

Maria Legionis



Venite Adoremus Dominum

Maria Legionis

The Voice of the Legion of Mary

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INVITATION

The Editor and Board of Maria Legionis invite readers of Maria Legionis, and other legion members, to submit articles and other contributions with a view towards publication in future issues of the journal. Ideally, submissions should be made by e-mail attachments (Word Documents or jpg images) to: concilium@legion-of-mary.ie and marked 'Maria Legionis.'

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International Pilgrimage in Thanksgiving for the Centenary

By Caroline Carty

The Lourdes Committee together with the Senatus in Paris organised a two-day Pilgrimage in Lourdes to celebrate 100 years of the Legion of Mary. The Pilgrimage took place on Wednesday 7th & Thursday 8th September to commemorate the founding date of the Legion.

Fr. Don Anne-Guillaume. After lunch pilgrims participated in a workshop entitled: 'With Mary, to become an ecclesial soul.' Pilgrims then made their way to the grotto for the Rosary which was followed by the Eucharistic Procession.

On Wednesday morning all legionaries were welcomed to the Permanence



where a presentation of the pilgrimage programme was presented. Mary Murphy, President of Concilium, warmly welcomed pilgrims and was heartened to meet so many legionaries who had arrived from Paris, Frankfurt, Strasbourg and Belgium.

Pilgrims were invited to a 'Festive evening' at the Permanence. A splendid occasion comprising of two presentations and a buffet. The first presentation charted the evolution of the Legion of Mary globally while the second presentation was a short summary of the history of the Permanence in Lourdes. A beautiful buffet was prepared and all in attendance enjoyed the delicious food. Over the course of the meal, Sr Éliane Blanche-Barbat, (Vice-President of the Senatus in Paris, Treasurer of the Lourdes Committee) read a short biography of Frank Duff's life. This was followed by the singing of hymns.

The Committee distributed a booklet which outlined the programme for both days commencing at 8:30am until 10pm. On Wednesday, we attended the Rosary procession to the Grotto before Mass at 10:30am. Mass was followed by a lecture from



We were blessed to have the rector of Lourdes, Fr Michel Daubanes, join us. He was interested to hear of the history and work of the Legion of Mary.

The evening closed with singing of hymns in many languages. A wonderful evening of celebration and joy, and a fitting tribute to mark 100 years of the Legion.

On Thursday morning pilgrims attended the Dublin Diocesan Mass at the grotto. Fr. Don Anne-Guillaume led a second workshop entitled: 'Consecration of yourself, your person to Christ.' Pilgrims were guided to examine all aspects of their lives including body, soul, external goods and interior goods. Discussion centred around the role we play in contributing to our own salvation and the salvation of others. Pilgrims were free to attend adoration and confession and were

reunited for the 'Act of Consecration to Jesus by the Hands of Mary' in the crypt. Beautiful ceremony led by Fr Don Anne-Guillaume.

After dinner we attend the Marian torchlight procession with the vexillum. A beautiful evening invited a large crowd. The basilica looked radiant under the moonlight and stars. The pilgrims gathered for the last time under the statue of the Crowned Virgin for closing prayers and a recital of a Marian hymn.

Wonderful to spend some time in the presence of legionaries from different countries in Lourdes, a very special place. Grace follows effort and this was evident in Lourdes. Sincere thanks to the Lourdes Committee and Senatus members for their valiant efforts in hosting and preparing a wonderful pilgrimage in Lourdes.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Pray for Us.

Notre Dame De Victories, Priez pour Nous.





Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

(Edith Stein)

A Legionary - Assumpta Curia

Edith Stein was a young Jewish woman who converted to Catholicism in 1922. In 1933 she became a Discalced Carmelite nun and received the name Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. She died in the gas chambers of Auschwitz on 9 August 1942 and was canonised a saint by Pope John Paul II in 1998.

Born to an observant Jewish family on 2 October 1891 at Breslau Germany (now Wrocław Poland), Edith Stein spent her early years searching for the truth. This led her to the study of philosophy and a most distinguished academic career. In 1916 she was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy with a *Summa cum Laude Honor* under Professor Edmund Husserl at Freiburg University. Husserl was deemed the 'Father of Phenomenology' and, without knowing it at the time, Edith's study of phenomenology was in fact a Catholic philosophy which traced its roots back to Thomas Aquinas in the thirteenth century.

On her trip to Freiburg for her oral examination, she broke her journey to see a friend in Frankfurt. Her friend took her to the cathedral as a tourist and while walking around the cathedral she noticed an ordinary-looking woman come in with her shopping basket and pray before the tabernacle. Although Edith probably did not know the meaning or significance of the tabernacle, she did know that the woman was having an intimate conversation as if there was some living person within the tabernacle. This experience had a profound impression on her, and she never forgot it.

At one stage in her early years, she declared herself an atheist; but during her summer holidays at Bad Bergzabern in 1921 she read the autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila which changed her life.

Edith read all forty chapters of the book: Teresa telling her life; her desire to follow God; her miserable beginnings; her longing for prayer; her laziness and ingratitude in giving

up praying after so many graces; a relentless unfolding of her life, unsparing of her faults; her encounter with the God who suffered so much for us; and then the summit at chapter forty-Christ revealing Himself as the Truth. "This is the Truth," said Edith. But what is the Truth? Are we asking the wrong question! Truth is not a what, it is a who. Truth is a person: the person of Jesus. As a result of this, she converted to Catholicism and, exactly a hundred years ago in 1922, she was baptised into the Catholic Church.

Edith Stein became a lecturer at the Institute for Pedagogy at Munster but was dismissed from her post in 1933 on account of the antisemitic legislation passed by the Nazi Regime that year.

Then on 14 October 1933 Edith entered the Carmelite Monastery in Cologne and received the name Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. However, as the Nazi threat to Jews increased, she was transferred for safety to the Carmelite Monastery at Etch in the Netherlands.

Every morning in the Carmelite Monastery at Etch, Edith would enter the chapel, pause for a moment before a picture of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and say to herself: "She and I are the same blood." Edith never failed to find it incredible that this woman, the Mother of God, was her own relation!



Then on Sunday 26 July 1942 the Dutch Bishops Conference issued a statement which was read out at all masses in the Netherlands. The statement condemned the Nazi racist policy, especially against the Jews. Immediately, the Nazi Authorities retaliated and on the following Sunday 2 August the Gestapo arrested 244 people, many of whom were Jewish converts to Christianity and amongst whom was Edith Stein and her sister Rosa who had also become a Catholic.

The exact details of Edith's final days will perhaps never be fully known. Records show that Catholic prisoners of Jewish background were first taken to the Nazi Camp at Amersfoort and then to the transit camp at Westerbork, the central detention camp in the east of the Netherlands and not far from the German border. Westerbork would be the last stop before Auschwitz Concentration Camp for more than one hundred-thousand Dutch jews. From there the train journeyed inexorably eastwards and arrived at Auschwitz Concentration Camp where she died on 9 August 1942.

In 1998 Pope John Paul II canonised her a Saint of the Catholic Church and on the following year he proclaimed her Co-Patroness of Europe.

Following her canonisation in 1998, it was claimed by some persons that she was martyred because she was a Jew and not because she was a Catholic: therefore, she should not have been canonised. However, the position of the Catholic Church is that she was also killed in Auschwitz because of the Dutch Episcopacy's condemnation of Nazi racism; in other words that she died because of the moral teachings of the Catholic Church and is thus a true Martyr.

The picture below is the altar of the Edith Stein Chapel in the Church of St. Michael the Archangel (*St. Michaelis Kirche*) in Breslau. From the moment of her Baptism in 1922 to the moment of her last visit to her home city in 1933 before she entered the Carmelite Monastery, this Church was her preferred place of worship. In the center of the chapel stands a marble altar with the date of Edith Stein's death sculpted on it and the words *AVE CRUX, SPES UNICA* –



HAIL TO THE CROSS OUR ONLY HOPE. The altar also houses an urn containing some earth and ashes from Auschwitz, as well as other relics, including a fragment of her Carmelite habit.

Excerpts from her writings

When you seek Truth, you seek God
whether you know it or not.

My longing for Truth was a single prayer.

Do not accept anything as love
which lacks Truth.

The deeper one is drawn into God, the more one
must go out into the world in order to carry
the Divine Light into it.

And when night comes, and you look back over
the day and see how fragmentary everything
has been, and how much you planned had gone
undone, and all the reasons you have been
embarrassed and ashamed, just take
everything exactly as it is, put it in
God's hands and leave it with Him.

Following World War II and the transfer of territory and people, Breslau became part of Poland, and the name was changed to Wrocław.

Founded one year before Edith Stein was baptised into the Catholic Church, the Legion of Mary embraces much of this saint's spirituality, especially her quest for truth, her humility, courage and devotion to duty; above all, her steadfast determination not to succumb to obstacles gives legionaries a heroic example of achievement in the face of adversity. Her love of Jesus, and of his Mother Mary whom she saw as her relative, gives us hope and joy in our Legion work.

What the gift of a rosary can do

By Anni Cech

The Sonnberg prison praesidium of the Hollabrunn Comitium in Austria celebrated its 1000th meeting in October 2022.

This anniversary meeting made my mind wander back to the beginning. How did it actually come about?

For decades, the Legion of Mary had been making visits to the prison for men in Sonnberg near Hollabrunn in Lower Austria. For a while there had even been a Patrician meeting in the prison; later when we moved to this area, my husband and I made weekly visits to this prison.

That is how we met a prisoner (let us call him Miguel) from the Philippines. Since he did not know how to pray the Rosary, he asked us for documentation on how to do so.

We promised to bring him a folder in English next time. Soon he explained why he needed these instructions. His seventeen-year-old daughter had brought him a beautiful Rosary beads from Mariazell, (National Marian

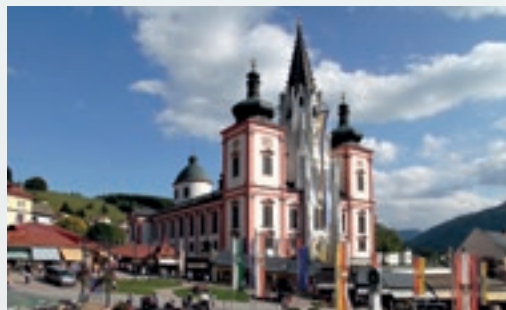


Shrine) to his pre-trial detention in Vienna. This was a very precious gift for him. Now he really wanted to pray it. Until then he had only known the so-called “short form.” With each bead he said: “Hail Mary, Amen.”

He told us how, while still in custody in Vienna, he knelt down in his cell every day in the morning, at noon and in the evening and prayed the Rosary in this way. He noticed that the officers looked into his cell through the peephole, and he heard them say: “He’s praying again!” And they laughed at that.

Then, when he was transferred to Lower Austria, he heard the Legionaries of Mary being announced in the house over the loudspeaker. Also, in this prison he knelt three-times a day in his cell with his Rosary. It is true that there was a weekly Mass in the house, which was announced, but since he did not know German and had never attended church, he did not attend.

However, the announcement of the Legionaries of Mary in the prison by loudspeaker made him courageously go down one day in the hope that these Legionaries of Mary could perhaps explain to him how really to pray a Rosary.



This is how we met Miguel. He did not know German and we conversed in English. So, he asked us for literature on how to pray the Rosary. He was at the right address! Legionaries always have material for such requests, even in several languages.

Miguel was very happy, and we became friends. Soon he was able to pray the Rosary properly. We also gave him an English Tessera and asked him to pray the Tessera daily as well.

One day we asked him if he prayed the Tessera daily. He answered in the affirmative. To our astonished question: "Really daily?" he smiled and said: "not just once, but as usual three times a day, morning, noon, and night. Yes, also the prayers of the Legion of Mary." Moved by joy, we asked him if he would like to help us establish a praesidium in the Sonnberg prison. He already knew a good deal about the Legion through us, and he felt honoured to be needed.

That is how everything started rolling. The prayers of our legionaries of the Comitium and many auxiliaries got into the starting position. Soon we were able to start the first praesidium in a prison in Austria with Miguel and some African English-speaking prisoners. Some Austrians also joined us. However, it proved to be burdensome to translate everything, so that we soon had to establish our own German-speaking praesidium for this purpose.

One day, many members of the English-speaking group were released, so we decided to merge the two groups and continue only in German.

Through this special closeness and friendship with our 'founding legionary' Miguel, he told us again and again about his life, his childhood and how Jesus had begun to save him through his Mother Mary.

Miguel had grown up as a child in a 'red-light' area in the Philippines. At that time, as a little boy, he observed an old man in his street who was very rich. "I want to be a rich man too!" he said to himself. As he grew up, he said to himself: "I want to become a millionaire when I'm forty!"

"Through the drug business, you get money quickly, especially as long as you don't get caught."

To his amazement, he didn't get caught for almost twenty years. He was already a professional in his business and also operating internationally. Eventually, he ended up in Vienna and lived undetected for a few years.

Then it happened: just before his 40th birthday he was discovered and arrested.

Devastated, he now sat in his cell in custody and said to himself: Is this the dream of being a millionaire at forty?

Then his daughter gave him the Rosary when she visited him once.

WHAT THE GIFT OF A ROSARY CAN DO

What is this now? Inside he cried out: “God, if you exist, show me! Things can’t go on like this!”

Mother of Mercy stretched out her hand to him, in being transferred to Sonnberg. It did not take long, and he began a completely new life.

With all his heart he served his Queen, as a Legionary of Mary, and put his life into her hands. After several years, however, he was deported to his homeland.

When he heard that he would be deported, he knew that it would not be easy to live out in the world as a Christian.

One day he came to us with a self-embroidered picture of Jesus and said: “Please hang it in a place in your house where you always pass by. And don’t forget to pray for me!” All that was more than twenty years ago now. Unfortunately, we never got in touch with him again.

In the book: ‘In sinu Jesu, when Heart speaks to Heart’ (Angelico Press), there is a passage in which Jesus says:



“My Mother honours every consecration made to her Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart, and even if one should forget that one has uttered such a prayer, My Mother does not forget it. She remains faithful to her own children, even when these are distracted by the world and turn away from her brightness shining like a star over the stormy seas of life.”

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Annual Legion of Mary Pilgrimage to Knock

Homily by Bishop Alan McGuckian S. J.

On Sunday 25 September some five-thousand legionaries and others from all over Ireland assembled at Knock for the annual Legion of Mary pilgrimage. The following homily was given at Holy Mass in the basilica by Bishop Alan McGuckian S.J., Diocese of Raphoe.



Legion of Mary Pilgrimage to Knock 2022

When you read the writings of Frank Duff and particularly the Handbook of the Legion of Mary you are left in no doubt that Mary is at the heart of everything because she is like the heart of the Mystical Body of Christ. As the Handbook reminds you: ‘The Church is the Mystical Body of Christ and his fullness. (Eph. 1:22-23). Christ is its head, its chief, indispensable, and perfect part, from which all the other members of the body derive their powers, their very life’ (Ch. 9).

I want to say two things about our call to be the Mystical Body of Christ. Firstly, I want you to see it as underlying today’s readings. Secondly, I want to show how being the Mystical Body is a powerful incentive to engage with today’s call to be synodal in our Church.

The Mystical Body grounds the conviction that everyone is a beloved child of the one Father; we are all brothers and sisters, members of one Body. That is all very well except that

our fallen human nature intervenes with fear and defensiveness in regard to ‘the other.’ The person who is different or poor or weak comes to represent a threat and an inconvenience, best kept at arm’s length.

Speaking with all the authority given him by God, the Prophet Amos railed against indifference for other people:

“Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion and to those who feel so safe on the mountain of Samaria, lying on ivory beds and sprawling on their divans, they dine on lambs from the flock, ... they invent new instruments of music like David, they drink wine by the bowlful.”

Those wealthy Israelites in Zion and Samaria knew how to party, sprawled on divans and drinking wine by the bowlful! The problem was not that they partied; it was that they kept all the good things for themselves and cared nothing for their brothers and sisters who were poor.

Lest we think that this is just an Old Testament preoccupation, Jesus takes up the same theme. He tells a story of a rich man, who doesn't even get named; it is simply made clear that he is a selfish rich man; he too was probably 'sprawling on his divan', eating his fill and drinking 'wine by the bowlful' while a poor man,



respectfully named Lazarus, is lying at his gate, covered with sores, starving with hunger, dying. Lazarus dies and, in due course, the rich man.

Then the whole truth is revealed. Lazarus is seen in all his beauty, cherished in the bosom of Abraham. The emptiness of the life of the selfish rich man is unmasked. Even though he now sees his own misery in Hades, he still thinks that he is superior to Lazarus; "Pity me", he says to Abraham, "and send Lazarus to dip his finger in water and cool my tongue," as if Lazarus was still his slave.

These are powerful images from the Prophet Amos and especially from the Lord Jesus calling on us to wake up from the selfish sleep that was the rich man's life and recognise that everyone is a brother or sister. The scriptures are always meant to speak to our own lives. In some very real ways we are the rich man and Lazarus is lying at our gates. It takes no imagination for us to see Lazarus on the global scale in the millions of migrants around our world fleeing war and famine, and in the

women who are being trafficked and used in the sex trade in our Irish cities and towns today. On a more local level as we head into winter in the midst of an energy crisis, Lazarus will struggle to keep warm and feed his- or her-children in many Irish homes.

It was a source of pride and satisfaction for Frank Duff to be able to say in the Legion Handbook: 'The visitation of a hospital for the poor was the first work the Legion ever undertook and for a while it did no other. It teemed with blessings for the infant organisation, and the Legion desires that this work will ever be attended to by its praesidia' (Ch. 37). From the very beginning the Legion was driven by a love for the poor, by a desire to head out to meet and care for Lazarus at the gate. It is in the very DNA of the organisation and we need to thank God that it goes on to this very day in Ireland and throughout the world. At times, love for the poor goes on in more vivid and radical ways. The Handbook speaks, in the language of the time, of: 'Work for the most wretched and dejected of the population.'

'This' it says, 'will involve the visitation of their haunts; and of lodging-houses, hostels and jails; and it may be, the conducting of hostels staffed by legionaries, resident and outdoor. All of those things, visiting and caring for the poor in their own places and in dedicated shelters are going on to this very day.'



You can hear the passion of Frank Duff in the following line from the Handbook: ‘... No searcher after the rare and precious things of the earth must pursue his heart’s desire more earnestly than the legionary pressing after these unfortunates of the world.’

The haunts of the poor and dejected in the Dublin of the 1920s were very rough, unsanitary and unsavoury places. Last year I read ‘Miracles on Tap’, the story of the early days of the Legion in Dublin. It’s an awesome story of the courage of young legionaries visiting brothels and facing down the plague of the sex trade in Dublin city centre, relying only on the grace of God and the intercession of Our Lady. I know many of you will have read it but if not I recommend it.

Legionaries have a vocation to stretch themselves and to reach out to the other who is in need and knowing that the most serious hunger and the deepest longing is the need for the love of God.

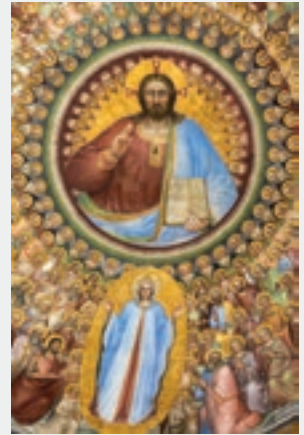
A very specific way in which we as the Church are called to be the Mystical Body of Christ today is in the synodal process. Pope Francis has called for a Synod of Bishops to take place next year and consultations have gone on in every diocese leading to synthesis documents from every country. We in Ireland have committed ourselves to a synodal pathway in the coming years.

The word synod means ‘walking together on the road.’ It is vitally important at this moment in the history of the world. We live in a very divided

world. In many countries democracies are under threat and being replaced by strong-man dictatorships. People readily divide into opposing camps and hear only the media that suits their own agenda. The language of public discourse becomes coarse and cruel and demeaning of others. The challenge of Pope Francis to the Church is: “will we simply mirror the culture? Will we become polarised, demonising those who are different, demonising each other?”

The Legion of Mary answer has to be: “No. We are the Mystical Body of Christ. We will seek to walk together, listening

to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church in our time.” I know that some people have been reluctant to be involved fearing that



the synodal process is a path towards changing the Church’s teaching. Pope Francis is quoted in the book: ‘Let us Dream’ saying: “What is under discussion at synodal gatherings are not traditional truths of Christian doctrine. The synod is concerned mainly with how teaching can be lived and applied in the changing contexts of our time...”

It goes without saying that there are divisions of opinion among Catholics, even about Church teaching. Where there is division there will be tension which is often unpleasant. However, the invitation and the challenge to us who believe that the Church is the Mystical Body of Christ is the following: If we walk together, if we speak the truth in love to one another and if we listen with love to others who think differently from us, then the Charity of God, the Holy Spirit will be among us and there will be change. Ultimately it is not the teaching of the Church that will be changed. It is we who will be changed. We will become more fully the Mystical Body of Christ.

We live in interesting and challenging times for the world and for the Church. When there are challenges and disagreements in life there are two temptations into which we can fall. One is to become aggressive and confrontational; the other temptation is to turn away and disengage. Neither of those temptations is admissible in the Mystical Body; neither is acceptable in the Legion of Mary. The call of the legionary when there is an awkward situation in which the offer of the Gospel is not welcome is to be patient, persistent, always trusting that the work is being guided not ultimately by us but by the Holy Spirit.

And so, on this day when members of the Legion of Mary are gathered in Knock from far and wide and we are joined online by brothers and sisters

all over the world, let us give thanks to God for the great vocation of service of all the Lay Faithful and especially in the Legion of Mary. I call you to rededicate yourselves to the love of the poor and least of our brothers and sisters, to Lazarus who is at our gate. I invite you most sincerely to commit yourselves to the synodal pathway of the coming years. By your patient, generous presence in the process you will allow Mary to be at the heart of the Church. Let me leave you with these words of the Handbook: 'To appreciate what form of service ought to characterise legionaries in the life of the Mystical Body we look to Our Lady. She has been described as its very heart. Her role, like that of the heart in the human body is to send the blood of Christ coursing through the veins and arteries of the Mystical Body, bringing life and growth with it. It is above all a work of love. Legionaries then, as they carry out their apostolate in union with Mary, are called to be one with her in her vital role as the heart of the Mystical Body.'





Our Lady of Lourdes Praesidium

BETHNAL GREEN, LONDON

By Leo Mansilla

My name is Leo Mansilla, Vice President of Our Lady of Lourdes Praesidium, comprising six active members and ten auxiliary members. I've been privileged to be an active member for about six months and have so far thoroughly enjoyed being a legionary as part of my adult life.

I, like many, rediscovered our Church, Our Lady of Assumption, Bethnal Green, after the cessation of lockdown restrictions last year. It has been delightful to see an increase in Mass attendance (particularly with newcomers). However, one thing our praesidium has noticed is that affiliation with Mary seems to have somewhat departed, not just in our community but London-wide.

Henceforth, now more than ever, our praesidium places great importance on ensuring Mary is known, particularly with the newcomers. We've focused our work on member recruitment via a simpler approach of inviting such newcomers to visit our meetings, plus talking about Mary with churchgoers, work colleagues, or those within our own close circles. From here we concentrate on these individuals' sanctification and

potential induction into the Legion. At this point, we are yet to restart our house-to-house visitation; however, our officers endeavor to attend area-specific recruitment drives to which our Curia invites us.

Within our praesidium, I've been inspired by the many ways Mary is revealed to others. One of our members had been seen simply praying the Rosary on the way to work and was approached by a workmate on how to pray it himself. One of our members has encouraged their mum to become an auxiliary member with daily recitation of the Tesera. One of our members had guided and invited a priest to pray for a blind hospital patient affected by an illness and, despite her condition, that patient always found peace through the consolation of her voice.

Further work also takes the form of strengthening our auxiliary body, often meeting or praying with them, or inviting them to participate in other works such as setting up the physical meeting space or weekend church cleaning.



Finally, it's also been a personal joy now to be leading our junior praesidium, Our Lady Ark of the Covenant, also based at our Church. All of us are thrilled with the progress of our junior legionaries, who show great leadership and often raise compelling questions, such as approaching evangelisation in school and college when faced with students from different religions. They show a willingness to learn and are the epitome of natural devotion, having great zeal when leading their own meeting prayers and through their own works assigned. They are currently planning a drama re-enactment for the Legion and the Church of St. Catherine. Labouré's apparition's and the Miraculous Medal.

Whilst Our Lady of Lourdes Praesidium as well as Our Lady Ark of the Covenant Junior Praesidium have had a positive year, we realise we still have a long uphill battle for our Mother Mary - particularly in such a growing irreligious milieu. Our recent Congress meeting has left us officers feeling spiritually energised, and so we are optimistic and venture to apply the invaluable lessons and learnings to strengthen the love for Mary through our work in the community and in those around us.

The following letters displayed are hand written by some of our junior legionaries in the Praesidium of Our Lady Ark of the Covenant.

Hi, my name is Bilen. I am from the Legion of Mary. I have 1 brother and 2 sisters, we are all in the junior Legion. We have 3 thoughtful teachers: Br Bazol, Br Leo and, Sr. Jull, may God bless them for their hard work. Being in the legion of Mary has changed our lives because it gives us a chance to be closer to God, Jesus and Mary. In the Legion of Mary we start off with the sign of the cross. We all kneel together in the glory of God while doing the blessed virgin Mary's rosary.

Once we finish the rosary we go onto the meeting. We start the meeting by the spiritual reading. The spiritual reading is about when you listen to a paragraph or verse and you explain its meaning. Next we do the minutes, the minutes is a recap of what we have done in the past week. After the minutes it's the corresponsion. In the corresponsion the adults say any news or information.

When we finish off with the closing prayers and we go home joyfully. While thanking God for everything.

Thank you for reading

Kind regards

Bilen

Hello, my dear brothers and sisters around the globe. My name is Simer Tekle and I am 12 yrs old. I am writing about a key moment of my life, a time I'll not forget was when I joined the Legion of Mary. I am currently a junior legionary but hope on becoming an active member.

Ever since I joined the Legion, I have started to get a closer relationship and a bigger understanding of Mother Mary and those who played a role in helping to form our Legion. I hope to have my name on that list. I attend the meetings on Sunday after 11.00 am mass at our Lady of Assumption.

Whenever we are in the meetings, I try my best to listen, to hear and put the words I hear in action. For I love the Lord, Mary and God with all my mind, strength and heart. I think the Legion will form me and make me a better person.

Thank God for listening to me.

God Bless You All

Art Competition for Students

By Kay Rush

The Regia- Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, located in Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies - has joined with Concilium and the worldwide Legion of Mary groups in celebrating the one-hundredth anniversary of the Legion of Mary which took place last year 7th September 2021.

In addition to Masses offered, one at the Cathedral of The Immaculate Conception in the city of Port of Spain, and the other at Our Lady of Perpetual Succor Church at San Fernando our second city, Regia organised two competitions especially for the youths in our Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools. One was an Art Competition and the other an Essay Competition. The Art Competition requested students' artistic depiction of a Marian Apparition of their choice. First, second and third prizes were given in each category. The winners each received a Tablet, 'Can We be Saints' booklet, a beautiful Rosary, a Miraculous Medal, as well as other legion literature. Each participant was given a lovely bag with Concilium's One Hundredth Anniversary Logo printed on it. In each bag was a Rosary; 'How to pray The Rosary' leaflet and several other pieces of literature. A Mass



of Thanksgiving was offered at The Church of St. Philip and St. James in Chaguanas. Participants, parents and teachers were invited to attend. After Holy Mass the prizes were distributed and there was a sharing of snacks. The Regia is following up on schools that participated to reintroduce the Junior Legion there, now that most of the restrictions due to the pandemic have been lifted.



*Special Prize - Mixed Media
Chelise Gonzales, St. Francis R.C.*

Results from the Art Competition

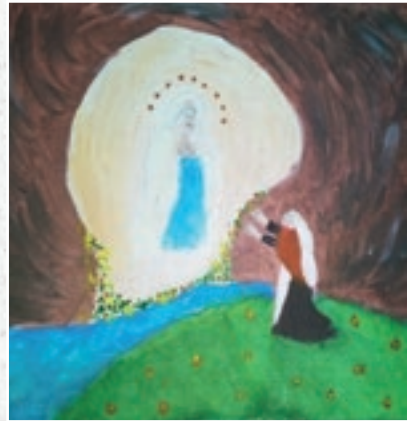
ART:
8 - 10
YEARS OLD



1st Place
Asia Ramkisspoon
St. Josephs Girls R.C.

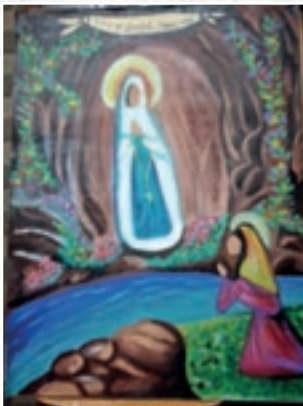


2nd Place - Isabella Steadman, Hardbargain



3rd Place - Adele Ali, St. Josephs Girls R.C.

ART: 11 - 14 YEARS OLD



1st Place - Elizabeth Merrit
St. Josephs Girls R.C.



2nd Place - Ange-Jolie Farrel
St. Josephs Girls R.C.



3rd Place - Seriah Hector
Vance River R.C.

On Peregrinatio Pro Christo to England

By Margaret Lynam

I was one of a team of twelve on a Peregrinatio project beginning on St. Patrick's Day. We had planned to travel on that morning by boat to Liverpool and by road on to a rural area in Shropshire. We arrived there a day late as the early morning sailing had been cancelled.

We arrived a day late, with snow still featuring. By Monday evening, my co-worker and I were finishing off visitation of a closely packed terrace of houses. We were getting a fairly good reception, although this lessened a little when "This is your Life" with Eamon Andrews came on television. One lady who had been welcoming advised us not to call to the second - last house in the row. "A reclusive man lives there," she told us. She said that it would be unlikely for him to answer our knocking, but, even if he did, we would not get a welcome. We thanked her. When we got there we knocked once. It seemed that no response was forthcoming, so we then knocked at the door of the next and final house; this opened at once, and a pleasant lady invited us in. Then, we heard the previous door open and we turned back to be confronted by a gentleman who looked distressed, dejected, disgruntled and anything but happy; he was unshaven, longhaired and I felt

I had never seen such a sad spectacle. We did not have time to consider an opening address. Three quick-fire questions emanated from him:-

Who are you?

Why are you here?

What do you want from me?

We explained about our group of twelve working for the Catholic priest in the parish. He said he was not Catholic. To his third question we asked him to tell us something about his life, and about if and how God featured in it. He then spoke of sadness and of being let down by people he trusted. He spoke at length and became agitated. We knew he needed help – but how? I thought "if we were in Dublin, we could procure some help for him;" then, an inner "suggestion" hit me "If you have faith, you can help him now."

I took from my pocket, a miraculous medal and leaflet. Telling him that we Catholics regard Mary, God's mother, as our mother also, just as surely as is our natural mother. We spoke of how she followed her Divine Son to Calvary and held Him as He died.



He then mentioned his own mother, who had died in the local cottage hospital, and that he had not been allowed to visit her. He felt guilty that she might feel he had abandoned her. Our conversation was lengthy. We advised him to look after himself and to make his earthly and his heavenly mother proud of him. We asked him to wear the medal on his neck since it was blessed for his protection. He asked if he could make a bargain with us. We agreed. He would accept the medal and the prayer which he would read but he would keep them on his bedside locker. We replied that we were sure Our Blessed Lady would settle for that. He was then feeling tired and cold so we parted.

When we reported the contact at our next meeting, we asked our priest if he could see any further assistance we or he might give. He said the local vicar might not welcome his intervention. He also said that in the cottage hospital, a Catholic matron would be on duty on Friday morning. He felt we might ask permission to visit the residents and perhaps mention our concern about the gentleman.

Two of us set out there on Friday; the lady we had hoped to meet was off that day, and so, we retraced our steps to town. On arrival, I espied a branch of the Bank of Ireland and decided I might withdraw some cash to help out on the journey home next day. While I stood on the steps outside stowing my funds and identity card, I heard my

name called. There, on the opposite footpath, he stood beckoning. Clean shaven, neatly dressed, transformed! I crossed the road. He held out his hand: "Margaret" he said, "I feared that I would never see you again." He went on to say that he had done all we had advised and had taken himself in hand. He then said: "The medal you gave me and the words you spoke have given me the most profound consolation of my entire life." The medal he said is now where you said it should be pointing to his collar and saying: "There it stays." He continued: "Had I not seen the medal next day when I awoke, I should have thought I had dreamt it all; that somebody should knock at my door on a miserably cold night, just to speak with me." He complimented me and all who would do such work, and to travel from another country to do so!!

At the next and final report of the week, we reported all to our priest, expecting some jubilation. Instead, he took a most solemn attitude - then said: "You know, I love when legionaries find themselves up against a stone wall; only then can Our Lady show her strength."

Father sent me a few further reports - saying that, as far as he could establish, our contact had not regressed: he died around Christmas two years later.

I shall never forget him.



Thoughts on the Rosary

By Annette Mulrooney



When you pray your Rosary the Angels rejoice - Our Lady to Blessed Alan de la Roche



The Rosary is the weapon for these times - Saint Padre Pio



The Rosary is the most beautiful and rich in graces of all prayers - Pope Pius X



Through Mary streams of grace flowed down upon us - Saint Faustina

According to pious tradition, in 1214 the Blessed Virgin Mary herself consecrated this devotion by appearing to St. Dominic of Guzman, founder of the Dominicans, and giving him the Rosary in its present form as a weapon to combat the Albigensian heresy that was devastating southern France.

St. Dominic withdrew into a forest near Toulouse where he prayed unceasingly for three days and three nights. Tradition tells us that Our Lady appeared to him while he prayed. She spoke to him gently and said:



“My son, prayer and penance are the only way to win souls. Pray my Psalter and teach it to your people. That prayer will never fail. Make clear to them the mysteries of their religion, the divine truths that God has revealed but that they cannot understand. Teach them to picture in their minds the events of my Son’s life.”

Dominic began at once to preach as he had been directed by the Blessed Mother. Dominic taught his listeners to picture the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus as they prayed the Rosary.

The Splendour of the Rosary - Allocutio by Fr. Gabriel Harty O.P.



I am reminded of a story told by a nurse at the height of the Battle of Britain in 1940 as the bombs were raining down on London. An air-raid warden was carried, bleeding and broken into the hospital. In the darkness, the nurse in casualty took out her Rosary beads and began to pray. The young man reached out his bloodstained hand and said: “Let me touch it. It’s something to hold onto.” Don’t we all know some soul who needs something to hold on to! What better could we offer than the gift of the Rosary!

Mary offers us the silver cord of the beads and lets us hold onto Heaven. With the blessed Rosary beads between our fingers, we truly hold infinity in the palm of our hand. As we touch this string of heaven's pearls, we touch the very edges of eternity. For we have not only something to hold onto, but someone - Jesus Himself - on whom to cling.

'That is what the Rosary does for us: it keeps us in touch with eternal truth and everlasting beauty. Among the different ways of praying, there is none more excellent than the Rosary. It condenses unto itself all the veneration that is due to Mary. It is the remedy for all our evils, the root of all our blessings.' (*Pope Leo XIII Handbook p.107*)

'Of all prayers, the Rosary is the most beautiful and rich in graces; of all it is the one which is most pleasing to Mary, the Virgin Most Holy. Therefore, love the Rosary and recite it every day with devotion: this is the testament which I leave unto you so that you may remember me by it.' (*Pope St. Pius X Handbook p. 107.*)

'The very first corporate act of those legionaries was to go on their knees. The earnest young heads were bend down. The invocation and prayer to the Holy Spirit were said, and then through the fingers which had, during the day, been toilsomely employed, slipped the beads of the simplest of all devotions.' *Handbook p. 10.*

'The Rosary is Irreplaceable' by Frank Duff (Virgo Praedicanda). P.101 .

'The Rosary is a prayer which fits itself to changing circumstances. At times of sickness or of exhaustion there is no other so useful. It comes within our reach. What we then want is restfulness in the spirit of prayer. So let the beads slip through the fingers without concern as to what particular accompaniment the mind is playing, because it is truly resting in God and is attentive to Mary. This is the essence of prayer. Prayer is a state more than it is a recital. As we say the Rosary, we try, now as a background and another time as a foreground, to stage the mysteries before our minds. However meagre our powers to meditate, we cannot help learning all those mysteries. They expand into so many "photographic" situations, linking themselves up with the various pictures we have seen or the accounts which we have heard or read of those events. We may be sure too that grace takes hold of that 'picturisation', intensifies it and renders it fruitful.

We must not make this operation too involved for ourselves. The Rosary must be left essentially simple. Its main idea is a chat with our Mother about her Son, herself, and about all the elements of salvation. We say the Pater with her in absolute union.

Then we have our little mixed meditation with her, frequently falling back on the actual words which we



...speak to her. Then at the end of each decade she says the Gloria with us as she did with St. Bernadette at Lourdes; you will recall that episode.

Anyone who says the Rosary will have a reasonably complete and vivid idea of the Christian narrative, and I repeat that this is a necessary foundation for all prayer. Indeed, what good are any prayers if they do not rest on that foundation of knowing what they are all about?

“It is only in the context of all the mysteries of the life of Christ that we can fathom the riches of the Rosary as Mary’s great gift to the Church. Pope Paul VI said, the Rosary was a compendium of the whole Gospel. Others have said the Rosary is the Gospel on its knees. It certainly immerses us in the whole history of salvation. It opens us to the special grace of each of the mysteries of the life of Christ. It plunges us into the mystery of Jesus. Most mothers remember all the significant events and words of their children, but Mary never forgot anything Jesus said or did. She kept pondering on everything in her heart. She was the loving keeper of the whole Gospel in her heart so that it could never be eradicated. In the Rosary Mary shares with us her

...memories of Jesus. Pope St. John Paul II was fond of saying: ‘In the Rosary we contemplate Jesus and his mysteries with the eyes and heart of Mary.’ We can learn a great deal about true devotion to Mary from books, lectures and workshops but when we pray the Rosary, we actually live the heart of this devotion which is to go to Jesus through Mary. The basic reason why Our Lady incessantly asks us to pray the Rosary is simply because it puts our mind and heart in contact with Jesus. This meeting between Jesus and us in prayer is an infallible way of bringing joy to the maternal heart of Mary.” (*Allocutio to Concilium Fr. Bede McGregor O.P. Oct. 2010*)

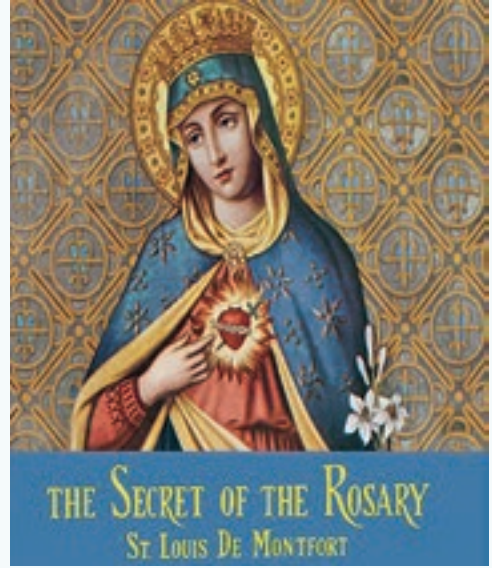
“We remember that Mary was the first person to pray the Rosary and she still prays it incessantly. And she never stops inviting us to join her in this precious prayer. At Fatima, Mary identifies herself as the Lady of the Rosary and asks us to pray the Rosary every day. However, the Rosary is not only a prayer, it is also an effective form of evangelisation. We are encouraged not only to pray the Rosary but also to preach it and promote it in every possible way open to us. Pope St. Paul VI said: “Evangelisers must first be evangelised themselves.” It is not sufficient to know and talk about the faith; we must also pray the faith. Praying the Gospel is a beautiful way of interiorising the Gospel.



St. Dominic learned this lesson from Our Lady herself. He was preaching in the south of France with great energy and zeal but having very little success. Then, according to tradition, Our Lady appeared to him and said: “Pray the Rosary.” He did so, and the fruit of his preaching became prodigious. So, first he preached the articles of the Creed and then the people prayed them through the Rosary. Thus, the Rosary in its earliest use became a method of preaching and praying the Creed and the Gospel. In this way people assimilated the truths of the faith in the deepest possible way. Preaching was no longer simply communicating information about the truths of the faith but learning to make those truths the basic principles for actually living our lives.” (Allocutio Fr. Bede McGregor O.P. Sept. 2009).

***‘The Secret of The Rosary.’
St. Louis Marie De Montfort.***

A comment on De Montfort’s book: ‘the Secret of the Rosary’ goes far beyond mere research. It contains everything that can be said about the Rosary- its content and form, its real worth, and about the instruction necessary for its appreciation and use. De Montfort calls the Rosary “The Mystical Rose Tree of Jesus and Mary in life, death and eternity.” He declares that roses of your Rosary will never wilt or die, and they will be just as exquisite thousands of years from now as they are today. He warns us against both the ignorant and the scholars



who regard the Rosary as something of little importance. He says: “The Rosary is a priceless treasure which is inspired by God.”

Perhaps the loveliest gathering of all was the family Rosary, which was part of our Irish culture for so many centuries. In a book of poems entitled ‘Around the Boree Log’ written by an Australian Priest of Irish parentage under the pseudonym John O’Brien, a poem entitled ‘The Trimmings of the Rosary’ gives a very accurate description of the family Rosary in those far-off days. The trimmings were the prayers personal to each family said at the conclusion of the Rosary. Father Patrick Peyton who became known internationally as ‘The Rosary Priest’ devoted his life to promoting the family Rosary with the slogan – “the family that prays together stays together.” What a lovely way it was for a family to bond with each other and with God.

True Devotion to the Nation

By Gerard Hennigan



In ‘True Devotion to the Nation’ Frank Duff pointed out that Our Lady did not just take care of the spiritual welfare of the Child Jesus but also his physical welfare, including his immediate environment. He argued that legionaries should also take care of the environment around them in their local community, and in this manner we in turn would be presenting the true face of Christianity. He had in mind bringing patriotism and Christianity together. There are examples from the time (1960s) of parish priests such as Father McDyer of Glencolmcille, Co. Donegal initiating project work to stem the rapid decline of the parish due to lack of employment and emigration. Initiatives such as the Tidy Towns are also part of this desire for communities to help themselves by community action.

In this context in 1997, the 150th anniversary of the peak year of the Famine in Ireland, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Praesidium sought to answer Frank Duff’s call by cleaning up the Workhouse Graveyard in Celbridge



Co. Kildare. This graveyard is bounded by the Maynooth Road, off which there were many new estates built. The graveyard boundary wall was a low one and crumbling. The graveyard itself was totally overgrown and forgotten and had refuse strewn about. A noticeable feature of the graveyard was the fact that there were no headstones or crosses. The members of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Praesidium at the time were Ann Gilligan R.I.P., Maureen Holmes R.I.P., Rose Maguire R.I.P., Lily Gallagher R.I.P., and Sr. Margaret Clasby, who is still an active member. As they were clearing the graveyard, passers-by noticed and offered their assistance. They decided to mark the 150th anniversary of the Famine with a Mass and invited a native of Celbridge, Bishop Eamonn Walsh to be the celebrant, which was celebrated on 6 July 1997.

In his homily Bishop Walsh said:

“Today we remember all who lived and died in times of famine and extreme poverty. In particular we remember all who are buried in this cemetery. May their sufferings prompt us to Christian care of the poorest at home as well as abroad.

The Christian churches did indeed give alms to the poor. The St. Patrick's Parish did not keep records of alms, but Christ Church Parish records have listed disbursements to the needy of that time. Food, turf and clothing were distributed. Contributions were given to those who wished to escape to America. Coffins were regularly paid by funds from the church. Those who were discharged from the Fever Hospital were given extra food and helped to resume employment."

In 1847 Pope Pius IX asked for three days of public prayer in Italy to exhort the people to give alms for the relief of the Irish People. Some of that money was distributed in the Archdiocese of Dublin.

The workhouse poor-relief system was very late in arriving in Ireland as it was first introduced in England by an act of parliament in the reign of Elizabeth I. The system was designed to set poor people to work in return for accommodation. Tasks included breaking stones and crushing bones for fertiliser.

The Celbridge Workhouse being just a short walk from the main street of the village was on what was then called Big Lane. The village of Celbridge was dominated by Castletown House and the site for the workhouse was given by Edward Michael Pakenham-Conolly of Castletown House. It was built to a common design by George Wilkinson and was opened in 1841.

Celbridge could house 519 inmates. The accommodation was based on the population of each Union represented. The Celbridge Union served the Dispensary Districts of Celbridge, Lucan, Rathcoole, Leixlip, Maynooth and Kilcock with a population calculated to be 25,242.

Twenty-five years after the Mass celebrated by Bishop Eamonn Walsh in July 1997 at the behest of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Praesidium, he returned to the graveyard to celebrate another Mass for the souls interred there. It was held on 11 September 2022. There is a plaque with the following inscription:

*This Holy Ground is sacred to the memory
of all who lie here forgotten and anonymous.*

*In life they were judged to be of so little
worth in their poverty that they were
buried without name or record.*

*Let all who visit this holy place atone
by their respect and reverence
for that neglect.*

May angels lead them into paradise.

Thanks to the initial work of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Praesidium, there was a great deal of further work done to enhance the graveyard by the Tidy Towns Association and Kildare County Council. But there is no better way to remember the poor souls than by offering a Mass for them.

Fr. Thomas Gavan Duffy

- Advocate of Catechesis



By Michael Walsh

Fr. Thomas Gavan Duffy (1888-1942)

At a stage when the teaching of catechism was never more important, now is a relevant time to make renewed efforts in promoting this worthwhile initiative on a universal level. Towards this end, we have the prime example of the life and work of Fr. Thomas Gavan Duffy, an enthusiastic promoter of catechesis.

Born in the south of France to parents Charles Gavan Duffy and Louise (nee Hall), Thomas Gavan Duffy was educated at Stonyhurst, Thurles, County Tipperary and at Paris. In 1906 he joined the Paris Foreign Mission Society and was ordained in 1911 at the aged of 23. A short time later he went to Tindivanam, a town in South Arcot, near Madras (now named Chennai), India, where he set up the Diocesan Organisation of Schools, which catered for the training of catechists; this initiative was the start of his work which became an inspiration to millions of people worldwide. From then on, his watchword was: "More and better catechists."

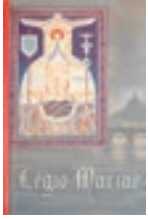
From that day forward, this young priest regarded the catechist as a vital means of multiplying the priest and promoting the faith within the

community. Synonymous with the word 'catechist', he is quoted as saying: "The preaching of the priest is from the outside, and also it is too fleeting in character to produce the full result. But the catechist lives the life of the village, exemplifies Christian family life, chats with the people at their work and during their leisure hours, patiently teaches the children, gives neighbourly help in time of trouble, and in every way makes Christianity the property of the people. Without catechists a priest is a knight errant; with catechists he is an organised and far-reaching force."

Fr. Gavan Duffy maintained that catechists need proper training for prime results, and hence the value of the Training School such as the one he founded at Tindivanam, India. He also realised the benefits of Boy Scouting as a factor in character training, choosing what was appropriate from the movement, and supplementing it by a high spirituality. The result was his 'Knights of the Blessed Sacrament.' He oversaw the details of this organisation and believed in promoting positive activities for recreation times.

Motivated by a durable desire to save souls, he worked tirelessly to help spread the knowledge of God's Kingdom, visiting countries such as Japan, Korea and Africa to study the methods used in them for catechesis.

His 'New Hope Series' of books contained many inspiring quotes, including the following, also quoted



in the Legion of Mary Handbook (Ch. 33, Sec. 2): 'Remember you are fighting a winning battle, like Our Lord on Calvary.

Do not be afraid of the arms he sharpened nor to share the wounds he bore. Whether the victory should come in your generation or in the next, what is that to you? Carry on the tradition of patient toil, and let the Lord take care of the rest, for it is not for us to know the time, nor the moment which the Father has appointed in his power. Take heart and bear the burden of your knighthood with the unflinching courage of the high-souled men who went before you.'

Apart from his work in the field of catechesis, Fr. Gavan Duffy is remembered for his writings and ideas which prefigured the Second Vatican Council: 'Inculturation' as the process



was described, began with the erection of an altar facing the people in 1931, for which he received the approval of Pope Pius XI. The

translation of liturgical books into local languages, such as Tamil, was another project he successfully undertook. Not long before his death, though in poor health, Fr. Gavan Duffy also took on the role of Parish Priest for two widespread areas near Chennai India.

Catechesis carried on apace in locations throughout the world after Fr. Gavan Duffy's death, and is available presently in many ways, among them through R.C.I.A. courses. (The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) the formula for which was introduced by the Catholic Church in 1972. The R.C.I.A. course can be availed of by approaching a priest and stating you are thinking of becoming a Catholic, or that you have been baptised as a Catholic but have missed out on Confirmation and the Eucharist.



For many years, The Legion of Mary through Peregrinatio Pro Christo projects overseas has been promoting the R.C.I.A. courses and wherever the need arises—thereby contributing to the overall success of such initiatives. Apart from promoting R.C.I.A. courses on Peregrinatio Pro Christo projects and elsewhere, legionaries in various countries around the world are allocated catechesis as their main Legion work.

Beginning with his ordination in 1911, Fr. Gavan Duffy gave 31 years of his priestly life to the promotion of catechesis. He was an inspiration to his contemporaries and continues to inspire the countless people who to this day continue on with the work of catechesis. The seeds of faith, hope and love of God planted through Fr. Gavan Duffy's heroic endeavours all those years ago are still yielding a rich harvest long after he passed away aged 54 in 1942.

Fr. Gavan Duffy's sister Louise established a private school for girls in Dublin and was a prominent member of the Legion of Mary.



Church of the Seven Dolors

After Requiem Mass, Fr. Thomas Gavan Duffy, born in southern France to Charles and Louise Gavan Duffy in 1888, was laid to rest in front of a massive crowd of mourners close to the Church of the Seven Dolors in his beloved Tindivanam, South Arcot, Chennai, India.

Centenary Mass on the Golan Heights

By Kathleen Toher



Peacekeepers from the Irish Defence Forces celebrated the Centenary of the Legion of Mary at Camp Faouar, situated in the Syrian part of the divided territory, by attending Holy Mass on Centenary day offered by their chaplain, Fr. Paul F. Murphy.

Located in the ancient region of Caesarea Philippi, and close to the site of the conversion of Saint Paul, the Irish women and men honoured the contribution of the Legion throughout its one hundred years and prayed for its future fruitfulness.

Father Murphy, a priest of the diocese of Waterford & Lismore, had ministered as a chaplain to the Legion of Mary in St. John the Baptist Parish, Folsom, California.

The chapel in the United Nations camp is dedicated to Saint Paul, and soldiers, air crews and naval-service personnel gather there daily for prayer.

Please remember these Irish peacekeepers in your prayers.



Praises of Mary



Those who enjoy the favour of Mary are recognised by the citizens of heaven.

And those who bear her stamp, that is, those who have the grace to be her servants, are inscribed in the Book of Life.

St. Bonaventure

Mary is blessed most of all because she heard the Word of God and carried it out.

She preserved the Truth in her mind even more than she preserved the Flesh in her womb.

St. Augustine

The life-giving graces flow from Christ the Head, through the Blessed Virgin, into His Mystical Body.

Mary received the great honour from God that no one should obtain any grace except through her hands.

St. Bernardine of Siena

The Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Auxiliatrix, Adjutrix and Mediatrix.

These however are to be so understood that they take nothing away from, nor add anything to, the dignity and efficacy of Christ the one Mediator.

Vatican II, The Church, 62

Without the consent of Mary, God would not become Man.

The reasons for this were first that we might feel under great obligation to her and second that we might realise that the salvation of all is left to her care.

St. Peter Damian

Nowhere do we find Jesus nearer to us and more adapted to our weakness than in Mary, since it was for that reason that He came and dwelt in her.

Everywhere else He is the Bread of the Strong, the Bread of the Angels, but in Mary He is the Bread of Children.

St. Louis Grignon de Montfort



Explanation of Front and Back Covers – The Editor

Front Cover-

The picture on the front cover is the painting *'Adoration of the Kings'* by the German born but naturalised Italian Johan Friedrich Overbeck. It is a neo-classical oil painting on display in the Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg.

The artist uses clear brilliant color. The Virgin Mary is seated and dressed in traditional blue with the Infant Child seated on her knee, while St. Joseph is standing behind the Virgin and Child in respectful reverence.



The scene depicts a royal event. Three kings are presenting their gifts to the Infant Jesus, the King of Kings. An Armenian tradition identifies the three kings, also known as the Magi of Bethlehem, as Balthasar of Arabia, Melchior of Persia, and Gaspar of India. "We have seen his Star in the East and have come to adore Him" (Matthew 2:1-12).

In the painting we see Melchior with long -white hair and beard, having taken off his crown, presenting the Infant King with a gift of gold. In the center stands Gaspar with a box of incense, while on the far left stands Balthasar with his jar of myrrh.

Back Cover -

The picture on the back cover is the painting *'The Adoration of the Kings'* also known as the 'Adoration of the Magi' (Wise Men) by the Italian- Renaissance artist Sandro Botticelli. It is a tempera on panel painted in 1473 and is on display in the Uffizi Gallery, Florence.

The painting depicts the Biblical account of the three Magi following a Star to find the New-Born Infant Jesus. (Matthew 2:1-12).

The image of the altarpiece centers on the Virgin Mary and the Infant Jesus while the three Magi are humbly presenting gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.



Indulgence for the Centenary

Maureen Doyle

Pope Francis, to mark the Centenary of the Legion of Mary, granted a plenary Indulgence to all Legionaries and the lay faithful under the usual conditions. This occurred for us on the 4th July and our Praesidium was especially pleased that the church, chosen by Mater Ecclesiae Curia to host the event, was our Parish Church, **Our Lady of Victories, Sallynoggin/Glenageary**. The Curia members and parishioners met and prayed the Rosary, Legion Prayers and the prayers for Venerable Edel Quinn, the Servants of God Frank Duff and Alfie Lambe. The prayers were interspersed with hymns which added to the occasion, and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament made it extra special.

The attendance included our Parish Priest, members of the Curia and a good number of parishioners; those who were unable to attend were able to watch it on

the parish webcam. We were very grateful to Fr Gleeson our Parish Adm. for giving permission to hold the event in the church and to the parish staff who facilitated us in so many ways.

Following the ceremony, Legionaries and some parishioners adjourned to a local hotel for tea/coffee and scones. The whole event was a very uplifting, prayerful, and enjoyable occasion as it was the first legion get together since Covid restrictions lifted.



The **Tallaght Priory** Garden ceremony was held by the members of Spouse of the Holy Spirit Curia, Dublin, on Monday, 22 August, (the Queenship of Mary), with Fr. Donagh O'Shea O.P, conducting the Plenary Indulgence ceremony in church and leading a reflective walk in the historic priory gardens. All legionaries, including our auxiliaries, were appreciative of this unique experience and were blessed with beautiful afternoon sunshine to conclude the ceremony.

Raymond Mulrooney

OFFICIAL CLOSE OF CENTENARY

To mark the official close of the centenary of the Legion of Mary on 19 November 2022, Holy Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Emeritus Seán Brady in the Pro Cathedral, Dublin.

There was a capacity attendance of legionaries from every part of Ireland, and others from abroad, while the Cathedral's Palestrina Choir added an extra dimension of beauty to the occasion.

A full report, including the Cardinal's Homily, will be published in the next issue of Maria Legionis.



NORTH AMERICA

U.S.A.: Providence Comitium, attached to **Boston Senatus**, did praesidium visitation which led to new officer appointments and recruitment drives for weak praesidia. The **Chicago Senatus** weekend May Gathering had Council representatives from five States present. It included door-to-door evangelisation in the district adjacent to their conference centre and finished with the Senatus Meeting. **Cincinnati Senatus** is working on restructuring of its territory. Plans are afoot to start two new praesidia in Ohio, another in Steubenville diocese and two in New Albany. A Curia attached to **Houston Senatus** staffed a Catholic Information Booth at the Pasadena Strawberry Festival in May and resumed visitation. A prison praesidium resumed their meetings with new officers appointed. North Curia is the home of the very first Legion praesidium in the USA, founded November 27, 1931. A praesidium in **Los Angeles Senatus** with thirteen members visited their 51 auxiliaries, taught CCD, did door-to-door visitation, organised a monthly Mass in a care facility and did crowd contact at a festival. In **New York Senatus** North Bronx Curia is planning a recruiting drive; likewise, Rockville Comitium. **Philadelphia Senatus** had an Evangelisation Day with 70 attending and two recruiting drives. Camden Comitium had a Catholic Literature Table at Cowtown Rodeo, Pilesgrove and Berlin farmers market. Trenton Comitium visits hospitals and prisons. An attached Curia had 884 people view eleven Faith podcasts they prepared. Pittsburgh Regia reported on CCD, door-to-door and crowd contact. In **San Francisco Senatus** San Mateo Curia started two new praesidia and Juniors

in San Jose gave talks about Junior Legion membership to Confirmation students. In **St. Louis Senatus** Prison ministry has been started with inmates and families. **Arlington Regia**, in June, held a junior retreat with forty attendees. In July a young adult retreat was held with fifty attending. One council reported gaining new members: 38 active adults, nine junior and 69 auxiliaries for the centenary year.

Canada: A praesidium in Ottawa, **Toronto Senatus**, contacted the truckers on border blockage in February using the miraculous medal. A former president of a Curia in Winnipeg has been ordained to the diaconate in preparation for priesthood. A True Devotion to Mary consecration for 33 participants resulted in four new members in one curia. A new praesidium of eight members was set up in Peterborough. A Columban Drive had 56 taking part in another parish. A praesidium of thirteen members, inspired by their priest, does door-to-door and street evangelisation and has a vibrant junior praesidium. The Korean Toronto Comitium has 144 members in twenty-four praesidia. During Covid, a legionary, in **Montreal Senatus**, working in Health Care prayed with patients while offering miraculous medals and rosaries. An open-air Rosary attracted visitors. Circulation of the French version of 'Can We Be Saints' featured in Sherbrooke. A praesidium in **Edmonton Comitium** organised a Rosary Rally in October 2021. An attached Curia undertook pilgrim statue, home and prison visitation pre-pandemic. During the pandemic a weekly virtual Rosary was recited with the prisoners. **Mexico:** Most of the reports in the **Mexico City Senatus** area indicate conversions and returns to the faith. A Curia attached to **Guadalajara Regia**

reports on works including leading prayers at wakes, parish census, book barrow apostolate, home and hospital visitation. **Hermosillo Regia** reports Bible study and Lectio Divina has been started in some parishes. New officers in **Monterrey Regia** are very enthusiastic, getting to know the attached councils and praesidia and encouraging extension. A Comitium in a neighbouring diocese is working well with a wide range of Legion works including teaching catechism, book barrow work and home visitation.

WEST INDIES

Dominican Republic: **Santo Domingo Senatus** report jail, hospital and housebound visitation.

Haiti: In spite of Covid, an earthquake and the general instability in that country, home, hospital, and prison visitation continued. Condolence visits, organising youth praesidia, teaching catechism, preparing people for the sacraments, Holy Communion visits and accompanying priests on sick calls also featured.

AFRICA

Burundi has one Senatus in Gitega, one attached Regia in Bujumbura, a combined total of 108 Comitia, 644 Curiae, 4,700 praesidia, 51,055 active legionaries, 6,354 auxiliaries. The secret of the strength of the Legion in Burundi is their exceptional commitment to the True Devotion to Mary as taught by St. Louis Marie de Montfort.

Cameroon: Bertoua Regia, attached to **Douala Senatus**, is hoping to set up four new Comitia and Yaoundé Regia is in the process of setting up two new Comitia. Many Councils report on extension, Exploratio Dominicalis and trying to recruit juniors.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Legionaries in the **Senatus of Kisangani** have

given presentations of the Legion of Mary in Churches and have visited military garrisons in many parishes, while 36 new members have been recruited. As a result of legionary approach to non-baptised people regarding the Faith, 68 have received the Sacrament of Baptism. Many prayer meetings were organised to pray for peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. 363 sick people were visited in hospital, and 62 in their homes.

Ivory Coast: The **Abidjan Senatus** reports apostolic works such as home and hospital visitation, street contact work, enrolment of catechumens and teaching of Catechism are undertaken. They have also done extension work in Mali, for which they have a Caretaker role.

Kenya: The **Nairobi Senatus** reports His Eminence Cardinal Njue Archbishop Emeritus of Nairobi was the chief celebrant at the annual Mass at Venerable Edel Quinn's grave. Approximately 2,500 people attended which included two Spiritual Directors, 75 legionaries from Uganda and twenty legionaries from Dar-es-Salaam.

Malawi: In **Blantyre Senatus** Retreats for youths and adults are organised as part of the evangelisation program. Works include teaching Catechism whilst encouraging all Catholics to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Others works include home and hospital visitation, visiting the elderly, helping them with household chores and marriage instruction.

Nigeria: Ado-Ekiti Comitium, attached to **Ibadan Senatus** reports home, hospital, police station and prison, and rehab home visitation. Two legionaries were among the forty people who died in the attack on St. Francis Church, Owo on 6th of June. May they rest in peace. Legionaries in **Enugu Senatus** helped prepare many candidates for the sacraments.

Abakaliki Regia continues to expand with the establishment of 59 senior praesidia and 39 junior praesidia. **Ikot Ekpene Regia:** Calabar reports twelve Baptisms, six couples received the Sacrament of Matrimony, five lapsed Catholics returned to practicing, five people were received into the Church and 69 members were recruited. The **Lagos Regia** has renewed interest in the Cause of Michael Stephen Ekeng. The Regia officers recently met with the Archbishop of Lagos who gave his blessing on all Legion activity and urged legionaries to be more prayerful and remain dedicated and devoted to Our Lady.

Senegal: Dakar Comitium has 24 adult praesidia directly affiliated and ten Curiae. A new Curia has been set up. Some of the works mentioned: home, hospital, elderly and prison visitation and giving catechesis. This resulted in 50 returns to the sacraments, six baptisms, four confirmations and one conversion.

South Sudan: Archbishop Stephen Ameyu Martin Mulla, Archbishop of Juba attended the May Uganda Senatus meeting to thank the legionaries for their support to the legionaries of South Sudan. He wishes to have the Legion in all schools in South Sudan when the security is improved.

Tanzania: The **Dar-Es-Salaam Regia** is planning a congress to celebrate ten years of the Regia.

Hai Moshi Comitium report home and hospital visitation, encouraging couples to marry in Church, preparing adults and children for the various sacraments, helping to settle various disputes and talking to people with drug and alcohol addictions.

Togo: From **Lomé Regia** there are numerous reports of Exploratio Dominicalis being organised as well as many new curiae and adult and junior praesidia starting up. Also many new active and auxiliary members were recruited.

Uganda: The **Senatus** adopted the theme “Remember, renew, rejoice, recruit for the Centenary year. Celebrations were held in each Diocese. Extension teams were formed, and legionaries visited many Dioceses and eighteen islands. Several new praesidia and curiae were set up.

Zambia: Lusaka Regia: Works include preparing candidates for the sacraments, marriage counselling, visiting the sick and offering support.

ASIA

Armenia: The original praesidium of nine members arranged the Centenary celebrations and had ‘Can we be Saints’ by Frank Duff translated into Armenian. Five people came back to Confession, two received the anointing of the sick, and Enthronement of the Sacred Heart took place in two homes.

Holy Land: Ramallah Curia has ten praesidia, one newly established. Galilee Curia has six praesidia and one recently set up.

Hong Kong: The Comitium held its inaugural meeting as Regia on 8th September 2022. A new Curia was established in June.

India: Mumbai Senatus received reports from two praesidia, each with thirteen members. Their works include visiting the sick, bereaved and those of other faiths. During the pandemic, apostolic outreach was done by Zoom including catechism classes. A praesidium in **Chennai Regia** reported Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in ten homes and 120 children were taught catechism. They also visit Catholics and people of other faiths.

Indonesia: Kupang Senatus: Children were prepared for Baptism and couples were prepared for the Sacrament of Marriage. A new praesidium was set up in the prison. One of the works of a Comitium attached to **Malang Senatus** is visiting prisons. There are

three Comitias on the island of Sulawesi and the island of Bali has two Curiae.

Japan: A Curia in **Osaka Senatus** has five Korean speaking praesidia and one Japanese speaking praesidium. They were greatly affected by the Covid restrictions but kept in touch by zoom and telephone with each other. Another Curia brings Holy Communion to the sick and serves the lonely and suffering in the community.

Korea: **Gwangju Senatus** reported while there has been a decrease in numbers due to Covid there is also an increase in new members. One Comitium reported 29 catechumens received Baptism and 64 lapsed returned to practice. The sick, both Catholic and non-Catholic, are being visited. **Seoul Senatus** reported inviting people to the Church on a large scale often leads to people becoming catechumens and receiving Baptism.

Lebanon: The legionaries prepare children for First Communion and accompany the priest on home visits. They help Syrian refugees as best they can.

Malaysia: **Kuala Lumpur Regia** has 12 praesidia and 12 curiae attached to the Regia, including a Chinese curia with one junior and 13 senior praesidia.

Myanmar: Visitation of distant councils has resumed. Mandalay Comitium has six curiae and 41 praesidia with 500 members.

Pakistan: There are two Curiae in the Karachi area one of which has fifteen praesidia.

Singapore: A praesidium of fourteen members visit the youth and those of the LGBT community to explain the teachings of the Catholic Church to them. There are 'Movie Nights' for non-Catholics and discussion follows on matters of Faith. The Junior Curia has 16 praesidia operating in four schools. They lead Morning Prayer, organise the school Mass and lead prayers before examinations.

The Mandarin East Curia celebrated its 30th anniversary with a Mass attended by 70. They organised an inter-generation day of talks and discussions for legionaries. Four Spiritual Directors attended in person while over 900 members tuned in on YouTube.

Sri Lanka: The Senatus reported that 85 attended the Acies of which 22 were junior members. Two Comitias arranged a Centenary Mass with their Bishops and over 200 attended.

Vietnam: Myo Tho Comitium reported 107 persons, including adults and children, were prepared for Baptism, 57 couples had their marriages regularised in Church, and forty new active and 58 new auxiliary members were recruited. The Senatus was thanked for meeting the Superior General of the De Montfort Fathers, who asked to meet the legionaries during a visit to Vietnam.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica: **Costa Rica Senatus:** An attached Curia celebrated its first Congress in May with an attendance of 80 legionaries.

Nicaragua: A praesidium set up another praesidium in a nearby parish. At the request and direction of the parish priest the parish praesidium visited homes with an image of the Sacred Heart and recited prayers and Rosary.

Panama: Recruiting is being carried out resulting in an increase in new members in several praesidia and an extension team has been set up to extend in areas where there is no Legion.

Salvador: **San Salvador Senates:** A man returned to the practice of the faith, regularised his marriage and is now a praesidium officer. A group of young Protestants receive instruction in a group. A number of homes have been consecrated to the Sacred Heart.

Cuba: Two legionary sisters, Sr. Wallace, extension worker from the U.S.A., and Sr. Laydy Buenfil, from Merida Senatus, Mexico, did extension work in Cuba for two weeks during the month of May. They visited the Legion in Havana Diocese and neighbouring dioceses. They set up a new curia in Guines Diocese of Santa Clara.

EUROPE

Albania: A visit to Albania by the Malta Correspondent and another legionary in August had to be postponed due to a surge in the number of Covid infections in both countries. The Spiritual Director Rev. Fr. Driton who has been a great support to the Legion for some years is being sent to Rome for further studies. On September 3rd the Bishop will celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving during which the new Spiritual Director Rev. Fr. Prela will be introduced to the Legion.

Austria: The apostolate includes street contact, visiting parks, the homeless and those with addictions. Weekly baptismal preparation for adult Catechumens from Albania and of older children for First Holy Communion is done.

Belarus: A praesidium in Minsk does street contact work and has catechism classes for children. Legionaries helped towards the baptism of a young lady at the Easter Vigil.

Belgium: Brussels Senatus reports crowd contact around the central station in Brussels has been done several times with good contacts being made. The Senatus had a successful Peregrinatio Pro Christo project to Alsace in France.

Bosnia Herzegovina: Three praesidia reported to Sarajevo Curia on home visitation. Two persons received the sacraments after a long absence and one was anointed.

Bulgaria: Praesidia meetings have resumed and Acies was held.

Croatia: A praesidium of eight active and 53 auxiliary members reported 22 people receiving the sacraments following home visitation. Much home visitation is done in Split Comitium. One person was baptised and nine persons received the sacraments after a long time.

Cyprus: The Correspondent visited Cyprus on the 5th June 2022 and met with the three Nicosia praesidia during a combined meeting. A new praesidium started on 9th January 2022 in North Nicosia named Our Lady, Mother of Perpetual Help which has nine active members and sixteen on probation. In North Cyprus the praesidium in Kyrenia continue to meet every Sunday.

Czech Republic: Prague Comitium has fifteen praesidia and one Curia attached. Apostolate to the young and care of auxiliaries were reported.

England: Birmingham Senatus held a Centenary Congress with a good attendance including some new legionaries. A new praesidium in Wolverhampton has seven members. A praesidium in Sheldon parish does much home visitation and street contact. Fourteen people were received into the Church at Easter. Middlesborough Comitium, attached to **Liverpool Senatus**, reports works include running R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) courses, baptism preparation with parents, book barrow and home to home and care home visitation. A praesidium In **Brentwood Regia** prepared 33 children for Holy Communion. Works undertaken in Central London Curia include street contact, home-to-home visitation and care home visitation and teaching the Rosary to children.

Germany: Frankfurt Senatus held a conference in August. Topics included: a review of 2021/22; membership statistics; centenary year activity and post pandemic

apostolate. Hamburg Curia is supporting a Rosary initiative 'Germany prays the Rosary.' In **Munich Regia** Legionaries organise Devotions to St. Joseph for children. A praesidium of Ghanian legionaries has started in Berlin. There is a growing youth praesidium in Darmstadt.

Hungary: Budapest Regia: The 101st year of the Legion was celebrated in a festive meeting and included Legion prayers and Holy Mass. The Regia Spiritual Director gave an overview of the Legion of Mary in Ireland and then the last thirty years of the Legion in Hungary. The celebration ended with a meal. Works reported: visiting the sick, including legionaries and the housebound. A winter school has been arranged for March 2023.

Italy: Rome Senatus: Senatus meetings resumed in December but had to discontinue again until May 2022. While attached councils and praesidia have had set backs with loss of members and in some cases praesidia closing, minutes indicate a very positive outlook including a request for a praesidium from a Parish priest where a number of new members have been recruited.

Latvia: The Jelgeva Curia has grown over the last year from three praesidia to five and Curia officers attended the August Comitium meeting for the first time since Covid.

Lithuania: Kaunas Comitium are organizing recruiting drives for the next six weekends.

Malta: Praesidia reports show that much attention is given to Auxiliary members with twice yearly visits, two half year retreats and with all functions held during the year. Pilgrim Statue visitation, consecration of homes to the Sacred Heart and teaching Catechism are included in the apostolate. Gozo Comitium reports much contact work is done with tourists including those of other faiths. Two retreats recorded attendances of 28 and 33.

Netherlands: In **Amsterdam Regia** all three praesidia in the Cape Verdean Curia in Rotterdam have now resumed meetings. They encourage the Baptism of children, Confession, Church marriage and as a result eight children were baptised, nine confirmed and four couples got married in Church. They also teach catechism to children.

Norway: The works of a praesidium in **Tonsberg** include aftercare of auxiliaries, inviting people to Mass and many other parish duties. The praesidium has planned a celebration to mark the 15th anniversary of the setting up of the Legion in Tonsberg. Legionaries in **Bergen Curia** assist Mother Teresa Sisters in visiting drug abusers and down-and-outs and those sleeping rough. They also organise house blessings and assist at burials.

Poland: Legionaries in **Lublin Regia** are engaged in various works including an outreach to tourists, book barrow and visitation of 700 apartments. Two Peregrinatio Pro Christo projects took place in Ostrava in July and August. A praesidium in **Warsaw Comitium** do street apostolate. Regular help is given to children from the Ukraine and there is outreach to the homeless. Reports from a Curia in **Warsaw-Praga Comitium** show legionaries do much nursing home visitation, help elderly to get to Church, and visit families who have been away from the church for years, and those with addictions. Miraculous medals are widely distributed.

Portugal: **Porto Regia** reports care was given to people living alone and visits made to the sick. Two new praesidia were formed in **Coimbra Regia**. Legionaries in Cascais Comitium make visits to the disabled. There are three Pilgrim Virgin Statues used to visit families.



*We have seen his star in the east and
have come to adore him.*

(Matthew 2:1-12).



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