name of Mother of God because that title is sufficient to establish in the most complete manner the mystery of the Word made flesh.

— Terrien

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Having heard the prophecy of her Son's suffering, it was almost a joy to hear that she would share His suffering. Her heart, her mother's heart, would be cloven by the sword of sorrow.

— McNabb

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EVANGELIZATION — The Gospel to every Creature!

continued from page 4

The Liturgy, the Missionary activity of the Church, the Apostolate of the Laity were just some of the aspects dealt with. The Council set the agenda for a major advance in the proclamation of the Gospel to the whole world. While the Council was an occasion for the Church to look at itself, it was also an opening up of new horizons, an opening up to the whole world. Having had to weather the storms and upheavals of the Reformation, of the French Revolution, of the age of reason so-called, of the breakdown of the traditional forms of government in the Christian States of Europe, the Church, through the Council, spoke with a renewed confidence and a new hope. Despite the domination of a large part of Europe and Asia by an atheistic system, the Church, in a manner of speaking, went on the offensive, not in the sense of a military crusade, but with a determination to make every member of the Church aware of their dignity and of their vocation and mission to transform the world in the light of the Gospel. Through a renewed Liturgy, the Laity would be given a greater involvement in the Worship which the Church continually gives to God. Through a renewed view of the world and its affairs, the Laity would see how they could transform them through the expression of Gospel values and through a renewed undertaking of the Apostolate, the Laity, both individually and in groups would reach out to the lapsed, to unbelievers and to all those outside the Church with an urgent invitation to them to come into the Church. But, in all of this, the Church was not changing its basic message. The deposit of faith was still intact. The Creed remained the same. The Mass and the Sacramental system continued to be the same realities as they were before. The manner of celebrating them was changed to some extent, but that was all. The Priesthood was still as essential to the Church as it ever was. The role of Our Blessed Lady was expressed in an exalted manner. Prayer did not lose its meaning.

Importance of Priesthood today

How many people see the real Church as described for us in the Decrees of the Vatican Council? It seems to me that one of the things most necessary in our times is an understanding of the Church and of the Priesthood. In this age, when so much

emphasis is placed on the role of the laity in the Church it is, perhaps, paradoxical that there is an ever greater need to emphasise the importance of the Priesthood. Without the Priesthood there is no Sacrifice, there is no Eucharist. The whole mystery of the Church is bound up in the mystery of the Eucharist. Without the Priesthood, there is no Sacrament of Reconciliation. Therefore, the healing power of Christ is cut off. The Legion has the great desire to be a bridge between the Priest and the people, to extend the influence of the Priest and to bring the people to him.

Evangelization — all important

This year, we celebrate the centenary of the birth of Frank Duff, the Founder of the Legion of Mary. In setting a theme for this year of celebration it was only fitting that it should be Evangelization. This was, in a sense, Brother Duff's principal preoccupation. He valued the Faith so much that it deeply grieved him to know that millions of people were deprived of it. That grief was very real for him. He had no time for fine-sounding arguments which were mere excuses for standing off from efforts at conversion. We can see this in the Handbook in such statements as "Make no mistake about it. The faith must be brought to the notice of every person outside the Church. Timidity and human respect and difficulties of one kind and another must all be swallowed up in the supreme desire to share that gift of Faith with those who have it not. The Gospel must be brought to every creature." Brother Duff did not stop at expressing his grief, he set about doing something to remedy the cause of that grief. He carried on an extraordinary personal apostolate with people outside the Church and he mobilised great numbers of his fellow Catholics to do the same. Through the Legion, people all over the world have been touched. The Peregrinatio Pro Christo is one of the ways in which the Legion is reaching out to those outside the Church. At this Conference we have already heard some marvellous reports in this regard. It is vital that this work should continue. But it can only continue if we give attention to the roots from which the Peregrinatio springs and that is the Legion itself. Just as the first Legion Praesidium contained in germ the future developments, so each Legion Praesidium should contain the germ of the Peregrinatio Pro Christo and the other fruits which the Legion can produce.

The Handbook tells us that "the Church, by exhibiting only cautious routine would place the

continued on page 9

AND FROM THE JUNIORS —

Our Lady of Trust Praesidium, Veneranda Curia, Dublin reports

We have 13 girls on roll, aged between 7 and 13 years; and our average attendance is 11 juniors. To help us with their prayers we have 69 auxiliaries on roll, but these need to be updated. Sr. Patricia does the attendance because Sr. Nora, who used to, is now our treasurer. She was a bit scared about taking on the job because she's not good at maths, but she's learning! Sr. Susan writes excellent minutes and is a good secretary.

We have shared out the writing of the reports amongst the members.

Sunday flats — Sr. Nora tells us that every Sunday two members visit Mrs. M. in the flats. She is in a wheelchair. The legionaries light the fire, make the bed, water the flowers, go to the shops and play cards. They usually stay for one hour. At 11 o'clock a nun comes and gives Mrs. M. holy communion.

St. Michael's Club — Sr. Susan writes that this work is done every Saturday. 9 handicapped children to whom we refer as "specials" come to St. Michael's House. There is special equipment we use — such as a horse, basketballs, footballs and a trampoline. The legionaries play and talk with the specials. After an hour, we have a holy story which Sr. Cummins prepares and says. After that we have a concert in which all the specials sing a song or act out something. When the weather is fine we play football — generally a match. Then we finish off the afternoon with basketball in the Hall, and a Hail Mary. We are glad the boys are there — and the Inters. — to help us get out the equipment and put it away. We hope they will help at our Christmas Party.

Holy Water and Miraculous Medals — Sr. Patricia and Sr. Susan tell us that first they find the bottles and fill them with Holy water from the Church. Then two legionaries go door-to-door and ask people if they would like some. They say they're from the Legion of Mary. We also go door-to-door with Miraculous Medals and ask the people if they'd like one. We also give them a leaflet that tells you about it.

Church kiosk — A Senior and 2 Juniors do this work every Saturday night and Sunday morning. They sell papers, scapulars and prayer books. Sometimes the juniors go outside the Church and

sell papers there. They also fetch a chair and the bag to set up the stall. This was written by Sr. Jacinta.

Patricians — Sr. Sorcha and Sr. Nina describe our Patricians. We meet every month to talk about a different subject. This month we had Confession and last month it was the Rosary. About 30 young people usually attend and they come from 3 other praesidia besides our own. Sr. Susan does the shopping and Sr. Jacinta takes the cups home and washes them. Bro. M. from St. Kevin's, came to our last meeting and hopes to come regularly. The refreshments are nice. We had money troubles recently because the rent and the refreshments cost more than was in the secret bag.

Legion Journal — When we have time, we sell this to our families and neighbours. Sometimes, we collect used stamps for the Missions but this is always an extra work.

Everyone went to the *Reunion* and enjoyed it, but we felt that some parts were not so good as last year. Some of us thought the video rather babyish, and we all would have liked more games.

Treasurer's Statement — We pay £1.50 for rent each month, and £1 for our Patrician donation. Usually, we give £3/£4 to Curia. Tonight we have £2.39 in hand.

Handbook Study is popular. Two members write out one or two questions each and there's a race to find the answers. We also like Concilium News. A Senior reads something from the Bulletin and we talk about it.

Spiritual Director — We don't have one. We meet early and it would not be possible for our one driver to collect anyone.

We hope to have a Christmas party as we didn't have a September Function.

Thank you, dear Our Lady of Trust.

The Seniors add: We accept our girls when they have made their First Holy Communion at the age of 7 years, and they can stay until they move up to the Intermediates on their 13th birthday. Handbook study is popular! They love learning new words and the names of councils. For the Reunion, we picked out some of the dramatic parts of Bro. Duff's life and made up a little sketch. We all learned a lot.



And here is the Praesidium "Our Lady of Trust". Wouldn't you like to be a member?



... Or maybe you'd prefer to be a member of "Stella del Mattino" praesidium, which is doing excellent work in the parish of the Most Holy Name of Mary in Rome. Sr. Maria Teresa del Plato, the President, is on the right and the Vice President Sr. Gorizia Moscatelli on left at the back. Luca Maiolo is Secretary and Alessandro Capelli is Treasurer.

Truth, of which it is the custodian, in a very disadvantageous setting. If the young once form the habit of looking to purely worldly or even irreligious systems for the active idealism for which generous natures crave, a terrible harm has been done, for which future generations will pay? We could also apply this to the Legion. Pope John XXIII said that the Legion presents the true face of the Catholic Church. This is both a compliment and a challenge. That active idealism must be in evidence in the Legion so that people will be attracted to it. This does not mean that we undervalue good order and necessary routine. Brother Duff in the Handbook has shown us how much value he placed on good organisation, on attention to detail. But he also spoke about prudence, that it is a necessary safeguard of action, a brake on excesses, but that it is not the "engine".

I think the time has come for the Legion to go forward with renewed confidence in its apostolate. I know we suffer from many difficulties especially in the western world, in Europe and in our own country. We have Praesidia with small membership, in some places a great lack of young people but rather than lie down under these difficulties, I think we have to multiply our trust in Our Blessed

Lady. It has been shown, I think, that the Legion is, in a sense, necessary to the Church. The Church, of course, could do without it, but surely at a price.

The challenge of today's changes in Eastern Europe
Today, we see extraordinary changes taking place in the world. Eastern Europe is opening up. Will the people there exchange one form of materialism for another? Will they see the true image of the Church in Western Europe? That depends on us. We are the Church. We carry a heavy responsibility. We have been given the rare grace of being members of the Legion of Mary. We have seen in this Conference, the fruits of the work of Evangelization. We have seen that there are people out there waiting to be approached. How many of them will be approached? We have to increase our efforts not only in regard to the Peregrinatio but also in regard to the Legion itself. We can conquer the world by winning over each individual soul. It is no easy task. As St. Charles Borromeo said (his Feast is today) each soul is diocese enough for a Bishop. But then, Our Blessed Lady is Mother of each soul and she is far more interested in that soul than we could ever be. How can we lose?

Mrs. Kirwan and the Crucifix

by Dr. Finola Kennedy

During the years in which Frank Duff belonged to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, membership was confined to men. There was, however, a Ladies' Committee. The Committee met monthly to organise various activities which included a branch of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart. About the year 1917, Frank Duff was appointed by the SVP as its representative on the Ladies' Committee.

For some time, Frank had been in the habit of spending most of his lunch hour in the convent chapel of Maria Reparatrix, then in Merrion Square. Frank noticed a middle-aged woman who prayed there also. He approached her and invited her to help with the work of the Ladies' Committee. Her name was Elizabeth Kirwan. She worked as an office cleaner after her husband died;

he had been employed by the Gas Company as a lamp-lighter in the city.

Mrs. Kirwan became the guide to a group of girls who met monthly in Myra House to explain the Pioneers to interested persons. Father Michael Toher, who was spiritual director of the SVP Conference of Saint Patrick to which Frank Duff belonged, became spiritual director to Mrs. Kirwan's group. It was from this group that some of the founding nucleus of the Legion of Mary — those whom Frank Duff was to call the "First-Nighters" — was formed.

In time, a separate meeting was arranged for 7 September 1921 in order to organise visitation of the womens' wards of the South Dublin Union hospital, Saint Kevin's. Mrs. Kirwan was chosen as president of the group which it was decided to call

the Association of Our Lady of Mercy after the Mercy nuns who cared for the hospital.

Mrs. Kirwan, née O'Loughlin, had been born at the opposite side of the globe in Dunedin, New Zealand. According to Frank Duff,

"She was a very masterful woman. She was the only person of years in the first gathering. She was a wonderful character and she governed her little flock, including myself and Father Toher, with a rod of gold".

In her book on Frank Duff, Hilde Firtel writes that Mrs. Kirwan was very strict with her young charges who, nevertheless, respected and loved her,

"She was very poor, certainly the poorest of them all, and seemed to live entirely for God".

It was Mrs. Kirwan who introduced the custom of reading aloud once a month the four fundamental requirements of members — what later came to be known as "The Standing Instruction".

Almost twenty years after the first Legion meeting Mrs. Kirwan found herself once more in Saint Kevin's hospital. This time she was a patient close to death. A friend of mine, a priest who has been associated with the Legion since his Ordination, told me once how he had been asked by one of the very earliest Legionaries to drop in to Saint Kevin's to see Mrs. Kirwan. On his first visit, Mrs. Kirwan, in spite of her great weakness, showed a clearly defined and clearly expressed wish to have a crucifix larger than the one on her Rosary beads. He was able to provide her with one without delay, just the size she wanted — about 3½" × 2". When she died, on 24 August 1940, she had the crucifix in her hands. After Mrs. Kirwan's death the crucifix was returned to my friend who has kept it as a valued souvenir. It was interesting, he told me, that only long afterwards he became aware that, in her old age, when all her outdoor work for the Legion was quite beyond her, she liked people to drop in to see her as she spoke to them about the crucifix which she held in her hand.

By what appears an odd chance, Mrs. Kirwan's brother also found himself helping in one of Frank Duff's good works. Around the period of World War I, Frank with the help of Joseph Gabbett, became aware that Portobello (now Cathal Brugha) Barracks, then manned by the Royal Lancashire regiment, housed many servicemen and ex-servicemen suffering from syphilis and kindred diseases. The men were kept in extreme isolation, closed off from relatives and friends. Frank decided that something must be attempted without delay to



It's a very long way from her birthplace in Dunedin, New Zealand to her final resting place in Glasnevin, Dublin but all Legionaries will forever rejoice that Mrs. Kirwan made this long journey.

bring them the comfort of human contact and maybe spiritual help. He must secure the interest and help of a priest. He went to the nearby Rathmines presbytery. The curate he found was Father Frank O'Loughlin, the brother of Mrs. Kirwan. Frank, Father O'Loughlin and their helpers began regular visitation of the men. The whole scene changed.

Inspiration is to be found in the attachment of the first Legion president to the crucifix. There is a striking section in the *Handbook* on "Suffering and the Mystical Body":

"He who will not walk with the Man of Sorrows has no part in His mission to souls, nor share in its sequel of glory"

If Mrs. Kirwan comes across to us as austere, even a little severe, in her devotion to the crucifix, she provides an important reminder of the insight in the *Handbook*:

"While seeming to cross and thwart the course of a man's life, suffering in reality gives that life its completeness."

Bro. Julio Cesar Cirillo — Envoy

When he attended the Concilium meeting in September 1989 Bro. Julio Cesar Cirillo had completed twenty years as Envoy of the Legion of Mary. He had worked diligently and competently in 15 countries in Central and South America being responsible for the raising of many councils to higher status and for the encouragement and support of weak units. All through his Envoyship he had the assistance and guidance of the late John Murray whose vast experience both as Envoy and as Concilium officer had been of great benefit to him not only as a Legionary and Envoy but personally as well. It was, he said, one of his great regrets that he did not have the pleasure of meeting Bro. Murray (who died in January 1989). Bro. Cirillo paid great tribute to the Legionaries of these countries who, despite many problems, remained steadfast and loyal, with a great devotion to Our Lady and a tremendous spirit of sacrifice. It is hoped that a further report on his envoyship will appear in a future issue of Maria Legionis.

Anne Murray



Among the countries in which Bro Cirillo worked as Envoy was Puerto Rico and he is shown above, second from right, with officers of the Senatus of Puerto Rico.

EDEL'S SINGULAR TOUCH

by Sr. Francis Therese

Two of our sisters travelled with Miss Quinn from England to Africa on the "Llangibby Castle" in October, 1936. They were Sr. Peter and Sr. Marcella who came to work in Kenya. Both of them became fervent propagators of the Legion of Mary when they reached their destination, as also were the several Missionaries who had had the privilege of travelling in Miss Quinn's company for the period of the voyage. Edel did not wait until she reached Africa to commence her apostolate. Her Legion of Mary mission had started on the vessel which carried her to the scene of her labours. Her natural, simple charm and her genuine fervent zeal gained ready listeners to her timely discourse on the nature, advantages and obligations of the Legion of Mary. She was no prude or religious bore. There was a spiritual charm in all she said and did. Edel had a natural simple persuasiveness which was all her own, a distinctive charm which none could resist. She was a living example of the spirit of the Legion of Mary.

Difficult task of portrayal

Much has already been written about Edel Quinn's hardships, missionary journeyings, and physical sufferings, which she endured in carrying out her Legion of Mary envoyship. Words — even those which a most talented writer might employ — will never succeed in conveying the faintest idea of the heroic courage and endurance with which this intrepid, indefatigable Legion of Mary Envoy executed her commission. She realised that her days on earth were numbered. Much had to be done for Our Blessed Lady's apostolate and every fibre of her delicate body, and every faculty of her noble soul, she taxed to the utmost in the accomplishment of her office. The numerous Praesidia and Curiae of the Legion of Mary which she succeeded in establishing are sufficient testimony. Only a super-human effort could have achieved such amazing results.

In Nyanza Province

Although Edel commenced her envoyship journeys in East Africa towards the end of 1936, she did not

reach Nyanza until a year later. Many Praesidia, Junior and Senior, held their inaugural meetings early in 1938, as the minutes books of these various Praesidia testify. Nyanza Province is the most westerly Province of Kenya and Edel had already accomplished a considerable amount of her apostolate in the short period of her arrival in Kenya and her reaching Nyanza Province. Almost every Catholic Mission from the northern shore of Lake Victoria to its southern limit was visited by Edel. She penetrated the most out-of-the-way spots in her zealous endeavour to establish Our Lady's Legion. Torrential rains, roads impassable on account of deep mud and ruts, swollen rivers, and numerous other drawbacks, which would cause far stronger individuals to quail and withdraw, were powerless to deter this frail young missionary. Her task was not an easy one. Her efforts did not always meet with success. Often, she was disappointed when permission to start the Legion of Mary was not granted. After many a difficult and arduous endeavour to reach an out-station, although she was kindly received, she did not always accomplish what she intended. Where the Envoy had reckoned on establishing flourishing units of the Legion, very often her efforts seemed thwarted. But her faith was true to Legion of Mary standards. It was firm and immovable as a rock. She knew that Our Blessed Lady in her own good time would see that her efforts had not been in vain, and Edel had the patience to wait. Several Missionaries refused to have the Legion established in their missions, because they did not consider their Christians ready for the duties and obligations of the Legion of Mary. They were recent converts from heathenism and lacking any Catholic tradition. I remember vividly how charmingly Edel responded when one priest told her that he wanted the natives to have the Faith first before they got the lace on it. This particular Missionary remained adamant until after Edel's death. Later, at his own request, senior and junior Praesidia were founded in his mission and today he is the enthusiastic Spiritual Director of a flourishing Curia. Most of the out-schools attached to his mission have their Praesidia and



This is one entrance to St. Mary's Church, Castlemagner, Co. Cork, where Edel was baptised on 18 September, 1907. How well did she fulfil the obligations of her Baptism, as a member of Christ's Mystical Body! (John B. Chege is shown on left, with his friend and recent recruit P. J. Barco.)

carry on a wide apostolate among the pagan members of a Nilotic tribe. Numerous instances could be quoted of Missionaries who were not encouraging to Edel when she approached them but have since become zealous supporters and even promoters of the Legion cause. Edel has not been idle since she went to Heaven. The extremely difficult journeys which seemed to have been made in vain were to bear fruit a hundredfold shortly after her death. Her apostolate, the commission of her Envoyship — she continues to fulfil.

“Conversion”

The following is a brief account of a Missionary Sister who was ‘converted’ to the Legion of Mary apostolate after Edel Quinn’s heroic death. In 1938, during Edel’s Nyanza safari, she had been asked by the Envoy if she would like to start a Praesidium in the Girls’ School. The Sister refused, saying that she did not think the pupils were ready for such an association. The sweetness and calm manner of Edel when she met with that refusal always remained indelibly stamped on the memory of the Sister. A few years afterwards, the Sister was transferred to another school where her predecessor had been a very zealous Legionary and a flourishing Praesidium held its meeting every week. This was one of the Junior Praesidia founded by Edel Quinn. She herself had presided at one or two

meetings. Her signature and handwriting were in the Minutes Book. Lack of enthusiasm and interest caused the once successful Praesidium to weaken and eventually to die out. On her return to Nyanza just a few weeks before she died, Edel stayed in the Convent where the Reverend Sister was stationed. This was on the occasion of her coming to Kisumu to found the Kisumu Curia. Edel expressed her regret that the Junior Praesidium had ceased to function. There was the same unruffled sweetness in her face although she must have been very grieved to see that the once promising Praesidium had been closed down.

It happened that the Senior Praesidium of the Mission had a sufficiently large membership to form a second Praesidium. Edel required someone to translate her instructions into the vernacular of the people. The Sister Missionary who had allowed the Junior Praesidium to die out, offered to act as interpreter. Consequently, the Sister was in the saintly Envoy’s company. A new Minutes Book was required for the newly-founded Praesidium and the Sister offered the Minutes Book which had belonged to the once flourishing Junior Legionaries. Edel hesitatingly took the book. As the book was about to be handed over to Edel, the Sister was attempting to take out the used pages from the Minutes Book. To her dying day, that Sister will never forget the piteous cry which unexpectedly came from Edel Quinn’s lips: “Oh! Sister.” “Do not destroy those records.” Edel took the book from the astonished Sister’s hand. Eventually, when the Junior Praesidium was revived after Edel’s death, the Minutes Book was restored to the Praesidium where she desired it to be. Moreover, in a comparatively short time after Edel’s death, the Junior Praesidium and the Reverend Sister who had wrung the involuntary cry of anguish from Edel’s heart, were estimated as the leading Legionaries of the area.

Her last effort

From the biography of Edel Quinn written by Cardinal Suenens, the reader realizes that the Kisumu Curia was the final act of her earthly Legion foundations. It must have cost her valiant fragile body a tremendous effort to make the almost three hundred mile journey from Nairobi to Kisumu and to Rangala which was a mission only about fifty miles distant from the Uganda border. Edel was already in a dying condition when she reached Rangala, where she hoped to found the Curia. All the Rangala community was alarmed

when they saw the great change in her physical condition. Although Edel was just the same happy person, the dreadful disease had reduced her to a mere shadow; her breathing was very laboured. She instructed the Curia Officers in their respective duties as she gasped and paused for breath. With her characteristic thoroughness, she paid meticulous attention to the tiniest detail of Legion procedure. The successful record of this Curia's activities may be surely attributed to Edel Quinn's dying effort and the unspeakable sufferings she must have endured in its foundation. Thanks to Edel's heroism, this Rangala-Mbaga Curia retained its first fervour through many vicissitudes. Since Edel Quinn held the first meeting of the Rangala-Mbaga Curia and her task on this earth for Our Blessed Lady was accomplished, the Legionaries whom she trained have remained faithful to their Legionary duties. It now has three daughter Curiae which carry on the excellent Legion of Mary tradition, claiming Edel as the 'mother' who started them. The Curia she established has always been regarded by the Legionaries of Nyanza as a model Curia. Very faithfully and accurately does it carry out and adhere to the instructions which were given by Edel Quinn to its first set of officers on the Feast of the Annunciation of Our Blessed Lady, March 25th, 1944, just six weeks before she died.

Ready to meet the Lord and His Mother

When Edel Quinn arrived in Rangala on a wet Saturday evening in March, 1944, she was almost in a state of collapse. There was a purple hue about her lips. Her breathing was laboured; her eyes were sunken; she was extremely thin and it seemed difficult for her to walk even a few steps. The Sisters were quite alarmed when they saw her. She ought to have been in bed and refraining from any physical exertion. Instead, here was the valiant little body — more dead than alive — fully bent on founding a Curia of the Legion of Mary. She accomplished her noble task most thoroughly. Incidentally, the Sister with whom she had travelled from England to Africa was acting Sister Infirmarian at the Rangala Convent during Miss Quinn's last visit. She was fully aware of the critical condition of the very sick Envoy. She tactfully approached Edel with the truth of her physical state. Edel with her characteristic happy smile answered: "Sure, Sister Peter, don't I just know it? I may die any moment. My heart is in a bad state. That is the reason why I must do as much as



This plaque on the wall in front of the parish Church in Cahir, Co. Tipperary indicates that Edel received her first Holy Communion in this church on 16 June 1916.

possible in the very short time which now remains to me. If only I am spared a little while longer to complete my Legionary work here in North Nyanza — Kakamega!! I have dedicated my life to Our Blessed Lady's service and so I am not afraid to die for her cause." All this was said from the depths of a truly humble heart, and the sincerity of the utterance went deep into the soul of the edified listener. She succeeded in completing her missionary labours in Rangala, but she was too ill to proceed to Kakamega. After a brief stay in the Convent of St. Therese, Kibuye, Edel returned to Nairobi where she died on the 12th of May, 1944.

Odours of sanctity

I feel that this account is very inadequate. There is a conviction as I write this that my conscious intention in writing this article has not been accomplished. She was such an outstanding person to have known although she was just an ordinary sweet Irish girl to meet. She was always grateful for the smallest service. When she left Rangala after her founding the Curia, she wrote me a letter to thank me for the assistance I had given her in setting up the Curia. I felt somewhat uncomfortable because I knew that the inactivity of the Junior Praesidium was due to my lack of interest. Usually, I had the habit of destroying letters, but Edel's letter, I have still in my possession and I treasure it. All our Sisters who had the privilege of knowing Edel Quinn are convinced that her sanctity was heroic. Often, she stayed at our Convent and we came in contact with her daily during her visits. Now we are hoping and praying that her cause for veneration will continue to go forward, and we trust that the day is not far distant when we can pray in public to the holy, brave, indefatigable little champion of Mary's Legion, when please God, she would be raised to the Altar.

NAIROBI STILL REMEMBERING EDEL QUINN

by John B. Chege, former President, Senatus of Kenya

(John Chege is, at present, on a Development Course in Dublin. Immediately on arrival, he joined a Praesidium and for the past few months has been working as an indoor brother in the Morning Star Hostel.

(Ed.)

While working in a shoe factory in Limuru township in the 1960s, we started a Praesidium of the Legion of Mary. As an officer of this praesidium, I had to attend the Curia meeting which was usually held in the Loreto Convent, Limuru. At this Convent, there is a Girls High School. Here, Edel Quinn established 2 Praesidia in 1937. The praesidium for the Girls is still in existence. It was at Curia meetings that I met Sister Veronica who had travelled with Edel from London to Mombasa. I had heard of Edel Quinn when I was a Junior Legionary, when her cause was introduced. However, it was when I was elected Vice-President of Limuru Curia that my interest to know more about Edel was transformed. I started listening more critically to what other people were saying about her as well as reading early praesidia minute books and books written about her life.

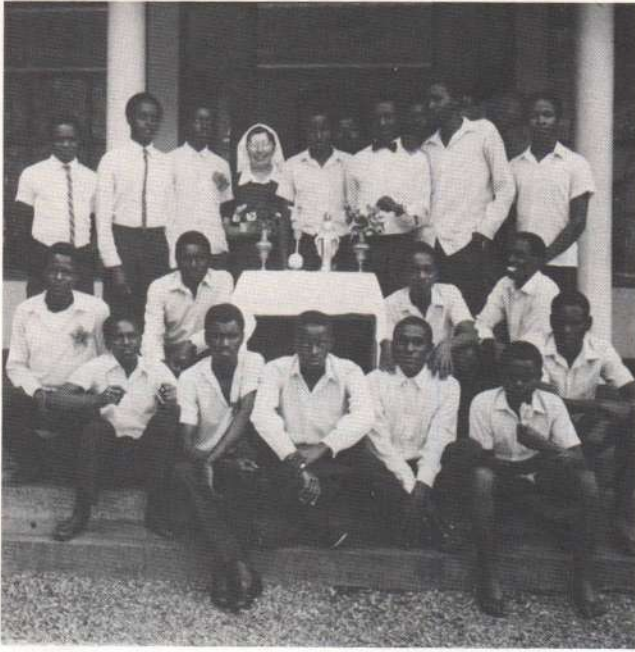
As Limuru Curia was attached to Senatus, I had to attend its meetings and participate in its functions. In 1971, Senatus organised Mass to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Legion. This Mass was held in St. Mary's School, Nairobi — not far from the grave of Edel Quinn. As president of the Senatus of Nairobi, from 1973-1979, and again in 1983-1989, one of my duties was to try and consolidate what Edel Quinn had started in Kenya and in a special way in Nairobi. My duties in the Legion administration included also the visitation of the Councils of the Legion in the Republic of Kenya. So, I had the opportunity while in other areas to meet many people who knew Edel Quinn.

Personally, I have a special interest in the Legion in the diocese of Meru. While other dioceses got help from Nairobi to start the Legion during Edel Quinn's time, Meru started on their own and Edel was somehow concerned about them. There, the Legion did not grow as in other areas. Subsequently, other praesidia were formed in Meru, but some seemed to die a natural death. Many safaris



A Legionary who knew and worked with Edel Quinn gives an account during the Jubilee celebrations in August 1989.

have been made to Meru diocese and every time I went there I discovered more people interested in the cause of Edel. The diocese has now been divided. Legionaries from Embu, one of the dioceses at the slopes of Mount Kenya — 150 km from Nairobi, young and old travel by bus to Nairobi for the annual Mass to commemorate the death of Edel Quinn on the second Sunday of May. The Bishop of Meru is very interested in the cause of Edel Quinn and in 1987 he travelled 250 km to attend the anniversary Mass at which he was the principal concelebrant. In his homily, he praised the work of the Legion of Mary and invited the members to sanctify themselves by prayer through



Praesidium in the Junior Seminary, Nairobi, with their Spiritual Directress Rev. Sr. Brigid Hennessy from Kildorrery, Co. Cork, not far from Edel Quinn's birthplace, Greenane, Kanturk, Co. Cork.

the Legion. The Bishop is Spiritual Director of Meru Curia.

On one occasion, I found myself among a group of Nairobi Legionaries at Rangala Mission. Edel had planned to start a Curia at Rangala. While she was at Rangala she suffered a cruel attack which eventually forced her to return to Nairobi where she died a few weeks later. It was a great experience to meet Legionaries like Br. Lifinus Afande. Vividly, he could tell us how ill Edel was while she was there. Bro. Afande was among 40 Legionaries who knew Edel Quinn and for whom the Bishop of Kisumu made arrangements to attend the functions in Nairobi to celebrate the golden jubilee of the foundation of the Legion in Kenya.

Legionaries from other countries, while they are in Nairobi, visit the grave of Edel. Some make a special pilgrimage. I was happy to escort 74 Legionaries from Uganda in 1974 who had come specifically to pray at the grave. It was a day of prayer and inner peace for all of us who were there. During the 43rd International Eucharistic Congress in Nairobi, in 1985, Legionaries organised Mass to mark the 41st anniversary of Edel's death. Cardinal Sin of Manila was principal concelebrant assisted by Cardinal Simonis of Utrecht along with a number of Bishops and priests from many countries of the world. I witnessed Legion fraternity then

and the support Legionaries the world over give to the cause of Edel Quinn.

Pope Pius XII, paying tribute to Edel said "Her devotedness and supernatural spirit should be brought to the notice of all those who in their ways are working in the Father's harvest-field". These words of the Holy Father have been taken seriously in Nairobi by the Archbishop of Nairobi, the priests, religious and laity. Year after year, thousands of Kenyans from all parts of the country congregate at the graveside of Edel Quinn to pray and thank God for the heroic apostolate she carried out in East Africa for 7½ years. There are over 32,000 active members of the Legion — young and old — who, in their ordinary way of life are engaged in devoted service of the Church in Kenya.



Protestant Critic's tribute to the Catholic Church

... There is not, and there never was on this earth, a work of human policy so well deserving of examination as the Roman Catholic Church She saw the commencement of all the governments and of all the ecclesiastical establishments that now exist in the world; and we feel no assurance that she is not destined to see the end of them all. She was great and respected before the Saxon had set foot on Britain, before the Frank had passed the Rhine, when Grecian eloquence still flourished in Antioch, when idols were still worshipped in the temple of Mecca. And she may still exist in undiminished vigour when some traveller from New Zealand shall, in the midst of a vast solitude, take his stand on a broken arch of London Bridge to sketch the ruins of St. Paul's

Lord Macauley, reviewing Von Ranke's (also a Protestant) *Political History of the Popes* in 1840.

EDEL MARY QUINN CLUBS

by Anni Cech, Hollabrunn, Austria

The 'Edel Mary Quinn Club' has been existing for more than 10 years by now. The aim from the beginning was to help children grow in holiness. The children were mostly from our Nazareth groups, which are held by Legionaries.

Therefore, we have tried to put the fascinating example of holiness before their eyes: the life and spirit of Edel Mary Quinn.

Normally, the children are all spread over the country and meet only once a year at the "Edel Mary Quinn Club Days".

You might compare these days to a sort of retreat for children.

Since 1980, these Days have taken place in the Abbey Göttweig.

It is a suitable place, as the team leaders have an easy chance to ask priests for confession and holy Mass, and on top of all there are quite a lot of young monks, (mostly former Legionaries) who help in a wonderful way that grace can be poured out over the children.

Children from 6-14 are invited to come. They all try to keep a certain spiritual programme during the whole year:

- 1) keep united to Our Blessed Lady (daily recitation of the Rosary, Sunday Mass and Holy Communion);
- 2) Visit to Jesus in the tabernacle — daily. (Edel's love of the Holy Eucharist);
- 3) Holy Mass — daily on holidays (once weekly in addition to Sunday mass during school time);
- 4) confession — monthly;
- 5) SL = to give your Smile and Love to everyone you meet (Edel's example);
- 6) to recruit members for the Edel M. Quinn Club or at least for one of the practices listed above.

It is quite a tough programme and each year we are astonished at how hard some of them try to fulfil these points.

Due to the generosity of Abbot Dr. Clemens Lashofer, we are warmly welcomed each summer to the Abbey. He personally takes in the new members, the few who really succeed. He helps us to make a little ceremony. The happy "New-one" is enrolled in the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of

Mount Carmel, which Edel Quinn also had worn, gets some little picture of her and a special blessing by Abbot Clemens. He knows each one personally, as most of the children come over several years. During these days with Edel M. Quinn, the 6 points of our programme are discussed seriously by all of us.

Each morning, something of the life of Edel Quinn was told in order to get to know her better. In the afternoons, there was also much singing, laughter, theatre or playing in the grounds.

The days ended with Night Prayer, followed by the Rosary in the solemn crypt of the Abbey, together with the monks, who have all become dear friends of ours by now.

The accommodation was in the youth hostel of the Abbey, which was cheap and suitable and each one could afford it.

This summer we had not enough beds for the boys, so they got permission to camp on the nearby football ground.

Br. Thomas, OSB, shared with them the happy camplife at night.

Even his Eminence Cardinal Gröer, paid a short visit to us all and the boys in their tents and handed over a beautiful big box of chocolates for all the children. At the end, some of the girls who have reached 14 years shed tears, as they would not come any longer to the Edel Quinn Days. As this problem



Abbot Dr. Clemens Lashofer OSB in the middle of "Edel Mary Quinn Club children" in Göttweig Abbey (Austria) Br. Ludwig OSB, on extreme left, also had given a helping hand. Team leader: Edel Cech (next to Br. Ludwig).



"Edel Mary Quinn Club 2" in summer 87 in front of the youth hostel of Göttweig Abbey. Team leader: Sr. Gertraud Müller (in autumn entered a Cistercian convent) and Br. Matthäus OSB. Fr. Kraushuber, P.P. who is Spiritual Director of a präsidium came for a visit.

had appeared to us nearly every summer, Fr. Columban asked us to try and organise a means of continuing the Club to a later age. (Fr. Columban, now Spiritual Director of the Senatus Vienna, came for confession many years.) Most of the children, who took part at the Edel Quinn Club have joined the Legion of Mary, thank God!

But some had no Präsidium near their living place or had other reasons for not joining. What would happen to them we wondered!

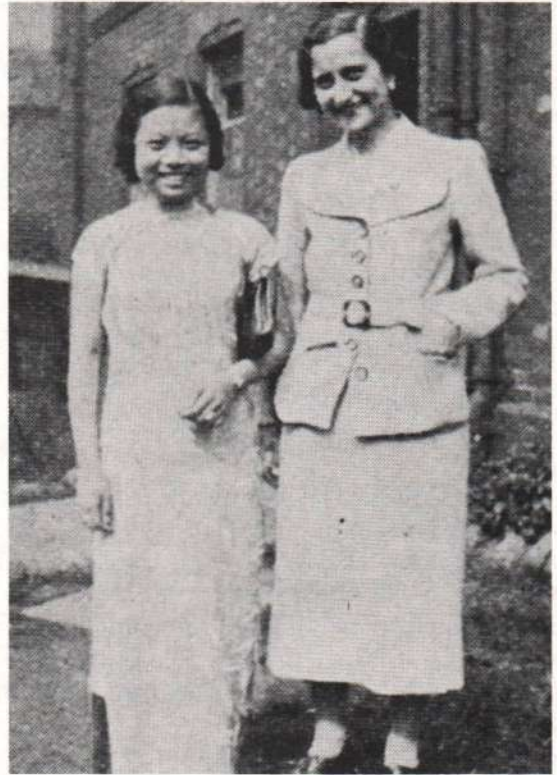
Well, as these years after 14 are very important, we decided to start "Edel Mary Quinn Club 2".

In Summer 1987, a start was made with "Club 2". The team leader was Gertraud Müller, President of a Junior Curia and the Spiritual Director was Rev. Bro. Matthäus Schup, OSB. The aim of "Edel Mary Quinn Club 2" is, in a way, our answer to the question: "What has come out of our Spiritual Programme?"

Some of the girls had taken part in the Club for more than seven years. Gertraud Müller has since entered a Cistercian Convent and Edel Cech is, at present, serving as an Incola Mariae in Iceland. A number of the others are serving as Curia Officers in Austria.

It is difficult to say exactly what Edel Mary Quinn has done for the members of our Club. But can it not be called, at least, wonderful that children are making such efforts to live in Jesus and Mary nowadays!

MARY EVERETT, R.I.P.



Miss Mary Everett then President of the Senatus of India (on right) on a visit to Concilium where she met Miss Lucy Tizon of Shanghai.

The recent death of Mary Everett must not go unrecorded in these pages. Her photograph appeared in the second issue of the journal, that of Christmas 1937, when she had been elected Vice-President of the Senatus of India, having completed her term as President of that body. One of the founder members of the Legion in India, she guided its destinies in those early years when the Senatus controlled not only India but also Burma and present-day Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri-Lanka. Later on, she came to live in England where she continued her active role in the Legion. May she rest in peace.

Concilium Annual

PEREGRINATIO PRO CHRISTO

Conference, November 1989

Report by John Peyton, Senatus of Bermingham

This was my first taste of the annual "Hallowe'en" conference in Dublin. At one point in the discussion, the question was posed: "Do you think there is a meeting like this taking place anywhere else in the world?". How special this conference must be in Our Lady's eyes — about 500 people gathered with one mind and heart — to help evangelise the world. And PPC is making an invaluable contribution towards this.

The attendance included representatives from all Legion councils in Ireland but it was widely international by virtue of the presence of representatives from Senatus of Scotland, England (Liverpool, Birmingham, London), France, Strasbourg, Germany, Austria, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands and Malta. It also included Julio Cesar Cirillo who has just completed 20 years Envoyship in South America. All projects reported on are worthy of mention in detail but, unfortunately, for space and other reasons I shall have to be selective and describe what most appealed to me on my first attendance.

Belgium's two projects in France included one in Metz, where they found that although everyone was nominally Catholic many did not go to Church and great numbers of children lacked religious knowledge.

A team from Philadelphia Senatus, working in St. Croix in the Virgin Islands, began their daily programme with a swim in the Caribbean Sea at 6.00 a.m.! Then, on home visitation, they found 28 people interested in the Catholic faith, 102 un-Confirmed children and 120 adults without Confirmation, while two lapsed Catholics returned to the Sacraments and the project brought about the start of a Junior praesidium.

German Legionaries have been busy organising projects to their neighbour of such topical interest — the DDR or East Germany. They have visited Berlin and Leipzig and found that the young East Germans, indoctrinated in materialism, know very little about Christ but they told the Legionaries that they are praying to find the truth.

Sr. Hilda Firtel, former Envoy to Germany and biographer of Alfie Lambe and Frank Duff, now a frail, elderly lady, had to be helped on to the platform to give her report. She said that she went on a project to Strasbourg this year. She believes that a world premier took place here — she took part in the project by use of a wheelchair!

Valerie Hughes, Intermediate from Tuam was on her first project in Blackburn, Lancashire and found it easy to speak to people because she felt she had something worthwhile to offer. Alcohol and drug abuse were rife in this area. They visited a caravan site and some of the itinerant residents gathered their neighbours around to listen to the Legionaries. A senior and Junior praesidium were started (with 14 and 10 members respectively).

A project to Ottawa in Canada in June, found many non-practising Catholics and very many of the practising Catholics met had never heard of the Legion of Mary.

Scotland's annual project to Finland continues. They found the Finns very courteous, but with little concept of religion. Our Lady was explained to all those contacted. One lady was met twice by the Legionaries, on the second occasion she was with a friend. She asked them for a Miraculous Medal for the friend and proceeded at once to explain the Medal to her friend.

Liverpool Senatus sent a team to Malmö, Sweden, where they were well received by people and mosquitos alike! Some of the Swedish people blamed religion for all the wars in the world! Many nationalities were met, including Indonesian Moslems and a Chinese girl who had been given a Miraculous Medal in Chinese some years previously in Germany. A talk on the Catholic Faith and the importance of Holy Mass was given to a group of 15 University students in the Hall of Residence.

A team undertook a project in St. Paul's parish, Glasgow, where they visited a strongly Presbyterian area but 25% of those contacted accepted a Miraculous Medal. Legionaries were one day explaining the Medal to a young boy when his

BOLIVIA

La Paz Senatus reported the setting up of a new Praesidium for University students in Oruro.

PARAGUAY

Asuncion Senatus reports large numbers of Adjutorian and Praetorian members.

CHILE

Senatus of Santiago reports contact with a young Jew who is being instructed in the faith and the conversion of a Jehovah Witness now a Legionary. Temuco, Puerto Mouth and Villarica Comitua report successful extension effort while the Bishop attends the monthly meeting of Villarica Comitium.

BRAZIL



Rio de Janeiro Senatus reports very successful extension with many new Praesidia and Councils set up. Sao Paulo Senatus reported very extensive and effective visitation to homes, houses of prostitution, to prisons where many were prepared for Holy Communion. Enthronement of the Sacred Heart, giving of Literacy classes to domestic servants, evangelization of gypsies, an apostolate to people in shanty towns, to drug addicts and alcoholics and the teaching of catechism to children and adults feature widely. A spiritist family was converted and then recruited to the Legion. The Senatus was saddened by the death in August of their devoted Spiritual Director, Canon Ray Amaral Mello, R.I.P.

COSTA RICA

Senatus of San Jose reports 3 new Curia set up in Palmares, while a Praesidium of 18 members prepare spiritually the patients in a hospital before operations.

SAN SALVADOR

There is a big programme of classes for domestic servants, all classes being preceded by a talk on

moral formation and religion by the Spiritual Director. It is stated that "home visitation has resulted in the conversion of many families, with frequent rosary novenas, and prayer groups even though the war is all around them". Nine Protestants have undertaken instruction.

NICARAGUA

A former Vice-President of Managua Comitium was ordained in Mexico where he was studying during which he was instrumental in setting up 8 Praesidia. He is now Spiritual Director.

EL SALVADOR

Comitium of Sousesate reports the conversion of a family of Seven Day Adventists and the parents are now in the Legion. One Curia has 160 members practising the True Devotion to Our Lady.

MEXICO



Mexico City Senatus reports that a praesidium in the University in the two years since its foundation has seven conversions while 3 of its members entered religious life. They also started 3 Junior praesidia in an adjoining diocese. Taxco Comitium founded 2 new Curiae while Zalapa Comitium reports that five young men entered the Seminary while one girl entered the Convent. Members of a Junior Praesidium visit the homes of school friends to say the rosary and one result was the conversion of a number of Protestants.

PUERTO RICO

A retreat for new Catholics in San Juan Senatus had an attendance of 8. Catechism is taught by many praesidia and prison visitation is also carried out.

TRINIDAD

Port of Spain Regia heard reports of effective visitation of homes, hospitals and prisons with many lapsed now back to active practice. Twelve adults have been converted including a Seven Day Adventist and a Jehovah Witness.



German Legionaries during their "Summer School" at Concilium office August 1989 with pictures of the Legion Envoys shown in the background. ▲



HAITI

A report to Port au Prince Senatus tells of a Seminary praesidium with 22 members who engage in Home and Hospital visitation and the teaching of illiterates, the latter supplying an important need.

◀ Boyculla, Bombay Legionaries celebrated the 25th anniversary of their praesidium. Concilium Visitators Lena Armstrong and Eileen O'Reilly attended their praesidium meeting.

Centenary Celebrations in Tanzania

Bro Mbana Lucas, a member of the first praesidium in Dar-es-Salaam, is led into the assembly of Legionaries to narrate his experiences in the Legion 50 years ago. ▶

Young Legionaries entertaining the audience during celebrations in Tanzania. ▼



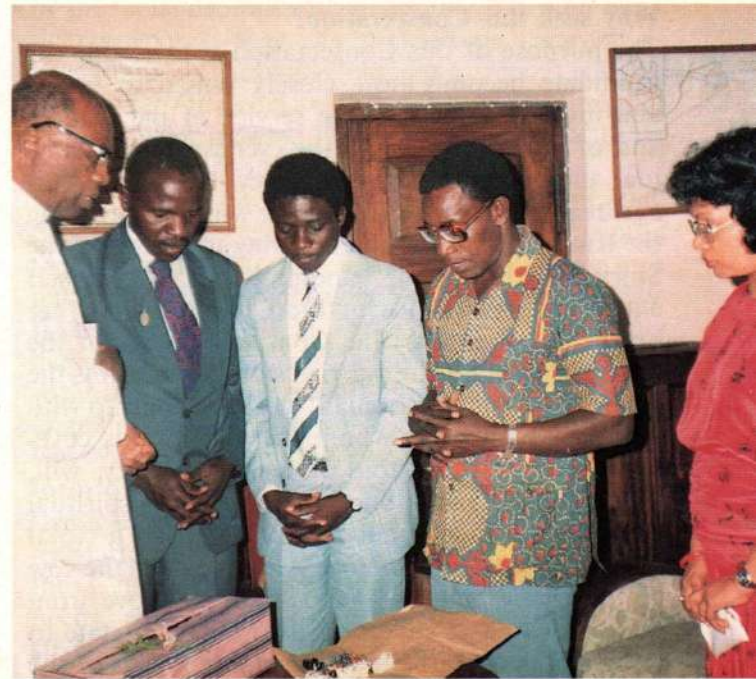


Very Rev. Fr. John Jago, Superior General of the Marists paid a special visit to the Concilium office, Frank Duff's house and the Regina Coeli Chapel in early February. He retains happy memories of his being Spiritual Director of a Legion praesidium in a Sydney parish as a young priest. From his worldwide travels he greatly admires the Legion's manifold apostolate. From left: Fr. John Jago; Bro. John Gavin, Concilium Secretary; Rev. Fr. Forde SM and Bro. P. Fay, Concilium President.

His Grace, Cardinal Rugambwa Archbishop, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, blesses the Praesidium officers who present him with a gift, a locally carved wooden vexillum on the day of the centenary celebration August 1989.



▲ Legionaries at Abuja, the new capital city of Nigeria, in a group to mark the New Year Day with His Eminence Dominic Cardinal Ekanem, holding a child and, beside him, Rev. Dr. F. Essien both good friends of the Legion of Mary. In the background, the Shrine of Our Lady Queen of Nigeria.



► On 7th June 1989 centenary of Frank Duff's birth, a special lecture on his life was given by General (retired) Giovanni Monti a Legionary. Among the big attendance was His Eminence Cardinal Bafile who is seen here chatting with Monsignor Luigi Solari, National Assistant for the Legion in Italy.



With Fr. Aedan McGrath in the Far East



The first two Incolae Mariae to go to the Gilbert Islands: Christina on left behind Pacita Santos and Leovina squatting in the centre (both are accountants). They were invited by the Sisters of the Order Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.



With the Curia Officers, Quezon Palawan, Philippines at their recent Congress.



This photo was taken on the occasion of a "briefing" for Incolae Mariae held in the home of former Envoy Pacita Santos, seated on Fr McGrath's left.



At the Vietnamese Refugee Centre, Puerto Princesa City, Philippines, with Rev. Fr. Robert Crawford, C.M. Chaplain. Socorro B. Cruz, former Legion Envoy in Malaysia and Philippines is on extreme left of picture. Fr. McGrath says there are 100 Legionaries in the centre, enough to make up several Praesidia.

A Consecrated Life for Single Women?

continued from page 27

Christ's love. She must never underestimate the impact and power of her self-gift — no matter how small and insignificant it may seem. She must not be dismayed at the great love-void in the world around her. The Gospel incident of the small boy with five barley loaves and two fish makes this point: 'And Andrew, Peter's brother said, "What are these among so many" (Jn. 6:10). Yet, Christ was waiting for just such a gesture, that apparently insignificant offer, in order to exercise His power and feed those who were hungry. The consecrated virgin offers all she can — her whole being — through acts of kindness, gentleness, forgiveness, mercy and love; through ordinary apostolic activity generously performed — which, through the power of Christ, is transformed and becomes an important channel of grace for our world. In this way, she 'bears fruit that will abide' (Jn. 15:16).

The "iron rations" of a priest

"I wish I had more young priests to take some of the load off you; many of you are still fully serving the community." These were Cardinal Joachim Meisner's words to 17 priests after a Mass in Bengsberg, Germany. The priests were ordained by Cardinal Joseph Schulte fifty years ago in St. Nicola's Church in Bengsberg. All Cardinal Meisner had for the priests was thanks. "Your fifty years were the most difficult ones for our nation. They demanded everything of you. I'm thankful for you", said the Cardinal. He continued that in hard times the chalice, the breviary and the rosary are the iron rations of the priest. The bishop also explained the importance of the rosary to the many faithful attending the Mass stating that the rosary contains our whole faith and is, so to speak, God's spiritual braille.

From IDU published monthly by the Benedictines at Maria Roggendorf, Austria.



Group taken on the occasion of the celebration of the 1500 meeting of the Praesidium Mary Our Mother, Church of St. Clare, Ota, Gumma, Japan.

HIS OLD SCHOOL HONOURS FRANK DUFF

The Annual Leman concert, named after the founder of Blackrock College, was this year dedicated to the honour of past-pupil Frank Duff, on the occasion of the centenary of his birth. The attendance included the President of Ireland, Dr. Patrick Hillery and Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin, Dr. Donal Murray.

In his introductory address, Dr. Michael O'Carroll, C.S.Sp. said "We hope that our programmes will strike a note of harmony, in every sense of the word, with aspects of his (Frank Duff's) remarkable personality and his apostolic activity which spanned the world. He liked music, joined eagerly in community singing, was in every-

thing a seeker of perfection, insistent on high standards I mention our tenor's rendering of Panis Angelicus and Ave Maria as a reminder of Frank's unashamed yet unaffected Christian commitment. Eucharistic and Marian themes touch the inner source of this man's dynamism, his tough fibre — he was courageous to the marrow of his bones He was, for a while, a prophet in his own country with what that implies. His centenary has been marked by grandiose ceremonies in Dublin and many Irish cities and towns, in Westminster Cathedral, in Glasgow and in Rome and other cities on the European mainland. He has been commemorated in splendour right across the world, through Africa to the West Indies, the Philippines, faraway Japan and Korea in Latin America and down under in Australia and New Zealand.

Tonight, his old school which he loved offers its tribute to a quintessential Dubliner, who for almost seven decades in our capital city and indirectly throughout the world, poured out love on the unloved and gave inspiration and hope to so many"



Frank Duff as a pupil in Blackrock College, 1905.





A historic occasion for the Senatus of Rome

Officers of the Legion in Rome with the Holy Father following their attendance at his private Mass on the morning of 4th December 1989. We understand that this favour was accorded them because the Holy Father has been meeting and encouraging legionaries in the course of his pastoral visits to the parishes of Rome and he was happy to give this special acknowledgement during the Centenary Year of our Founder's birth. The Holy Father availed of the occasion to thank the Legion for its work in the diocese of Rome and in the great number of dioceses throughout the world where it exists to-day. The officers presented the Holy Father with copies of the two latest editions of Brother Duff's writings to be published in Italian — *Virgo Praedicanda* and *Miracles on Tap (Miracoli a volontà)*. Our photo shows from left to right: Sr. Maddalena Sammarco (Senatus Assistant Secretary), Irde Fioravanti (Senatus Treasurer), Maria Pia Felici (partly hidden — President Madre della Chiesa Curia), Amelia Tarantino (President Maria Nostra Speranza Curia), Fr. Paolo Rime MSFS (Senatus Spiritual Director), Sr. Lina Frati (President Maria Immacolata Curia), His Holiness Pope John Paul II, Bro. Alfio Frati (Senatus Vice-President), Sr. Giovanna Turrini (Senatus President), Bro. Giovanni Monti (President Regina della Pace Curia), Sr. Pina Turrini and Sr. Maria Hager (Senatus Secretary). Since the event, Bro. Alfio Frati has been elected President of Senatus. The Legion in Rome has been growing steadily in recent times and membership in praesidia is high: Our best wishes to Bro. Frati and our thanks to Sr. Turrini now filling the Vice-Presidency.

Nihil obstat: Joseph Moran, O.P., Censor.

Imprimi Potest: + Desmond Connell, Archiep, Dublinen, Hiberniae Primas Dublini. Die 28^o Martii 1990.

Published in March, June, September and December at 2 Hardwicke Street, Dublin 1, Ireland. Annual Subscription including postage IRE£3.50 per 4 copies.