

Maria Legionis



The Assumption
Of The Blessed Virgin Mary

Maria Legionis

The Voice of the Legion of Mary

Edition 3 of 2023

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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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Remembering Sr. Doris Doherty

By Bernadette Molloy

A legionary from Ballina, Co. Mayo who died in January 2023. Rest in Peace.

Sr. Doris was born on 2nd of February 1926 and died on the 18th of January 2023 at the ripe old age of 96. She



often quoted Fr. Peyton who said he wanted to die in harness. He referred to himself as 'Our Lady's donkey.' She got her wish and was on duty as a

legionary to the very end of her life.

How she joined the Legion

After receiving a few invitations to join the Legion, she eventually joined and became a full member on April 29th, 1963. She never looked back. At that time which was pre-Vatican II, the Legion was very strong and



there were twelve members in her presidium, Our Lady of Mercy. At one time she was on the point of resigning as her mother got Alzheimers and required round- the-clock care. Two local housewives sat with her mother every Monday night so that Doris could attend her meeting. They did this for two years until her mother passed away. Our Lady always provides.

PPC

In 1974 Doris started taking part in PPC journeys abroad. She went to many countries, including Spain, Italy, France, the UK and Israel. Language barriers were never a problem for Doris. She just pointed to the Miraculous Medal.

Mary Boland who later became a Poor Clare in Ennis accompanied her on some of the trips to Israel. Sr. Mary



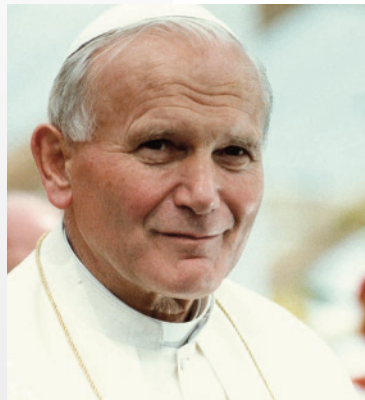
Their Spiritual Director was Fr. Herman Nolan who had been Spiritual Director to Frank Duff. The first time she went to the Holy Land with Doris was May 1981. Fr. Herman and a number of legionaries went into a shop selling musical instruments and the assistant told them: “Your leader has been shot.” Later, they heard the news that Pope John Paul II had been shot.

They visited Haifa, Tiberias, Tel Aviv and many other places. She recalls doing crowd contact on the beach in Tel Aviv with Doris. They heard many tragic stories of the suffering that the people had endured during the War of Independence in 1948. People were very friendly and courteous, and the legionaries spoke to them about their Catholic faith expressing their gratitude for it. They told them that the Catholic faith was simply a continuation of the

“the Jews are our elder brothers in the faith.” Through the grace of God many Jews now believe in Jesus and have accepted the Messiah as their saviour.

Doris had a great love for the Jewish people as they are of the same race as Jesus, Our Blessed Mother and the apostles. She often thanked them for the faith which had been handed down to us through them. She would revisit many of the Jewish people she had visited on her previous trips. Without doubt she kept all of them in her prayers. At one point a Jewish lady doctor with whom Doris was acquainted came to Ireland. She had lost her husband and son in Auschwitz. She contacted legionaries in Dublin who put her on a bus to Ballina to see Doris who gave her accomodation for a few nights. We don't know if she eventually became Catholic or not.

Doris always wanted to bring people closer to Jesus and His Blessed Mother. There is no knowing the number of miraculous medals, Frank Duff, Edel Quinn and Alfie Lambe leaflets she distributed



Patricians

As part of her Legion work Doris organised the Patricians every Wednesday evening. She always managed to get a spiritual director for the meeting. Locals and legionaries attended and learned much about the faith. She was also very keen on the Junior Legion and had run a junior branch attached to Our Lady of Mercy Presidium, Ballina. This closed down and she made many efforts to try to restart it.

The Shrine in Marian Crescent

Doris was instrumental in a construction of a shrine to Our Lady on the green in her own home estate, aptly called Marian Crescent. She gathered together several friends and neighbours who offered their services and contributed to the erection of a beautiful shrine in the 1970s. This was just about the time of the 'troubles' in the North and for several years previous the rosary had been recited daily there for peace and also in other estates throughout the town. At the time Doris and several of her neighbours were handmaids and stewards in knock and they procured a stone from the apparition gable in Knock to put in the shrine. The rosary is recited there by the legionaries and other local people every night during May and October.

Doris lived in a nursing home for the last few years of her life but was always active as a legionary. Her motto was: "A legionary is always on duty." She

continued to distribute miraculous medals, scapulars and legion leaflets right up to the end of her life. Doris passed away peacefully in her sleep in the early hours of 18th January last. Her grave has the verse: 'Our Lady of Knock pray for us' on it. We're sure that Our Lady welcomed Doris warmly into heaven that night and that she heard the words: "Well done good and faithful servant. Come and share in your Master's happiness."

May her gentle soul Rest in Peace.



Blessed Columba Marmion OSB

Benedictine Monk

(1858 – 1923)

By Michael Walsh

Born on 1 April 1858, Marmion was Baptised Joseph on 6 April in St. Paul's Church, Arran Quay, Dublin.

In 1868 he attended the primary school run by the Augustinian Friars in St. John's Lane, Dublin, before going, in January 1869, to the Jesuit-run Belvedere College, where he studied Greek and Latin. In 1874, at the age of fifteen years and nine months, he entered Holy Cross College, Clonliffe, the Dublin Diocesan Seminary, and commenced his studies for the diocesan priesthood.

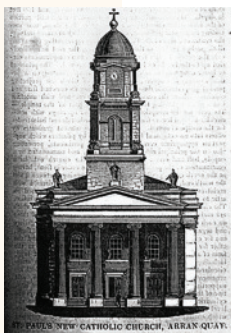
In 1877, after completing his studies in philosophy, Marmion was conferred with the Bachelor of Arts degree by the Catholic University, Dublin. In 1879 he went to Rome to complete his theological training in the Pontifical Irish College, then studied at the College of Propaganda Fide where he was awarded the gold medal



for academic excellence in 1881. He was ordained a priest on 16 June, the same year.

Marmion returned to Ireland in July 1881, and in September 1881 he was appointed curate in Dundrum parish, Dublin, where he remained for one year until his appointment as Professor of Metaphysics and French in Holy Cross College, Clonliffe in September 1882. He was also appointed chaplain to the enclosed nuns of the Redemptorist Convent at St. Alphonsus' Road Upper, Drumcondra, a position he retained until 1886. He then served for a short period in 1886 as chaplain to the women's section of Mountjoy prison in Dublin.

On 25 October 1886, Marmion joined the Benedictine Order, entering the Belgian abbey of Maredsous. The first thirteen years of his monastic life (1886-1899) were spent



there, during the latter part, teaching Thomistic philosophy to the junior monks. He built up a reputation in the surrounding district as a spiritual guide.



Benedictine Abbey, Maredsous

In his preaching, Marmion did not use a written script but spoke in a manner described by Dom Idesbald as ‘a style pouring out from an interior abundance.’

Mont-Cesar Monastery, Louvain

In 1899 he was sent from Maredsous to help found the monastery of Mont-Cesar in Louvain, serving as Prefect of Clerics, Professor of Dogmatic Theology and Prior. He gave Retreats in Belgium and the U.K. to priests and religious, and wrote a number of books, including: ‘Christ in his Mysteries (1919), ‘Christ the Ideal of the Monk,’(1922), and ‘Sponsa Verbi’ (1923).

In 1909, Marmion moved on from the Mont Cesar Monastery and was elected as the third Abbot of Maredsous. Four years later, almost

the entire community of Anglican Benedictines of Caldey Island, off Tenby in Wales, transferred their allegiance from Canterbury to Rome, and Marmion was involved in the spiritual and canonical process of the reception of the community into the Catholic Church. The monastery at Maredsous had at one time 100 monks.

Blessed Columba Marmion OSB was but one of a multitude of Monks who followed the example of the 6th and 7th century Monks and numerous other missionaries, both lay and clerical in subsequent centuries in spreading the Gospel to other countries, following the command of Jesus: “Go into the whole world and preach the Gospel to every creature” (Mark 16: 15).

Though devoted to the monastic life, Marmion was well aware that spreading the faith should not be left to Monks and others in Holy Orders. Lay people also have an obligation to spread the faith as made clear in the following Bible quote: ‘Now after this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them forth two by two before him into every town and place where he himself was about to come. And he said to them:’ “The harvest indeed is great, but the labourers are few. Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers into his harvest.” (Luke 10: 1,2).

Towards this objective, the Legion of Mary encourages overseas lay apostolate in its Handbook: (Chapter 40, Sec. 7) under the heading The Peregrinatio Pro Christo: ‘The ambition to get in touch with every soul must begin with those near at hand. It must not stop there but should proceed to symbolic steps far beyond the sphere of normal life. That purpose is facilitated by the legionary movement known as the Peregrinatio Pro Christo. This name is adopted from the missionary epic of the Monks of the West immortalised in Montalembert’s classic of the ‘Monks of the West’: ‘That invincible multitude went forth from their own country and from their own kindred and out of their father’s house (Gen 12:1) and traversed Europe in the 6th and 7th centuries, rebuilding the faith which the fall of the Roman Empire had brought down with it.’

Marmion placed much stress on the role which the Mother of God played in the plan of salvation. The following quote from him in the Legion Handbook is an example (Chapter 29): ‘Jesus obeyed his Mother. You have read how all that the Evangelists tell of Christ’s hidden life in Nazareth with Mary and Joseph is that ‘he was subject to them’, and ‘advanced in

wisdom and age’ (Lk. 2: 51-52). Is there anything incompatible with his divinity in this? Certainly not. The Word is made Flesh; He has stooped so far as to take a nature like ours, sin excepted: He came, said he ‘not to be ministered to, but to minister’ “(Mt. 20:28) ...



After a devout and busy life walking in the footsteps of the Monks of the West, this distinguished member of the Benedictine Order, died aged 64 from bronchial pneumonia at Maredsous on

Tuesday 3rd January 1923, leaving behind a long-lasting legacy of apostolate to people in all walks of life through his example, preaching, books, and correspondence.

Marmion, born on 1 April 1858, and Baptised Joseph on 6 April in St. Paul’s Church, Arran Quay, Dublin, was beatified by Pope John Paul II on 3 September 2000. During the beatification ceremony, the Pope singled out his writings as ‘an authentic treasure of spiritual teaching for the church of our time’ and he prayed for ‘a rediscovery’ of Marmion’s spiritual teaching.

Mr. Bartley Oliver: A Laurate Member of the Legion

By Michael Walsh

An outstanding contributor to the Legion of Mary in its early days was American, Mr. Bartley Oliver, a financier who had heard about the fledgeling organisation and wrote to Concilium offering financial help to advance the Legion in America. The offer was accepted initially to fund a legionary over a period of three months and in 1933, Celia Shaw, an Irish legionary, spent three months doing extension work in San Francisco. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Oliver, this was the beginning of an amazing period of growth for the Legion in the United States.

The mission in San Francisco was so fruitful that this generous benefactor offered to fund a full-time Legion worker for three years. As a result, Mary Duffy was sent as the first official Legion Envoy to America for three years. This venture proved so successful that when that time elapsed, she was sent for a further three years as Envoy to United States and Canada, also with the financial help of Mr. Oliver.

During this time (1936), Bartley Oliver funded two further Irish Envoys: Una Byrne and John Murray (both Irish legionaries) as Envoys to the United

States and Canada. By 1938 the Legion had been established in 75 Dioceses of the United States, with over 600 praesidia.

In 1940, due to World War II, Mary Duffy's mission had been extended for another six years until 1946. John Murray spent a total of ten years as an Envoy, all sponsored by Bartley Oliver. By 1947, over 100 councils and more than 1,000 praesidia had been established between the United States and Canada.

The Legion of Mary owes a great debt of gratitude to Mr. Bartley Oliver. The period 1933 to 1947 was an extraordinary time of growth for the Legion in the United States and Canada. No doubt, during this time, multiple souls were helped through the faith and hard work of Envoys, and the financial support of Mr. Oliver. Their contributions both temporal and spiritual to the ultimate worldwide expansion of the Legion should never be forgotten.

As a result of his generosity, Mr. Bartley Oliver was made a Laureate member of the Legion - the highest honour that could be bestowed on a non-member of the Legion.

Annual Mass For Servant of God Alfie Lambe



By Una Connolly

At a Concilium officers' meeting in 2001 the Concilium Vice President suggested to the newly elected President of Annunciata Curia that her Curia take on the promotion of the cause for the Beatification of the Servant of God, Alfie Lambe.

The Curia immediately agreed. They felt a tenuous link with Alfie because (the late) Br. Des Nolan who had gone with Alfie on extension projects throughout Ireland was a member of the Curia.

What should we do? Organise a talk about Alfie: but who would give it? The obvious answer was Br. Seamus Grace who had trained Alfie on extension teams throughout Ireland and who had been asked by Concilium to take the twenty-year-old Alfie under his wing as they both set out as Envoys to South



SEAMUS GRACE

America. As it transpired, Alfie very quickly became proficient in the work and the language and they soon went their separate ways.

Back to Dublin in 2003 – Seamus readily agreed to give the talk. It took place in the Garda Club in Harrington St. and family members, former envoys and legionaries from throughout the city attended.

The talk was both informative and entertaining and the question-and-answer session helped to paint a vivid picture of Alfie. One description that stands out in the minds of many, came from his older brother Jack. He had earlier joined the Legion in his hometown of Tullamore, and he told the meeting that soon after Alfie had had to leave the seminary, he (Jack) passed by his old home on his way to his Legion meeting. Alfie was standing in the doorway and Jack told us that he had never in his life seen anybody so downhearted and dejected. He invited his brother to come along to the praesidium. Alfie did and he immediately threw himself into the Legion. Jack's words were that "when Alfie found the Legion he was ON FIRE!"

He expressed these words with some force and determination and it made an impression on the listeners.

The Curia saw that there was much more to be related and they asked Seamus Grace to come back to continue the account. He agreed and another talk was arranged for the following year. This time it was held in St. Mary's College, Rathmines and it was arranged to have it recorded. The evening was again captivating as legionaries and audience learned more about Alfie's life. Unfortunately, soon after giving this talk Seamus Grace was called to his eternal reward. One of the loveliest outcomes was the availability of the recording of the event. When it was produced, a copy was delivered to Seamus's home. Within days, Seamus's widow, Kathleen, who was also a former legionary and friend of Alfie, telephoned to say how grateful she and her family were to receive it. It was so good to hear Seamus's voice – the only recording they had of him.



NOEL LYNCH

Following that, Br. Noel Lynch who had been sent by Concilium to assist Alfie because they understood his health was failing but who arrived just after Alfie's death, gave two talks to the Curia members in which, in particular, he described the conditions under which Alfie worked. There was the swamp area where the mosquitoes were rampant, (Alfie suffered so much from these that a friend described his

skin as being like a pincushion) and then there were the periods of intense heat which was particularly difficult for this pale Irishman.

Following these talks the Curia then decided that the next action must be the celebration of Holy Mass. Saturday, 25th February was set for the Mass and Rev. Robert Kelly CM readily agreed to celebrate it at The Church of Our Immaculate Lady, Refuge of Sinners, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Suggestions came flowing in: invite former envoys, the ambassadors from the countries in South America that had embassies in Ireland, the local city councillors and local TDs as well as the members of the nearby religious communities. Advertisements were placed in the local press and religious publications. Alfie's family members and legionaries from his hometown of Tullamore were invited. A memorable sequence to the ceremony was the number of young Brazilians crushing into the tearoom trying to get close and talk to the Ambassador: and she seemed so happy in the situation. She undertook to inform personnel of other relevant embassies about future events.

Apart from the Ambassador, parishioners, local legionaries and some family members, a former school mate of Alfie's and three fellow students from the seminary were among the attendance. The general reaction from all was delight at the whole event; the numbers present, the quality of the homily that brought the story of Alfie

to life and the opportunity to meet up with former friends and colleagues.

At the next Curia meeting it was proposed and agreed that the Curia should make this commemorative Mass an annual event and this has been done without fail every year until 2021. The Mass was celebrated in that church in Rathmines every February until 2015. After that a change in the times of the Sunday Masses made it inconvenient but the Parish Priest in the Church of The Three Patrons, Rathgar offered a warm welcome. It was celebrated there in 2016, 2017 and 2018. In 2019 and 2020 it was celebrated in the Church of the Miraculous Medal, Clonskeagh and it was back to the Church of the Three Patrons, Rathgar in 2021.

On the question of bringing up the gifts, in 1921, when this was mentioned to the celebrant, he informed us that the bringing up of the gifts was not part of the Offertory of the Mass and that, just as at a funeral, the gifts, the symbols of Alfie's life, should be presented and their significance explained at the beginning of the Mass.

At the celebrant's suggestion a large vexillum had been placed in the sanctuary and at the appropriate time a legionary went to the microphone to explain the symbols as they were brought forward. First, a legionary went forward and held up the Legion Handbook while the

speaker explained its contents and its importance. The next symbol was the vexillum. It was also held up by a legionary who pointed out each element as the speaker mentioned it. For the first time, members of the congregation who were not familiar with the Legion, understood the significance of these two items that were so important to Alfie and to legionaries generally.



Each celebrant had his own particular style and year-by-year we gleaned a sense of Alfie's holiness, his total trust in Our Lady and his fearless approach to whatever issue or difficulty he encountered. We learned about different incidents where what would have been deemed hopeless fell into place or where the perceived obstacles faded away. We heard that on one occasion, Alfie travelled a long train journey to visit a Bishop whom he knew to be strongly opposed to the Legion. On the train he fell into conversation with a fellow traveller. They realised they were going to the same destination and his companion asked Alfie what was the purpose of his journey. Alfie readily explained the Legion of Mary, its system and its purpose.

At some stage Alfie realised that his travelling companion was wearing clerical clothes and he asked: “what is your Bishop like”? The answer was - “I’m not so bad. What do you think?” He invited Alfie to stay at his home that night and the next morning he announced that the Legion would be starting in the Diocese without delay. Another incident was when Alfie announced that he wished to start a praesidium among one of the numerous Indian groups. “You can’t”, he was told. “They don’t speak Spanish. What language then? There are several languages but most of them speak Quechua. Then I will learn Quechua.” Alfie searched around and found a nun who spoke Quechua fluently and she agreed to translate the Legion prayers. He had them copied and used them regularly to start praesidia among the Indians.

Not unexpectedly, Alfie had a great rapport with the shoe-shine boys. While they polished his shoes, he taught them the prayers and in due course he started a praesidium from among them. Some of them had no education but with them he went to the Barrios and taught the people there that there was only one God, that the Catholic Church had been founded by Jesus Christ and that Mary was Jesus’ mother and their mother also. Year-after-year we heard more and more examples of Alfie’s indomitable spirit to push on and realise unexpected resolutions

to difficulties. Year-after-year more similar outcomes and miracles of grace were recounted.

After 2021 Annunciata Curia asked Concilium to hand over the responsibility for arranging this Mass to another Curia that might have greater numbers and younger members and be better able to take on the work involved,

Looking back over the 15 years, Annunciata Curia and indeed the Concilium must realise the deep debt of gratitude owing to the celebrants who gave of their time and skills to learn about Alfie’s life in order to offer the Masses and preach the homilies. In the process, they have made the Servant of God Alfie Lambe more widely known to a larger audience.



Reflecting on his life, we must reflect too on the current difficulties in Russia and the Ukraine and recall that Alfie was learning the Russian language with a view to going on as an Envoy to Russia when his term as Envoy in South America was completed. But this of course was not to be. On 21 January 1959 Alfie passed from this life to his eternal reward.

Allocutio Given To Concilium July 2023



By Fr. Paul Churchill Spiritual Director

Today, the 16th July, is the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. It is of course, primarily, a Carmelite feast day. The order began with some crusaders establishing a hermitage on Mount Carmel, the mountain associated with the great prophet Elijah who had been filled with a jealous zeal for his God. The Order was approved at the Council of Lyons in 1274.

Let us go back to Elijah. The story of Elijah was inspiring and remains so today. During his days the heart of the people of Israel began to drift away from God and from his commandments under the pressures of outside influences. The King, Ahab, married a woman from a neighboring culture, who brought with her pagan notions of the gods or baals and their practices. That blended in with a trend in society to follow these outside influences, and slowly the purity of the faith of Israel was being undermined. Fertility cults were becoming fashionable and a licentiousness in sexual matters came

with them. It was in this cultural milieu that the prophet Elijah bravely spoke out challenging the king and his wife and the whole of Israel.

One time, when Elijah sought to escape, he hid in a cave. He then met God passing by the cave, not in a storm or earthquake or fire, but in a gentle breeze. God asked him: "What are you doing here Elijah?" And he replied: "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of Hosts; for the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars and slain your prophets by the sword; and I, even I only, am left and they seek my life to undo it!" (1 Kings 19:9-14).

Jesus in his words clearly associated John the Baptist with Elijah because of the spirit he had. It can even be said that Jesus himself, because he too stood up and confronted a distortion of the faith, and because he was zealous for God as he showed when he said: "My meat is to do the will of him who sent me!" and when he cleansed the Temple, and

that he was the supreme Elijah. And inspired by all of this, the early Carmelites on Mount Carmel adopted the motto of Elijah: “With zeal I have been jealous for the Lord of hosts.”

But who was more zealous for God among creatures if not she who opened her whole being to him and stayed faithful even to the foot of the Cross. And so the Carmelite Order has always adopted Our Lady as its patron, more than Elijah. Our Lady appeared to one of them and gave the mission of the Brown Scapulars to them. And legionaries should promote the Brown Scapular, one of the great sacramentals of the protection of Mary.

This seems to me all the more important in a period of history when the cultural milieu in which we live seems so similar to Elijah’s time. Many once-Christian societies have found themselves drawn away by worldly attractions and values while a hedonistic ethos around human sexuality and relationships is promoted in media, internet and with the help of mobile phones. And we hear voices too suggesting that the Church should change its value system to allow a broader range of relationships and exercise of sexual behavior.

Let us turn to her who lived a most pure life and continually ask her help and every grace she can win for us to embrace the healthy and proven ways of the Church. May the Holy Spirit,

won for us by her, help us to find ways of understanding our truths better and communicating more effectively what is truly good and help us with a zealous zeal and with courage to stand for God’s wholesome ways built into nature. And we need to pray too in the battle with temptations, sometimes shoved in our face by modern media. May the Church be protected from this modern culture and stay steadfast with the values that endure, not giving an opportunity to the devil to make the journey harder for human weakness. And when we pray let us turn especially to Mary, purest of virgins and to her husband, St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse, for the help of their powerful intercession.



O Mary, through your pure and immaculate conception, make our bodies pure and our souls holy.

O Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to you.

MARY SHALL REIGN

Peregrinatio Pro Christo Conference

Dublin 25th of February 2023



By Br. Steve Dauncey, Cornwall Curia.

I was privileged to attend the PPC Conference this year and to have the travelling and accommodation costs covered by Comitium.

I arrived at Dublin Airport at 10.30am on Friday, the day before the planned event.

After a bite to eat I decided firstly to head in the direction of Glasnevin Cemetery, hopeful that I would be able to find Frank Duff's grave somewhere amidst the 120 acre site. It all worked out well and I found myself in front of a family grave with a small image of Frank Duff under the stone Crucifix and above, the names of his parents and siblings. At the base and next to an image of the Vexillum are the words:

Frank Duff

Born 7th June 1889

Founded Legion of Mary

7th September 1921

Died 7th November 1980

I said some prayers and especially for the Legion back home. Then I set off to find DeMontfort House.

This didn't take long and I was greeted by Síle who kindly welcomed me in and soon sat me down to tea and brack.

It had been suggested that if I had enough time I should ask to be shown Frank Duff's house which is now a museum. So I told Síle this and before long she returned with Miriam, another of the local legionaries and together they showed me around, and with a real enthusiasm.

Frank Duff's House is only just up the road from De Montfort House.



The front room is full of comfy chairs all in different styles. This was where the many visitors were welcomed. On the other side of the entrance hallway the dining room was where they would be fed by his mother.



There is a Legion Altar laid out on the dining table. There are three bedrooms upstairs, two of which are given over to glass cabinet displays of memorabilia from Frank Duff's life, from his bicycle to his spectacles and passports, to the first draft of the Legion Handbook.

The final room they showed me was his bedroom and as they signalled to me should be entered with reverence. It was there that Frank Duff died on the 7th of November 1980. Following a prompt from my guides it was a great privilege to recite the prayer which we always say after our weekly meetings for the cause of his beatification.



After the tour I went just a short walk down the road to Our Lady of the Angels Church for the evening Mass, where Frank Duff had regularly attended.

After attending Saturday Morning Mass at the same Church we went back to De Montfort House for the first of the two meetings on the agenda that day. This was the meeting for PPC organisers and council officers of the UK and Ireland. There were approximately 40 delegates. Many helpful contacts were made and updates given on this year's proposed projects.

In the afternoon after a light lunch and with many more delegates began the PPC Conference.

After the Legion prayers and Rosary were recited, reports were given of the projects which had taken place in England during 2022. It was amazing to say the Legion prayers with well over a hundred people!

There were projects in Manchester, Bristol, Banbury, and three in London.

Each team had selected one of their members to give the report. After each report there was time for comments and feedback.

The reports followed a general theme starting with naming the members, then giving statistics for the week and concluding with a number of special cases. Some of the reports included different approaches that were used.

Here are my notes from some of the reports:

A team of eight legionaries went to St. Joseph's Parish.

Firstly they had a meeting to decide on their approach.

This was their decision...

We are Catholics and we are calling on behalf of the parish priest to all the homes in the parish.

They left leaflets at all the homes with times of the Mass and all the parish activities and an invitation to attend the Mass.

Practising Catholics were encouraged to become more involved with the parish and to join the various groups including the Legion of Mary.

Non-practising Catholics were advised and encouraged to return to full practice, the importance of Confession and Holy Mass, their duty to bring their children to Sunday Mass and have their children baptised.

With the non Catholics we spoke to them about the truths of our Faith. The one true Church founded by Jesus. Mass and Confession and the Real Presence of Jesus in Holy Communion and the devotion to Mary. Almost everybody accepted the Miraculous Medal. Many people were surprised by our calling and said it was the first time they had been contacted by Catholics, and we replied that it might be the last so

don't ignore it!

Several lapsed Catholics came to the end of the week, Friday evening Mass.

Eight legionaries worked in the Soho area of London.

Special cases:

At the first Mass of the week a distressed man started shouting abuse from the back of the Church. A legionary who had been praying at the Statue of Catherine Labore felt moved to approach him. She placed a Miraculous Medal in his hand and he immediately calmed down. She continued to speak to him of the love of Jesus and His Blessed Mother. And he said he would call in and light a candle at a quiet time later in the week. This was the start of a grace filled week.

Miraculous Medals were offered to all including no replies and a parish leaflet with Mass, Confession, Adoration times and details of the parish's outreach projects.

Two legionaries called at a door, a man answered, he didn't want a Miraculous Medal but he took one for his brother. The next day the team leader called at the same door by mistake. She immediately apologised but the man thanked her. He had given the Miraculous Medal to his brother who was seriously ill suffering from leukaemia. He had been interested in various religions all his life; he immediately

recognised the medal and asked for it to be put around his neck. He was immediately at peace holding the medal. He died a few hours later. May his soul rest in peace. After years of searching, Our Lady had come to him. The legionaries comforted his brother by telling him that Our Lady would guide and protect him; he gratefully accepted a Miraculous Medal and put it around his neck. The two legionaries, including a first timer, shed a few tears and prayed in thanksgiving as they left him.

Combined statistics for the projects:

Homes visited 15,024

No one home 8,282

Conversations 6742

Practising Catholics 252

Lapsed 857

Interested in the Faith 81

Miraculous Medals given out 6850

These accounts show the spirit of the teams that was evident during all the reports.

It was a great demonstration to me of the Legion of Mary at its best. The quality of the reporting was highly impressive but also the feedback received from the delegates was equally commendable and uplifting. Always highlighting where the Faith had been promoted and praising the teams for having taken initiatives as they had presented themselves even in demanding situations and often on the spur of the moment.

I enjoyed many lovely conversations with dedicated legionaries, and with such a friendly atmosphere I was left in no doubt that Frank Duff's Legion of Mary is a priceless legacy and that to join a PPC team, although challenging, is a wonderful opportunity to grow in the Legion Spirit.

Competition Result

Here are the answers to our competition featured on page 31 of our last issue, number 2, 2023.

Picture A. This is St. Aengus' Church, Burt, Co. Donegal, Ireland. This church, dating from the 1960s, is remarkable for its striking modern design. It was voted 'Building of the Century' in a national poll held at the turn of the millennium

Picture B. This is Salisbury Cathedral, Wiltshire, England, one of the great Medieval cathedrals of Europe. It was built in the 13th century and is remarkable for its stained glass windows and its tall spire, which was added a century later.

Picture C. Another example of modern church building, this is the Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool, England, officially known as the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Opened in 1967, it is the mother church of the Catholic archdiocese of Liverpool.

Our winner, who was the first to identify these churches, was Mr. Patrick O'Flynn, Carrigaline, Co. Cork, Ireland. Congratulations to him from Maria Legionis.

Some Thoughts on the Writings of Frank Duff

Excerpts from Talk Given at Annual Visit to Grave of Frank Duff
Sunday 11 June 2023 *By Lóirín O' Leary*

One of the many things I enjoy about being a legionary is the annual events that are part and parcel of the Legion calendar.

The annual reunion, linked with the feast of the Immaculate Conception; the Acies which always occurs close to the Feast of the Annunciation; the annual pilgrimage to Knock on the last Sunday of September, the month of Our Lady's birthday; the annual masses to celebrate the anniversaries of Frank Duff, Edel Quinn and Alfie Lambe; these are some of the events that bring us together in prayer and fellowship on a yearly basis.

Though some may consider the unchanging annual recurrence of these events to be somewhat lacking in imagination, on reflection most will conclude that there is something Godlike about them. Repetition is a feature of Creation. The days, seasons and years wind on, according to God's plan, inviting us into a routine that is comforting, settling and reassuring. In the handbook of The Legion of Mary, Frank Duff describes the Legion as

“an intensely ordered system.” And built into that system are the annual meetings with other legionaries.

Today we gather, predictably, on the second Sunday of June, to celebrate the birth of Frank Duff and to reflect on his life and his legacy.

Any of you who have been zooming in to Mary's Channel of Grace will be aware that every Sunday evening after the Rosary we read and discuss one of Frank Duff's essays. These essays are powerful: that is, they emit power; they evoke a feeling of power in the reader - or listener. I'm not talking about a self-serving power but a power that motivates and encourages us to answer the Christian calling to spread the Good News.

So, try to concentrate into your legionary dedication the faith and fiery ardour of that original apostolic band. Be as ambitious as they were. This is no presumption. You, no less than they, are heirs to the Promise and Commission. (*The Ascension Commandment' from THE WOMAN OF GENESIS*)

Your work is vital. It is of capital importance to the Church because it constitutes a demonstration of the fact that every man is waiting for someone to offer him Faith. "How can I understand except someone shows me?" said the Ethiopian in his chariot to Philip the Apostle (Acts 8:26-39).

(‘Some Perigrinatio Principles’ from THE WOMAN OF GENESIS).

What makes these essays so powerful? To begin with, is the depth of Frank Duff's knowledge and understanding of Scripture; then there's his grasp of the doctrines and documents of the Church, his familiarity with the lives of the saints, and his more than casual acquaintance with history - classical and modern. Add to all that, an intense appreciation of the role of Our Lady in God's plan of Redemption, the role of the laity in that plan, the Mystical Body of Christ, the Eucharist..... These are the foundations on which we build our faith and through which we carve out our individual paths to heaven - and we must know them. These are weighty enough issues, but Frank Duff assures us that faith is not primarily an intellectual pursuit, but an affair of the heart. However, he does encourage us to study our faith and many of his essays contain recommendations for further academic reading. He is a gifted writer. He approaches the most profound issues in a systematic, logical way. His use of language is masterly, and his writings are full of imagery and

occasional - and therefore unexpected - humour.

Since the beginning of this year over twenty essays have been read and discussed on the Sunday evening zoom sessions and it is difficult not to notice the constant themes, already mentioned, running through his writings. He is a natural teacher. He explains things. Whole essays are devoted to such diverse subjects as The Mystical Body, The Three Days Loss, Abraham, Legion Humour, The Holy Spirit and, of course, Mary the New Eve, the Mother of God, the woman who kept hens at Nazareth. He informs, instructs, praises, reprimands, admonishes, and acknowledges in equal measure. He reminds us of our duty as Catholics. He does not present it as a burden but as an exceptional privilege.



He encourages us to move forward constantly in our Faith. He impresses on us the necessity of knowing Mary, for she will always lead us to Jesus, and she will direct us to lead others to Him too.

If her influence can be discerned in your lead up to a soul, become alert at once; she is a shortcut as well as being a signpost. Trained in these ideas, the legionary shares in Mary's prerogative of conveying the divine magnetism to souls. (*'Faith is a Subtle Chain' from THE WOMAN OF GENESIS*).

Frank Duff devotes several essays to explaining the Mystical Body of Christ. In his essay titled simply 'Understanding the Mystical Body' he states that it is central to an understanding of our faith - it is the soul of our Catholic faith. He refers to St. Paul and St. Thomas Aquinas to support his contention. I had never heard of the Mystical Body of Christ before I joined the Legion and, despite asking several times for an explanation, I could never get an answer that I understood. With his trademark simplicity, Frank Duff explains:

The Church is the Body of Christ really and truly. We call it the Mystical Body to distinguish it from other presences of Christ, but it is no less a reality than the Eucharist. (*'The Mystical Body Must Function as a Whole' from MARY SHALL REIGN*).



He goes on to describe the Mystical Body in some detail using the familiar imagery of Christ as the Head and the Church as the Body, joined to the Head by the neck which represents Our Lady.

The head is likewise dependent on the members though in a new way. In this new life of Our Lord, which continues His life on earth, He makes Himself dependent on His members so that without them He is like any head deprived of its body. He is cut away from His means of action. The consequences of this divine arrangement are drastic and far-reaching. It throws the responsibility for the saving of the world onto man itself, because a cooperation must proceed from man. If it is withheld a crippling disorder is set in progress

(*'The Mystical Body Must Function as a Whole' from MARY SHALL REIGN*)

Not only is this a clear call to action but it is a call that we cannot ignore. There is an urgency to this work. We must take up the challenge. If we are not playing our part in the Mystical Body, the whole body suffers. Likewise, the body develops and blossoms when all its parts are functioning as they should. Wouldn't that be a blessing for all of us!

Marian Apparitions and Marian Shrines Approved for Public Veneration

By Michael Walsh

Marian apparitions have been the source of much interest and debate over the centuries. The Catholic Church clarifies the situation regarding apparitions by setting out the following three categories:

(1) 'Positive Judgement'.

(2) 'Worthy of Belief'.

(3) 'Shrines approved for public veneration'.

(1) 'Positive Judgement': Apparitions which have passed the rigorous tests imposed by the Vatican and described as approved by the Holy See, with widespread liturgical veneration endorsed. Examples of such apparitions: Lourdes; Rue du Bac, Paris, (St Catherine Labore); Akita, Japan; La Salette, France; Fatima, Portugal; Knock, Ireland and Guadalupe, Mexico.

(2) 'Worthy of Belief': Such apparitions also fulfil the norms of the Catholic Church which have been in effect since the Council of Trent in the 16th century, whereby the initial responsibility of evaluating the merits

of any purported apparition falls to the Bishop of the area in which the events allegedly occurred. If, after an investigation, the Bishop determines that the apparition constitutes an authentic supernatural appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary, then it is judged to be "worthy of belief." The criteria that the bishop uses are the following:

1. The facts in the case are free of error.
2. The person or persons receiving the message are psychologically balanced, moral, sincere and respectful of Church Authority
3. Doctrinal errors are not attributed to God, Our Blessed Lady or to a saint.
4. Theological and spiritual doctrines presented are free of error.
5. Moneymaking is not a motive involved in the events.
6. Healthy religious and spiritual fruits result, with no evidence of collective hysteria.

Example of Marian apparitions classed as ‘Worthy of Belief’ – (approved by a local Bishop).



Poland

In Gietrzwałd, a 13-year-old girl named Justyna Szafryńska from Gietrzwałd reported that, while praying the Angelus on June 27, 1877, she saw a woman she assumed was the Virgin Mary seated on a gold throne near a maple tree, accompanied by an angel. The following day, she witnessed another apparition; this time the Virgin with the Christ Child. Three days after the first event, both she and 12-year-old Barbara Samulowska sighted Mary, and Justyna asked: “What do you want, Holy Mary?” Mary answered in the local Polish dialect: “I want you to pray the Rosary daily.” During the apparition the next day, Justyna asked: “Who are you?” and Mary replied: “I am the Blessed Virgin Mary of Immaculate

Conception.” In the following days, Mary promised that fervent prayer would be able to end the persecutions of Catholic Poles that had occurred under *Kulturkampf*. The apparitions continued for three months, and were approved on 1st September 1977 by Bishop Josef Drzazoa.



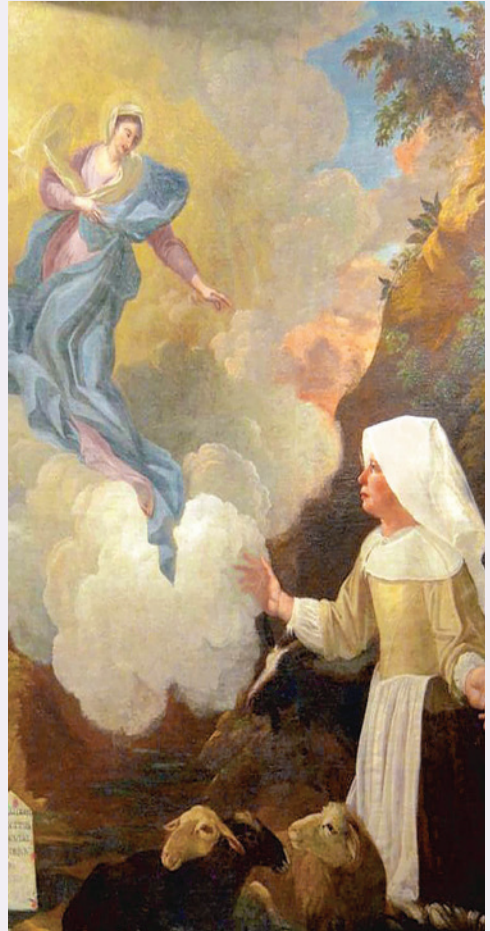
Rwanda

On 28 November 1981, the Virgin Mary first appeared to Alphonsine Mumureke, at Kibeho College, in south-western Rwanda. She identified herself as ‘Mother of the Word’ and asked everyone to pray to prevent a terrible war – perhaps a premonition of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide, as tensions were rising between the Hutus and Tutsis. A Marian shrine was built at Kibeho in 1992. An estimated 500,000 pilgrims visit the site every year. The apparitions were approved by Bishop Augustin Misago.



Argentina

In Buenos Aires, between 1983 and 1990, the Blessed Virgin appeared to an Argentinian housewife named Gladys de Motta on a near-daily basis, beginning on October 13, 1983 while she was praying her Rosary at home. Mary was wearing a blue dress, and holding a Rosary-beads in her hand, saying: “Do not be afraid. Receive this Rosary from my hands and keep it forever and ever...Rejoice, for God is with you.” These apparitions were approved on 22nd May 2016 by Bishop Hector Cardell.



France

Beginning in 1664, a young shepherdess in south-eastern France named Benoite reported seeing multiple visions of Mary, who said: “I have asked my Son for the conversion of sinners in this place and He has granted it to me.” Mary charged Benoite with preparing sinners for the Sacrament of Penance, a vocation for which she received the gift of reading souls. Mary asked for a sanctuary to be built, and foretold that it would last a long time. Benoite continued to receive apparitions until her death in 1718. The local Archbishop at the time approved the public veneration of the initial apparitions in 1665, and the apparitions were approved on 4th May 2008 by Bishop Jean-Michel Di Falco.



U.S.A.

In Champion, Wisconsin (1859), a young Belgian immigrant woman named Adele Brise was walking through a wooded area when she saw a beautiful woman standing between a maple and a hemlock tree. After Mass next day she told the priest about the apparition, and he told her to ask the Lady: “In God’s name, who are you and what do you want of me?” When Adele walked past the spot again, the Lady was there, and Adele put the

priest’s question to her. She replied: “I am the Queen of Heaven who prays for the conversion of sinners.” She gave Adele the mission to pray for sinners and teach the children of the area their Catechism, with the assurance: “Go and fear nothing, I will help you.” Soon after, Adele’s father built a small chapel between the trees, and later two more churches were built on the spot before the present brick church was built in 1942. The apparition was approved on December 8th 2010 by Bishop David L Ricken.

The foregoing Marian apparitions combined, have enabled countless millions of pilgrims down through the centuries to embrace a more prayerful life and also to see the need to add actions such as good works to their devotions. Many visitors to Marian Shrines have received positive answers to requests for healing, both spiritual and physical through the intercession of Our Blessed Lady, and the faith of such pilgrims is an ongoing example to people of all faiths worldwide.

Many other apparitions have taken place and are still awaiting endorsement by the Catholic Church.

(3) Example of Marian shrines approved for public veneration: Zaragoza, Spain; Walsingham, England; Monte Figogna, Italy; Velankanni, Tamil-Nadu, India; Siluva, Lithuania; Hai Lang Quang-Tri, Vietnam.

Mary and the Holy Spirit

By Fr. Paul Churchill
Concilium Spiritual Director

The following allocutio was given to
Concilium in June 2023

Today, just a few weeks after we have celebrated Pentecost and the Blessed Trinity, I'd like to take a closer look at Frank Duff's theology regarding the relationship of Mary and the Holy Spirit in the context of the Blessed Trinity.

For Frank the Incarnation had to be a work not just of one of the persons of the Holy Trinity but of them all. God sent his only Son, incarnate by the Holy Spirit in the womb of Mary. The person conceived by the Holy Spirit in her womb and who was born, grew up, carried out his public ministry before dying on the Cross, was the Incarnate Son of God. But who is this Mary through whom God would unite with his creation?

St. Francis of Assisi had called Mary the "Spouse of the Holy Spirit." Saint Maximillian Kolbe, commenting on the Incarnation, said: "What kind of



union is this? It is above all interior; it is the union of her whole being with the being of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwells in her from the first instance of her existence, and he will do so always, throughout eternity. This uncreated Immaculate Conception conceives divine life immaculately in the soul of Mary."

While agreeing with de Montfort that she has to be totally creature, Frank Duff sees her as being the greatest expression in human flesh of the Holy Spirit. Let us listen to Frank. "As Mary is the Spouse of the Holy Spirit, full of His grace, His inseparable partner in His external mission, it follows that she has become like unto him to the highest extent that a creature can be." Jesus mirrors to us the Second Person (whom he is) and Mary mirrors the Third Person.

Mary is much more than a channel of the Holy Spirit's graces; He makes a revelation of himself through her. Frank says that the best expression we have in human form of the Holy Spirit is Mary. God the Father so arranged Creation that Son and Holy Spirit would express themselves respectively in Jesus and Mary.

Frank says: "... the Holy Spirit stopped short of becoming incarnate in her. He left her in all respects a human personality, a pure creature. Her role in the incarnation and redemption was to be a completely human one ... she was to act on behalf of all mankind." But "Mary is made and meant to display to us a likeness to the Holy Spirit analogous to the likeness of Jesus Christ to the second divine person."

He suggests that in Heaven we may first suffer confusion about Our Lady and the Holy Spirit. Frank Duff seeks to help us understand this more by the use of a modern image. The image of someone on television is not the same as that person but the television helps communicate the appearance and words and bodily expressions of that person. And he says that for us to look at Our Lady is the best image we will get of the Holy Spirit.

Frank takes a step further and says: "In becoming incarnate in Jesus Christ, God has assumed the male form." And then he adds, lest someone wonder if God has denigrated woman, that God balances everything through Mary.

He returns to those words of Genesis: "In his own image he made him; male and female he created them" (Gen 1:27). When the triune God was shaping his plan with a view to the Incarnation, he designed creation to reflect in it all three persons of the Trinity. The female is formed based on the Holy Spirit, the giver of life as we say in the Creed; the male is formed based on the second person of the Trinity.



This accords with a view I have found across both Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant literature: the Holy Spirit is the female dimension in God. This too is reflected in the Book of Wisdom which speaks of God the Creator, than of that man who challenges society so much that they test him with cruelty and then it goes on to speak of Wisdom and keeps referring to her in the feminine.



The Holy Trinity, in its arranging of the creation with an eye to the Incarnation, created male and female in the image of the Blessed Trinity; the second person is imaged in the male, the third person in the female. All this so that in the fullness of time the second person will become incarnate in the person of Jesus and the Holy Spirit express himself most fully through Mary. There are many more implications in Frank's thought that I will not go into today. For the moment it will be useful to return to the simple doctrine of the Blessed Trinity. All three persons are God. All are equal in dignity. But all have different roles. A world that does not respect the equality of man and woman is not doing justice to God; equally a world which tries to brush out the differences in nature and role between male and female may be cutting across the Holy Trinity.

Clearly what Frank puts before us requires deeper prayer and thinking by the whole Church. To rush in

to make decisions as if differences between male and female were mere accidental, might not just be to cut across nature but to sin against the Holy Trinity. Frank challenges us to a far deeper thinking, not a superficial going with the latest craze. Let me end with yesterday's collect at Mass: *"O God, who prepared a fit dwelling place for the Holy Spirit in the Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, graciously grant that through her intercession we may be a worthy temple of your Glory, Amen."*



Explanation of Front and Back Covers – *The Editor*



The pictures on the front and back covers are modern paintings of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Unlike earlier Renaissance paintings which concentrated on color, movement and detail, these picture are lighter in tone and less detailed but equally beautiful.

On 1 November 1950 in *Munificentissimus Deus* Pope Pius XII defined the Assumption of the Virgin Mary to be a Dogma of Faith of the Catholic Church.

We pronounce, declare and define it to a divinely revealed dogma that the immaculate Mother of God the ever- Virgin Mary having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into Heavenly glory.....

Given at Rome, at St. Peter's, in the year of the great Jubilee, 1950, on the first day of the month of November, on the Feast of All Saints, in the twelfth year of our pontificate.

The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is on 15 August.

God Sees the Best in Us

by *Cainneach Rua*

Everybody knows the story of Zacchaeus the tax collector. He was an unjust man who was disliked, even hated by many. He was wealthy because he was greedy and had wronged many people financially. He would also have had very few friends and undoubtedly he was a marginalized figure in his society because he was neither with the Jews nor the Romans.

Zacchaeus was also described as being quite short which, in a worldly sense was (and still is) perceived as undesirable or a burden. And so it is clear that Zacchaeus, despite his comfy life was a poor man indeed; somebody who knew suffering, even if it was self-inflicted.

The beautiful thing about his story in the Gospel is that Jesus did not view him the way everybody else did. The others looked down on him and thought little of him. In their eyes Zacchaeus was somebody deserving contempt. But Jesus surprised everyone when he looked up to him, both literally and metaphorically. This encounter with Jesus was exactly what Zacchaeus needed and it had such a profound effect on him that

he changed completely from that day forward.

Running ahead and climbing the tree was a humiliating thing to do for Zacchaeus who couldn't see Jesus amidst the crowds. But in doing this he showed humility, because in that moment he thought more about Jesus than his self-image. He wasn't afraid of appearing foolish or childish if it meant he could see and hear Jesus. And it was for this reason that Jesus came straight to him that day, like a magnet, for God loves humility. Jesus rewarded him by visiting his home and eating a meal with him, while the crowd looked on and grumbled.

Zacchaeus is like all of us. He was flawed, selfish, greedy and unlikeable in many ways. But God loved him nonetheless and saw only the goodness in him. So often we forget how good God is and how much he loves us, even when we do wrong. God does not view us the same way people do. Too often human eyes are filled with judgement and bitterness, but God's eyes are always full of love and compassion. His goodness never changes and it far surpasses our understanding.

In Catholic and Orthodox tradition Zacchaeus went on to become a great saint and an apostle of mercy. He corrected the previous wrongs he had done, giving away all his wealth to the poor. He eventually became the Bishop of Caesarea and lived an exemplary life. His feast day is 20 April.

Praises of Mary



Mary is the sure way to go to Jesus and to find Him perfectly.

It is through her those holy souls, who are to radiate holiness, must find Jesus.

St. Louis Grignion de Montfort

Jesus has given us the Heart of His Blessed Mother. Therefore, you can, and you must, make use of that Heart to love God.

For Mary's Heart is truly yours, and you must love God with all your heart!

St. John Eudes

The word 'Jerusalem' in this text signifies the Church Triumphant in Heaven as well as the Church Militant on earth.

Indeed, the Mother of the Creator has power both in heaven and on earth.

St. Bonaventure

Every day at Evening Prayer, the Church sings the 'Magnificat,' Mary's hymn of praise.

This habitual remembrance of the Lord's Incarnation enkindles the hearts of the faithful, and the frequent mediation of Mary's examples confirms them in virtue.

St. Bede the Venerable

It was the prerogative of Mary to conceive Christ in her womb.

But it is the heritage of all the elect to bear Jesus in their hearts.

St Peter Damian

The Motherly Heart of Mary has a great desire to give us grace.

This desire is even greater than our desire to receive grace!

St. Alphonsus Liguori



Legion world news



OCEANIA

Australia: Melbourne Senatus: In one parish the Rite of Christian Initiation of adults (RCIA) is run by the legionaries. Ulverston praesidium in Tasmania, distribute the Christmas and Easter Mass times to the hotels, motels and caravan parks. Contact is made with the sick, bereaved and lonely. Legionaries in **Sydney Senatus** provide transport to Mass for the elderly and provide religious education in the schools.

New Zealand: Most councils in **Auckland Senatus** reported on visits to hospitals, rest homes and bringing Holy Communion to the sick. Transport is provided for the elderly to attend Mass. Catechism is taught in the schools. Street apostolate is done by some praesidia.

Vanuatu: Loanatom Comitium has twelve praesidia. Nine people were prepared for confession and several lapsed were encouraged to return to the sacraments.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica: Recent reports presented in the **Costa Rica Senatus** indicate that homeless persons and persons with problems of alcohol addiction are being helped.

El Salvador: In **San Salvador Senatus** deprived children and children with learning difficulties are prepared for First Communion and Confirmation. A young legionary has entered the seminary. Of 338 persons who accepted an invitation to the Legion 105 persevered.

Panama: Home visitation, street contact and street rosaries are some of the works carried out by legionaries in **Panama Regia**.

AFRICA

Angola: Several praesidia directly attached to **Benguela Senatus** report hospital and home visitation to the sick. In the **Senatus of Luanda** a meeting for young legionaries was organised with 300 in attendance. A Comitium is working towards establishing two praesidia in a Seminary. A praesidium reports reaching out to street children and distributing invitations to attend Mass.

Cameroon: Reports to **Douala Senatus** show home, hospital and prison visitation were undertaken. The **Yaoundé Regia** recruited nearly 300 new members. It has 28 junior praesidia. **Bertoua Regia** established many new junior praesidia and a new Curia.

Congo Republic: In the **Senatus of Brazzaville** works undertaken include visits to the sick at home and in hospital, and visiting homes, prisoners, widows, orphans and the poor. A Curia established four years ago has 41 active and four probationary members. In the course of their work over a 3-month period, 12 people enrolled in catechism instruction, 10 couples were reconciled and five people returned to the Sacraments.

Democratic Republic of the Congo: A report to the **Senatus of Butembo** shows the sick, widows, orphans, the elderly, war refugees, and prisoners were contacted. Church Marriages of 26 couples living irregularly were arranged. 715 children were taught catechism and prayers; among whom 513 were baptised. Peace was restored in quarrelling families after counselling. 13 Protestants were converted. In the **Senatus of Kisangani** works included: visiting the sick in hospitals, health centres and at home; and visiting 234 orphans. 178 young people took

part in a Peregrinatio Pro Christo. A praesidium was started in the Junior Seminary. Many young people were encouraged to give up prostitution and others to stop smoking hemp and gambling. 287 Catholics who had lapsed to join sects returned to the Church. 67 legionaries who had left the Legion also returned. The **Senatus of Kananga** reports visits to the sick in health centres, home visits to widows; raising Christians' awareness of the sacraments of penance, communion, marriage and reciting the rosary, as well as attending Mass; participation in the Easter Triduum; Easter Confession and in the activities of the Basic Ecclesial Communities in the parishes.

Egypt: The **Senatus of Egypt:** In Cairo, Patriarch Ibrahim Isaac of the Egyptian Coptic Catholic Church presided over the Acies ceremony. Fr. Hedeya Tamer, the Spiritual Director of the Senatus and a number of priests and religious also attended along with the legionaries.

Equatorial Guinea: In **Malabo Regia** home visitation inviting people to Mass is carried out. The elderly living alone are visited also. Legionaries assist in the parishes teaching catechism or teaching people to say the Rosary.

Ghana: The **Accra Senatus** and several attached councils organise monthly Frank Duff prayer meetings. A praesidium in Accra Technical University now has twenty members. An Edel Quinn function held in the seminary had over three hundred in attendance. A new Curia was formed at Nungua. Legionaries report visiting Nsawam Prison.

Guinea: Legionaries in **Conakry Comitium** do home, hospital, prison and orphanage visitation and also organise catechesis.

Ivory Coast: Works reported on in one Comitium, attached to **Abidjan Senatus**, resulted in: 23 families reconciled, 17 couples being married in Church, 15 returns to Mass

and the Sacraments, 18 adults and two children baptised, 57 Catechumens recruited, 29 Confirmations and seven Sacraments of the Sick. 16 members were involved in teaching Catechism to 341 people.

Lesotho: Heartfelt gratitude was expressed to Barry Warren on his retirement as Concilium correspondent. Works reported include reconciling estranged family members, teaching the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse, visiting lapsed Christians, the sick and elderly and encouraging parents to have their newborn children baptised, teaching children how to pray, teaching children the catechism and teaching the rosary to blind children.

Mozambique: Legionaries in **Maputo Regia** made their annual pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Zobue. There was a large participation of legionaries who were supported by their Spiritual Directors.

Rwanda: In the **Senatus of Kigali** legionary work has resumed with renewed vigour. The number of active members has increased to approximately 130,000. Praesidia and Curiae exist and function well in schools and in prisons.

Senegal: In **Dakar Comitium** home, hospital and prison visitation resulted in four marriages reconciled, one conversion and 45 baptisms.

Pikine Comitium do home and hospital visitation which resulted in eight couples being married in Church and eleven baptisms.

South Africa: Cape Town Senatus: His Grace the Archbishop of Cape Town has given an imprimatur for the translation of the Afrikaans Handbook. The Archbishop is the Cardinal elect for South Africa. Legionaries visited a praesidium in Verdendal, Northern Cape. While there they held two workshops, one on the task of the Legion in the parish and the other on the task of the Spiritual Director and officers. Several praesidia report

visiting nursing homes and praying the rosary with residents, visiting the sick, bereaved, and elderly and the distribution of Catholic literature. **Matatiele Comitium:** Three adults returned to the sacraments, fourteen children received First Holy Communion.

Togo: Lomé Senatus: A Peregrinatio Pro Christo is planned to take place in Tabligbo. The junior Curia of the Senatus has 59 active and 39 auxiliary members. Sharing of the Gospels, inviting youngsters to go to confession, and inviting people to Adoration are some of their works.

ASIA

Armenia: A visit was made to Georgia by Fr. Bernardo De Nardo and another legionary. The meeting in Vale was re-started with three members. Extension was done in Lanchik (Armenia). A copy of "Can We Be Saints" (translated into Armenian) was given to interested persons. 15 men attended a retreat.

Hong Kong: Hong Kong Regia: Reports of the attached Junior Curia show efforts being made to increase the junior membership and attract a broader age range. A meeting was held with parents to explain the value of Legion membership for young people.

India: Pondicherry Senatus: Visits to homes of Catholics and non-Catholics, the sick at home and in hospital, resulted in families being reconciled, couples having Church marriages, homes consecrated to the Sacred Heart and catechism taught. **Chennai Regia:** Catholics, Muslims and Hindus were visited. 32 homes were consecrated to the Sacred Heart and 363 people were prepared for Confession. Cardinal Pula celebrated the Centenary Mass. **Mumbai Senatus:** Goa Comitium has 21 praesidia and two Curiae. **Visakhapatnam Regia.** Orphanages, Cancer and HIV patients were visited. Legionaries acted as mediators in a dispute between non-Christians met on

home visitation and the dispute was settled. A Lenten penitential pilgrimage had 1800 in attendance. **Karnataka Senatus:** 350 legionaries took part in a pilgrimage on foot to a shrine of Our Lady. The works of 3 praesidia reporting includes visitation of cemeteries and Block Rosaries. **Kerala Senatus:** An extension project in the Pala area resulted in the revival of a number of dormant praesidia and the setting up of one new one. A Public Way of the Cross on Good Friday saw 1300 participating.

Indonesia: Makassar Comitium, attached to **Malang Senatus**, in Sulawesi has 1,473 members and 160 auxiliaries. Works include visitation of orphanages, psychiatric hospitals, prisons and the lapsed. A new praesidium of 17 members has been established in **Medan Regia**, attached to **Jebu Senatus**. Penfui Curia, attached to **Kaupang Senatus**, has two prison praesidia.

Japan: Osaka Senatus: A praesidium in Imaichi Church has an apostolate to the deaf community. A praesidium at Hirakata Church uses music to contact non-believers, through choral groups called 'Sparrow Schools'.

Korea: Gwangju Senatus: About 5,000 legionaries participated in the celebration on 20 May, 2023, of the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of the Legion of Mary in Korea. Archbishop Simon Ok presided at the Mass, which was also attended by two former Archbishops. Prior to the Mass there was a ceremonial event with music provided by a traditional percussion band. The Rosary and full Legion prayers were recited as part of the event. The **Seoul Senatus** reports show a varied apostolate, including preparation for the Sacraments, helping to care for catechumens and the newly baptised. Councils were preparing special events to commemorate the 70th Anniversary in May.

Malaysia: Kuala Lumpur Senatus: Works reported on include home and hospital

visitation, counselling of Catholics and non-Catholics, attending wakes and funerals.

Pakistan: Home and hospital visitation are carried out as well as visitation to the bereaved and to Auxiliary members. 370 attended the Acies presided over by the Archbishop of Karachi.

Philippines: One hundred and two new members were recruited by the Pasig Comitium, which is attached to the **Senatus of Northern Philippines**. Twenty-three juniors transferred to the senior ranks. One born again Christian was converted to the Catholic faith. Imus Comitium set up five new praesidia in a new parish with great support from the Parish Priest. After an Exploratio Dominicalis nine individuals received confirmation, thirteen children received First Holy Communion, and six adults received the sacrament of baptism.

Maasin Regia, attached to **Cebu Senatus**, has a total membership of 16,594. Works include home, hospital and prison visitation. In the Comitium of Caceres, attached to **Bicolandia Senatus**, works carried out are home visitation, after care of auxiliaries, leading prayers at wakes and Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes. In **Western Visayas Senatus**, Antique Comitium had 66 adults and 27 children catechized, one convert to the Catholic Faith, and Bible study was done in five homes. Other reports showed 28 couples married in Church, and crowd contact being undertaken. Reports to **Mindanao Senatus** show works include teaching Catechism to elementary school children and the promotion of the sacraments of baptism and matrimony.

Singapore: Senatus of Singapore: The Junior Curia has 13 praesidia located between two schools. The Filipino, English and Mandarin Curiae in Brunei reported. Among works undertaken were running three Patricians groups and a Rosary walk, visiting various Churches in the city.

Sri Lanka: 800 attended a Rosary Rally in October. Lanka Comitium arranged the Consecration of 650 homes to the Sacred Heart.

Taiwan: Taiwan Senatus: The 70th Anniversary of the Legion in Taiwan was celebrated in a low-key manner in conjunction with celebrations for the Legion's centenary.

Thailand: Works include teaching catechism, visiting the sick and elderly, helping with parish activities. Our Lady of Mercy Comitium established 24 new praesidia. Three people who had been away from the Church for long periods returned to the Faith and received the Sacrament of Confession before their deaths.

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina: Buenos Aires Senatus: Public Rosaries are held on plazas and street corners. After speaking to lapsed Catholics, legionaries give them some helpful leaflet on the teachings of the Church. The **Regia of La Plata** does a variety of works which included 1,000 contacts helping people to take part in the Christmas ceremonies. One of the many Alfie Lambe committees reports several favours.

Salta Senatus: The Archbishop of Tucuman, who was a junior legionary, is Spiritual Director of the Regia and attends all their meetings. He encourages his priests to take an active part in all Legion activities. **Corrientes Regia:** Twenty young legionaries attended a two day Conference of Spiritual Directors and Officers in November 2022 in Misiones, with Mass, Adoration and discussions on topics such as 'vocation', and how to attract young people to the Legion.

Bolivia: Senatus of La Paz: Special efforts are made to visit families in outlying areas where there is no priest or chapel. The aim is to start praesidia in these barrios. Contact in street markets has restarted with good results. They have a special outreach to young victims of drugs, alcohol and pornography.

Brazil: Belo Horizonte Senatus: Reports show 973 visits to families and the preparation of 37 children and 24 adolescents for First Holy Communion, and Enthronement in homes of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. A Retreat for young people was held. A Peregrinato Pro Christo took place in Olaria. Marileide Araújo, a former President of the Senatus and remembered too for her extension work in the interior of the State of Minas Gerais, died on 2 February 2023. May she rest in peace.

Ponta Grossa Senatus: Visitation is carried out to homes, hospitals and homes for the elderly.

Salvador Senatus: 165 families and two prisons were visited. Legionary catechists run training courses for young people and adolescents to receive the Sacraments and for parents and godparents. **The Regia of Aracajú** organized training on the True Devotion to Our Lady according to Saint Louis Marie de Montfort, in three Dioceses, carried out by Father Jesu Doss, De Montfort Father responsible for the Montfort Spirituality Centre in Brazil, with the participation of 450 legionaries. **São Paulo Senatus:** A Comitium reported 1,353 contacts made on the metro, on the street and at health centres. Among reports of preparation for the sacraments, one mentions 28 adolescents prepared for First Holy Communion and 35 young people prepared for the sacrament of Confirmation. Other reports show an abortion was avoided; evangelisation was carried out to street dwellers; and the conversion of an evangelical.

Chile: Senatus of Santiago: Corpus Christi processions and Marian processions are organised by the legionaries who invite everyone to join in, especially those who have lapsed from the sacraments, and non-Catholics. More Venezuelan immigrants are arriving in Chile, some of whom have been active legionaries at home and are delighted

to continue their membership in the Senatus area.

Colombia: Senatus of Bogotá: Works include praying the rosary and reading the lives of the saints in a foundation for autistic and blind people.

Ecuador: The officers of the attached Regia of Cuenca had a meeting with their auxiliary bishop.

Paraguay: In **Asuncion Senatus** Eighty legionaries participated in a three-day mission in Villa Florida which resulted in the formation of three senior and one junior praesidia.

Peru: In the **Senatus of Lima** works include visiting homes, teaching catechism, visiting the sick, nursing homes and the elderly, street contact, youth outreach, meetings of married couples, Patricians, and Frank Duff Prayer Groups. The Comitium of Tumbes has had to return to virtual meetings due to a dengue fever epidemic. Many legionaries have died. May they rest in peace. A Comitium reports working with the sick at home.

Uruguay: Senatus of Montevideo: A praesidium does heroic work with the homeless and drug addicts. On May 6th, many legionaries attended the beatification of Venerable Jacinto Vera, the first Bishop of Uruguay.

Venezuela: Senatus of Caracas: Many new members have been recruited. A retreat for juniors was organised during Lent. Eight adults were prepared for, and received the sacraments of baptism and First Holy Communion.

EUROPE

Austria: Senatus of Austria: A Summer school for Austrian legionaries took place from July 10 to July 16 in the Concilium. The main work of a praesidium is the care of street girls, former street girls and their families. The Korean Praesidium Reunion was celebrated with a

WORLD NEWS

Pilgrimage, Holy Mass and a social gathering. The Bregenz Curia keeps in touch with families from the Philippines.

Belarus: The first Annual Report of a praesidium in **Minsk Comitium** shows they make good contact with tourists where Miraculous medals are offered. **Baranovich Comitium:** The apostolate of a praesidium of five members is visiting the elderly to let them know when the priest is calling for Confession.

Belgium: Antwerp Regia: Home and hospital visitation and street contact work is done by a praesidium of 20 members. Prison visitation is done by another praesidium.

Bosnia Herzgovina: Sarajevo Curia has four praesidia attached.

Croatia: Zagreb Regia: Home visitation, street and park contact are included in the apostolate. Miraculous medals are offered and generally accepted. In one Parish, 15 people received the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion following the visits of the legionaries.

Czech Republic: Prague Comitium has 15 praesidia and one Curia. Their work includes an apostolate to the homeless. Olomuc Comitium reports residents of a retirement home are brought to Mass on the first Saturday of each month.

England: Brentwood Regia: Most of the reporting praesidia are doing home visitation, distributing miraculous medals, rosaries, and other literature to Holy Communion and Confirmation candidates. Visitation with Fatima statue is also done. **Central London Curia:** Works include bringing Holy Communion to the housebound, auxiliary visitation, church cleaning, visitation of hospitals, hotels and care homes, One praesidium does crowd contact. **Liverpool Senatus:** Among the works of praesidia in Middlesboro Comitium is

visitation of Care Homes which resulted in a number of lapsed Catholics returning to practice and a promotion of the Rosary is done in school with up to 50 children in attendance. Two new praesidia in Manchester Comitium have 12 and 17 members. Another praesidium has been started with 18 members, average age 25 years. **Birmingham Senatus:** Two praesidia presented their first reports. Follow up visits from home visitation resulted in the baptism of a child and follow up after a Peregrinatio Pro Christo resulted in one person preparing for baptism and another attending a RCIA course. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes is done also. **West Birmingham Curia.** Six legionaries carried out an Exploratio Dominicalis project where good contacts were made. Contact with homeless in Birmingham City is also done. Miraculous medals are offered and accepted by all.

Germany: Frankfurt Senatus: Weekly street contact and book barrow apostolate continues. Miraculous medals and leaflets in their own language are distributed amongst the Ukrainian people.

Hungary: Budapest Regia: Zolnok Curia reported hospital and nursing home visitation, taking care of graves and supervising children entrusted to their care.

Latvia: The Acies was well attended by active and auxiliary members and a Retreat is being planned for August.

Lithuania: Apostolate in the streets, home visitation and nursing home visitation are undertaken by a praesidium in **Telsiai Comitium.** Three people received the Sacraments and a Lutheran woman registered for RCIA Course (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) One couple got married in the Church.

Netherlands: Amsterdam Regia: The Cape Verdean Curia reports that as a result of home visitation there were six baptisms, six received the Sacrament of Confirmation and four couples got married in Church.

Norway: The praesidium in **Tonsberg** keeps good contact with auxiliaries. Their apostolate includes visiting of the sick and encouraging people to attend Sunday Mass. Works being done by the praesidium in **Drammen** are promotion of Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes, visits to the sick and the elderly and virtual rosary and faith sharing every Saturday. The Legion in **Bergen**, attached to Zurich Comitium in Switzerland, carries out works including street apostolate, intensive home visitation, including statue visitation, and catechesis for children and those preparing for baptism.

Poland: Warsaw Comitium has 13 praesidia and four Curiae. The Legion bulletin is issued twice a year; A copy is sent to every Polish Bishop and 5,300 copies are distributed to Legion Councils. **Lublin Regia:** Seven priests attended the Acies with the legionaries. A new praesidium was set up in Lublin. The praesidium in the Seminary has seven members. Regular contact is made with auxiliaries, the sects, and twelve adults were brought to Confession and Holy Communion.

Romania: Satu Mare Regia: The Regia meeting in February was attended by the Bishop, the Dean, the Spiritual Director and one hundred and sixty legionaries from the attached praesidia and Councils. The Bishop welcomed all the legionaries and thanked them for their prayers and endurance.

Scotland: Senatus of Scotland: The Senatus officers have spoken to Archbishop Nolan to bring him up to date with the state of the Legion in Scotland. He urged legionaries to persevere in their work. Good contacts were made in book barrow work during the summer months.

Slovakia: Prayers were offered through the intercession of Venerable Edel Quinn for a lapsed Catholic, who after many visits asked for a priest. He received the Sacrament of Reconciliation, anointing of the sick and died shortly afterwards. May he rest in peace.

Sweden: New praesidia have been started in Arabic and Spanish speaking communities, all engaged in home and hospital visitation. There are plans for two more Arabic praesidia.

Wales: Swansea Curia: Many African families have moved in to one of the parishes. The Legion organised a social for them at Christmas with Benediction and Christmas Carols. Crowd contact and street rescue are being done.





The Assumption
Of The Blessed Virgin Mary



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