

Maria Legionis



Why should I be honoured with a visit
from the Mother of my Lord

Maria Legionis

The Voice of the Legion of Mary

Edition 1 of 2019

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Cover photo: *The Visitation* by Domenico Ghirlandaio



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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 to: concilium@legion-of-mary.ie and marked 'Maria Legionis'.

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The Annunciation

By Frank Holohan

The Feast of the Annunciation, sometimes known as the Feast of the Incarnation - *Festum Incarnationis* - commemorates the visit of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary and is celebrated annually on the 25th day of March. However, when that date falls within the Paschal Triduum, it is transferred to the first suitable day during Eastertide. It is classified as a solemnity within the Catholic Church.

In the Gospel of Luke 1:26-38 we read: In the sixth month the Angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man called Joseph of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her: 'Rejoice so highly favoured! The Lord is with you!' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what these words could mean, but the angel said to her: 'Mary do not be afraid, you have won God's favour, Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and he will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob forever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the Angel:

'How can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered; and the power of the Most High will cover you with His shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman, in her old age, has herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord' said Mary, 'let what you have said be done to me.'

And the angel left her.



The Incarnation of the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity in the womb of the Virgin Mary is in fact the central event in the whole of human history. On that date God fulfilled his promise made in the Garden of Eden and recorded in Genesis 3.15 that he would send a seed of the woman that would crush the head of the serpent. On this day also God accomplishes the following lines in the Apostles Creed: *Latin:* qui propter non hominem et propter nonstram salutem. Decendit de Caelis. Et incarnatus est de Spiritu ex Maria Virgine, et homo factus est. *English:* Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. Moreover, Gabriel's announcement fulfils the many prophesies made over a thousand years earlier and recorded in 2 Samuel 12:12-16; Jeremiah 23:5; Daniel 2:44, 7: 13-14; Psalm 72.

THE ANNUNCIATION

The drama of the Annunciation, the most momentous event in human history, has captivated religious writers and artists down the centuries. Artists such as Titian, Leonardo da Vinci, Fra Angelico and Filippo Lippi have depicted the Annunciation in a timeless art which stands equal with the greatest artistic endeavours of the human spirit.



One such favourite depiction is that portrayed in stained glass in the private chapel in Castle Howard, Yorkshire, England. Standing at the left, a richly-robed Angel Gabriel makes the sign of blessing, while a haloed white dove, symbolising the Holy Spirit, a coronet

of fire round its throat, flies towards the Virgin standing on the right. Between Mary and the Angel there is a tree, symbolising the Tree of Life, and down this tree a serpent, Satan, slithers to the ground—an obvious reference to Genesis 3.5.

Summing up the importance of the role of Mary, Saint Augustine says of the Annunciation that Mary was a ladder, by which God came into the world, descending from Heaven to earth, to become flesh in her womb.

Frank Duff and Fr Francis Cegielka

From the Archives

**'There is no greater love after our love for God,
than the love for our mother'**

In July 1943, Frank Duff wrote to Father Misiak, a Polish priest who was working on a translation of the Handbook of the Legion of Mary. In the letter he expressed his interest in a friend of Fr. Misiak's called Fr. Francis Cegielka. This priest had been the spiritual director of the Polish praesidium of the Legion in Paris which had been set up in May 1940. This praesidium was composed mainly of Polish refugees and airmen, of which there was a substantial community in Paris. The praesidium did not survive for long when Paris fell to the Germans in June 1940 and many Poles left the city. Some went to England where they furthered the Legion among the Polish community there.

In his letter to Fr. Misiak, Frank Duff fears the worst for the former spiritual director and writes that he understands that 'Father Cegielka met his death under very tragic circumstances.' In this Frank Duff regarded him as being 'in a measure a martyr to the cause of the Legion.' In fact, Fr. Cegielka had survived a fate perhaps even worse than that which Frank Duff had feared.

Fr. Francis Cegielka was born in Grabów, in German-occupied Poland in 1908. He was one of nine children from a devout Catholic family. He was ordained a Pallotine priest in 1931 and spent part of his first year as a priest in Paris before returning to Poland where he taught college students. In 1938 he returned to Paris on his appointment as rector of the Polish Catholic Mission. There had already been a significant Polish community present in Paris since the nineteenth century after the suppression of the November Uprising of 1830-31.



The uprising, which had been ignited by Polish officers and spread to other citizens, was put down by the Imperial Russian Army in October 1831. After the rising, thousands of Poles, mainly from the political and cultural classes, left Poland in what became known as the 'Great Emigration.' These included the composer Fryderyk Chopin and the national poet Adam Mickiewicz. A great proportion of the emigrants settled in France and it quickly became evident that pastoral services would be needed for them, as many were devout Catholics. Mickiewicz and several others took this challenge in hand and sought a place of worship for the Polish community in Paris.

After several temporary homes, in 1884 the Poles were eventually given the use of the Church of the Assumption on the Rue Saint-Honoré.

The Polish-Catholic Mission had its offices nearby and until 1903 the rectors were chosen from among the Resurrectionists, which had been founded in Paris in 1836 in response to the Great Emigration. A further wave of industrial and agricultural workers arrived in France from Poland during the inter-war period. There were two Polish-French migration agreements ratified in 1919 and 1920 which established freedom of movement between the two states and gave the same rights and entitlements to Poles as were enjoyed by French workers. The French welcomed this inward migration to assist in repairing the war-damaged country resulting from the Great War, 1914-1918. Many of the Poles worked in mining cities or as farm labourers.

Again, there were concerns that these Polish workers needed pastoral support, as many found the French religious customs unnerving. They could not understand the strange Latin pronunciation of the Mass and the sermon was in French. Moreover, the different devotional practices which they had brought from home, such as kissing the hand of the priest or kneeling in the nave of the church, marked them out among their French co-religionists. Polish church authorities took notice and directed the work of the Mission to these emigrants scattered across France; permission was sought to promulgate a Polish catechism and the Mission became an interlocutor for French businesses who were willing to provide for the religious practice of their Polish workers. A network of mostly itinerant chaplains was established to serve the Polish communities in areas of France where they were most concentrated.

It was into this context that Fr. Cegiělka arrived in Paris in 1938 as newly appointed rector to the Mission. He quickly got to work regularising the chaplain system, founding a high school for the children of Polish exiles and establishing Caritas, an organisation to distribute food and clothing to poor refugees. Fr. Cegiělka also displayed the characteristic heroism of Poles (the highest percentage of those named Righteous Among the Nations by the state of Israel) in denouncing the Nazis in his sermons at the Church of the Assumption and in radio broadcasts.

This stance inevitably drew the attention of the authorities once Germany had occupied France. Fr. Cegielka recalled the day the Gestapo arrived on the 26th October 1940 at the Mission offices:

“Gentleman.” He didn’t call me Father. “We have in possession all of your sermons which you delivered through the French radio to the Polish people against our German system. You will not be free anymore. This is the day that we make really the end to your freedom. You come with us and we will place you in the prison of Paris.”

The next period of Fr. Cegielka’s life he called his ‘great pilgrimage for martyrdom.’ He was imprisoned in Paris until early December 1940, and then transferred to Berlin. Here conditions were particularly bad; he was permitted only to leave his cell about twice a month, and for the duration of Holy Week the Nazis put him in a blacked-out cell with no food or water. Having survived this, he was sent to the prison hospital, and after recuperating was transported via a circuitous route (including Sachsenhausen concentration camp) to Dachau where he arrived on the 13th February 1942.

Originally intended to house political prisoners opposed to the Nazi regime, the Dachau camp expanded to include Jews, clergy opposed to the regime and criminals. Forced labour and terrible conditions contributed to many of the over 30,000 documented deaths at the camp, but prisoners were also executed, died during medical experimentation or succumbed to disease. A large proportion of priests were selected for medical experimentation. Over 1,000

Catholic priests died at Dachau, the majority of them, about 800, from Poland. Polish priests were subjected to harsher conditions than other nationalities; they were selected for medical experimentation more frequently and they were not allowed to conduct any religious ceremonies.

Fr. Cegielka was housed in what was known as the Priest’s Barracks in Dachau. He recalled how he survived in what Edmond Michelet called ‘organised hell’:

“... in those conditions, it was really very important to have a firm will and peace of heart. How was it possible to find peace of heart in such conditions? And I answer just by your faith. You see, if you believed in God, in His not only justice, but also Law, then you knew that you are under His protection and if he permits all that suffering to us, it is also on the basis that we, the mortal priest, are co-responsible for the salvation of the other people.”

Fr Cegielka related how priests were sustained by maternal love. Prisoners were intermittently allowed to receive packages at the camp, but these were often opened and disturbed by the camp authorities. The priests noticed that packages from their mothers often made it through without being damaged; this led them to a deeper appreciation of the role of their mothers in their lives, to the extent that one priest composed a song in honour of his mother.

Another priest, dying in the camp hospital was attended by Fr. Cegielka: 'I was... in the hospital for some days, one priest was dying and called "Mother", in such despair. "My Dearest Mother." I approached him and told him 'Father, be consoled. You will find the Blessed Mother in Heaven.' And he said "Father, do you understand the deep love of a dying person for a mother?"

The Dachau camp was liberated by American forces on 29th April 1945. Once released Fr. Cegielka returned to Paris to take up his former position as rector of the Misson. From Frank Duff's letters we learn that he visited Dublin and the Legion headquarters for two weeks in September 1948. Frank Duff corresponded with Fr. Cegielka a number of times in 1948 after his visit to Dublin.

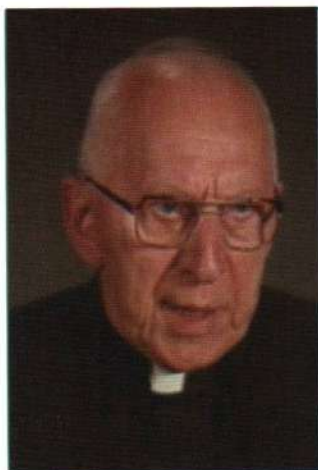
After the war, Fr. Cegielka's refusal to cooperate with representatives of the Communist government in Poland led to his leaving Paris for Rome in 1947. There, he appeared to be most interested in furthering the spread of the Legion, began to learn English and on the recommendation of Frank Duff, made contact with the Irish ambassador to the Holy See, Joseph Walshe, who was also a legionary.

Frank Duff wrote to Fr. Cegielka in November 1947 discussing the recently approved Polish translation of the Tesserà. Frank Duff also sought his advice on the Legion's envoy to Poland,

'Columban', who was then departing on a difficult mission to that country.

In 1948 Fr. Cegielka emigrated to the United States. He became a distinguished university lecturer, teaching theology at several American universities and earning a nomination as an 'Outstanding Educator of America.' In 1981 he became director of the Infant Jesus Shrine in Wheatfield, New York, where he worked on developing the site.

Fr. Cegielka died in 2003
at the age of 95.



Fr. Cegielka's story is a dramatic example of the courageous work done by legionaries and their spiritual directors around the world, often quietly and without recognition.

An extraordinary interview was recorded by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum with Fr Cegielka in 1990.



This can be viewed online.

<https://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/irn504550>

Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Legion in Yaounde, Cameroon

In celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Legion of Mary in Yaounde, the capital city of Cameroon, in 2018, we are grateful to God and to the Virgin Mary for the grace of the founding of the Legion of Mary by the Servant of God Frank Duff in 1921. Just as Cardinal Riberi asserted that 'the Legion of Mary is the miracle of our modern times' (Handbook), the birth of the English-speaking Legion of Mary in Yaounde, Cameroon came as a miracle for the English-speaking



population in Yaounde and to the Catholic Church in general.

The Legion of Mary commenced at the Ole-Zoa Chapel, now St. Paul's Parish, on 16 May 1993. The first praesidium was named 'Praesidium of Our Lady Help of Christians' and was initiated by Brother Paul E. Ekbe. This was soon followed in December 1993 with a second praesidium named 'Our lady Queen of Peace.' This, again, was followed in 1994 with another praesidium named 'Our lady Queen of the Afflicted.' at St. Anne's Parish, Obili.



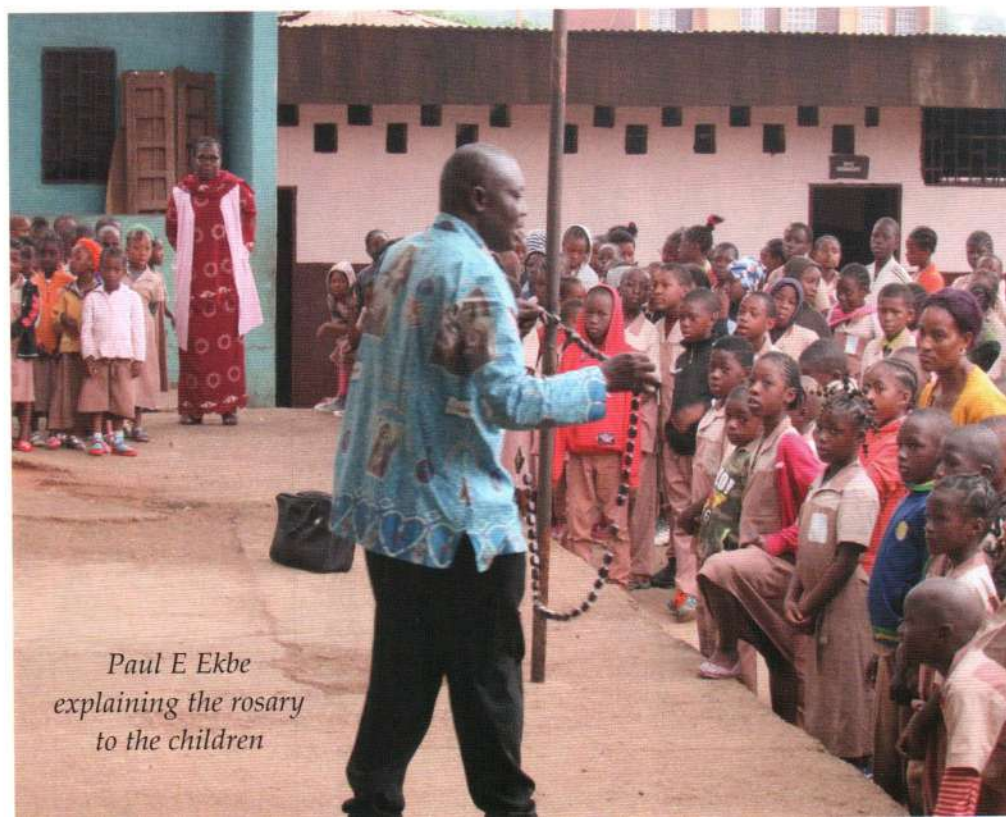
In subsequent years many more presidia were established in various parishes with English-speaking communities. But one of the most significant was the praesidium established with both Francophone and Anglophone members is the Legion in the Kodengui Prison named 'Our lady of Good Counsel.' Wonderfully, the Kodengui-Prison Legion has now grown to seven praesidia with its own curia.

In the year 2018 the Legion of Mary in Yaounde, Cameroon has celebrated its silver jubilee in thanksgiving to God through Mary for having the opportunity to have made such a significant contribution to the Church during the past twenty-five years:

Former legion officers, including two presidents and a vice president, have been ordained to the priesthood, while one member has become a monk

Three junior legionaries have become religious sisters: two Dominicans and one Missionary

It has been a grace and privilege to the English Curia that both the Douala Regia and the Yaounde pro-Regia hosted an Envoy from Concilium-the first of such visit to the French Cameroons. One of the principal aims of that visit was to establish the hierarchical structure of the Legion of Mary in Cameroon. As a result, the Douala Regia was graded Senatus, while Yaounde pro-Regia was established as a Regia.



*Paul E Ekbe
explaining the rosary
to the children*



The Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the establishment of the English Legion of Mary in Yaounde, the capital city of Cameroon, was an occasion of joy, not only to the English population of this

metropolitan city, but also to the Church in general. Pope St. John XXIII asserted in his message to French legionaries that 'the Legion of Mary is the true face of the Catholic Church.'

The closing ceremony to the Silver Jubilee celebrating the birth of the English-speaking Legion of Mary in Yaounde took place on Saturday 8th December 2018 - the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. As part of the celebration a one-day congress took place at the College Notre Dame des Victories, which dealt with 'The Meeting and its Promoters' and with 'The Cardinal Points of the Legion'

One jubilee celebration leads to another: the celebration of the birth of the English Legion of Mary in Yaounde is now an occasion from which to prepare for the centenary celebration of the Legion of Mary founded by Frank Duff in Dublin in 1921.



THE VISITATION

By Fr. George Wadding CSsR

The Visitation is one of the scenes to which we return several times in the Advent liturgy. Mark your Bible at St. Luke's account of the meeting of Mary and her cousin Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56).

When I came to breakfast the morning after the angelic visitation, my mother said to me: "you look excited; it must be your wedding. Did you sleep well?"

"Yes Imah, I slept very well, thank God!" Then, after a little pause, I said: "You know, while I was praying last night a heavenly visitor spoke to me."
"Yes?" said mother, waiting for me to elaborate.

"He had great news. Cousin Elizabeth is expecting a baby."

Not for a moment did mother ever challenge the truth of what I told her. She did what she always does when she hears good news; she clasped her chest and said a heartfelt "Thank God - for His mercies and without end!" You see, in our society a woman's value was often measured by her ability to

bear children. We had often spoken about Cousin Elizabeth among ourselves; a childless old age was a painful and lonely experience for herself and Zechariah, but it did not dim their trust in God.

"But Imah", I said, "Elizabeth is already six months pregnant. She'll be so weak! Shouldn't I go and help her? Can you spare me? It would only be for a few months. I'm sure Joseph will understand."

"Yes, she will need help. Yes, I can spare you. Yes, Joseph will understand. But Ein Karem is over 80 miles away. I'll talk to your father and we'll ask around to see if any of our cousins are going that way soon. For now, though, just eat your breakfast and then fetch some water."

MEETING

I got ready, and set off south with my travelling companions, my cousin Amran and some friends. When we arrived safely at the home of Elizabeth and Zechariah, I called through the open door: "shalom! Is there anybody home?" Elizabeth arrived out from the back of the house looking shocked. "O Miriam", she cried with delight, "shalom, welcome, welcome! The moment I heard your voice the child in my womb gave a mighty leap." Then, visibly filled with the Holy Spirit and with tears of joy, she exclaimed: "Dearest child, of all the women on this earth you are surely the most privileged and what an astonishing blessing is the child you carry in your womb!

I don't deserve the honour of this visit from the mother of our Messiah. You are but a child yourself but what great faith you have to believe what the angel said to you!"

"We are both blessed, Elizabeth. How can we ever give thanks to God! Ever since the angel appeared to me, I can hardly contain my joy. I am just an ordinary country girl, have few of this world's possession, yet the Lord has chosen me. For generations to come, people will surely speak my name with reverence because of the Lord's graciousness. All along the way here the words of Hannah, Samuel's mother, kept breaking into my prayer... 'My heart rejoices in the Lord... the bows of the mighty are broken but those who stumbled are armed with strength. She who was barren has borne seven children. The Lord raises

the poor from the dust... he seats them with princes...' "

Her husband Zachary came out to see what was happening. He smiled a warm welcome when he saw me, but he could not speak.

"Goodness me!" I said, "What has happened to Zachary?"

"There's much to tell you, Miriam. It will hold. Forgive my bad manners! Please come in, come in. You must be exhausted after your journey. We can chat while I prepare a little food for us all."

At first our chat was just exchanging news – how was everyone in Nazareth? Was the harvest good? Were my parents, Joachim and Anne, keeping well? And so on...

ZACHARY'S STORY

Later, when all was quiet, I asked again about Zechariah. Elizabeth explained: "As a descendent of Aaron, Zachary is automatically a priest, as you know. One day six months ago, Zechariah's name was drawn by lot, and he was given the privilege of entering the Holy Place and burning the incense. It was one chance in a lifetime."

"Now, it has always been a great sadness to us that we had no children. God knows, it was not for want of trying and praying. Zachary and I prayed the prayer of Hannah, 'O Lord Almighty if you will only look on your servants' misery and remember us, and not forget your servants but give us a son, then we will give him to the Lord

for all the days of his life.’ But our prayers had gone unanswered.”

“Anyhow, Zachary’s big day came... Tell the rest of it yourself,” she said, pushing the slate towards her husband. He wrote slowly...

“Yes, my moment came to burn the incense... I was inside the Holy Place. The people were outside. The smoke drifting heavenward symbolised their prayers ascending to God’s throne. Suddenly, an angel appeared on the right side of the altar of incense. I was terrified.”

“As I was,” I interjected. Zachary smiled at me and continued writing... “But the angel said: “Do not be afraid, Zachary, your prayer has been

answered. Elizabeth will bear you a son; you will call him John.”

Again I interrupted his writing: “What a lovely name - John – The Lord is gracious and my son will be called Jesus – The Lord saves.” Zachary continued writing his story:

“Your son, said the angel, will be your heart’s delight and joy. And many people will give thanks to God because of him. He will be one of the ‘greats’ in God’s eyes. Like the great Samson and Samuel, he will keep the Nazarite vow of consecration to God; he will not drink wine or any other fermented drink. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth...”



FULL OF THE SPIRIT

At this point Elizabeth looked into her husband’s eyes. “Zachary,” she said, “already this prophesy has been fulfilled.” He looked puzzled. She went on:

“The minute I heard Miriam’s voice, the same Spirit that prompted me prompted our baby; he leaped for joy as if already acknowledging the presence of the Saviour in our midst.”

A tear moistened Zachary’s eye as he wrote:

“It is as the angel has said: our child would go ahead of the Lord to prepare a way for Him among God’s chosen people. It was then, Miriam, that I doubted. Elizabeth and I were too old. How could we possibly have a child?

Straight away the angel identified himself as the Angel Gabriel and he said: 'you will be silent and not able to speak until your child is born.' So I remain silent. And as surely as dear Elizabeth is now pregnant, so surely will my speech return when our baby is born... That's my story, Miriam. How can I thank the Lord for his goodness to us!"

I stayed on in Ein Karem helping Elizabeth through the final months of her pregnancy. I had my own share of morning sickness and lack of energy, but it was a labour of love. Eight days after their child was born, he was circumcised and was given the name John, in spite of the protest of relatives who objected that 'John' was not a family name. But Zachary persisted, and no sooner was the child named than Zachary's tongue unfastened and

he uttered a beautiful song of praise which had been germinating in his heart over the previous months of silence.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and redeemed his people... as for you, my child, you will be called a prophet of the Most High God, for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for Him, to give His people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins...

My relatives collected me a day or two later to take me home to Nazareth where Imah and Abba were waiting to hear the wonderful stories of God's love and providence I had to tell them. Shortly afterwards, Joseph and I were married and moved into our new home.

MEETING

Anonymous

Deep in the hills of Judah
With Child, two cousins meet
The older kneeling to the younger
As she replies: Magnificat.

Years hence:
Their sons would meet by Jordan's River
The prophet baptising the Messiah
While from above, the Holy Ghost
Is seen descending as a dove.
John would lose his head for Truth:
The Christ, His life, for Love.



Peregrinatio Pro Christo

Saint Columbanus



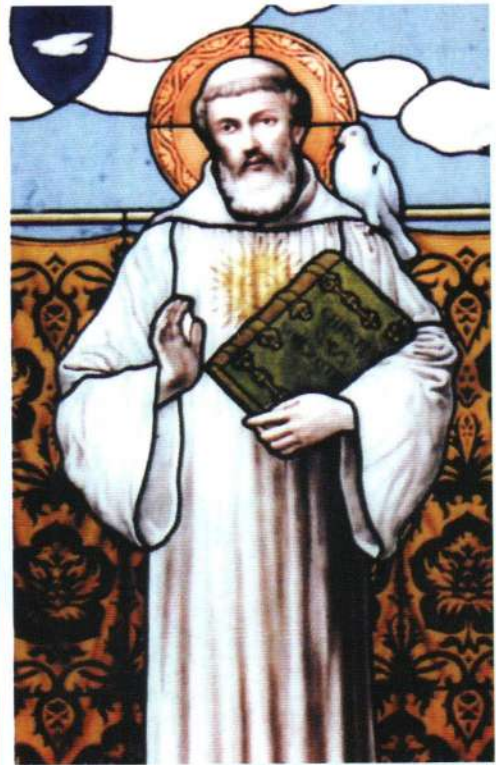
By Raymond Heffernan

Peregrinatio Pro Christo (PPC) is a part of the Legion of Mary apostolate of evangelising which invites members to improve their skills by travelling to other regions, usually to another country, to carry out assignments of spreading the Faith. The enterprise is open to all senior members of the Legion and to priests and seminarians. Religious sisters and brothers who may not necessarily be members of the association, but who are prepared to work under the Standing Instruction of the Legion, are also invited to participate in these projects.

People who volunteer for PPC are formed into teams and sent to specific parishes where they work with the local clergy. Most assignments are for the duration of one week and operate from Saturday to Saturday. Volunteers to this work are responding to Our Blessed Lord's command: "Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation" (Mark 16.6).

Participants on these projects should consider that in the encounters they make, it might be the only time that the people might ever talk to Catholics about religion. They should be able to invite them to join the Catholic Church which would assist them on their journey to salvation. The teams are expected to have experience in door-to-

door visitation, or street-contact work. They should be able to converse on the teachings of the Church, including the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Eucharist, and also on Confession. Peregrini should be able to discuss Our Lady's role in the plan of salvation, and any lapsed Catholics who are come upon, should be encouraged to make a return to the practice of the Faith and to contact a priest.



Saint Columbanus, stained glass window, Bobbio Abbey crypt

Volunteers to PCC are doing work similar to that of the apostles and disciples of the early Church, and later, to that of the monks from Ireland who travelled extensively to spread the Faith. Peregrini share in being the “Acts of the Apostles” for this generation.

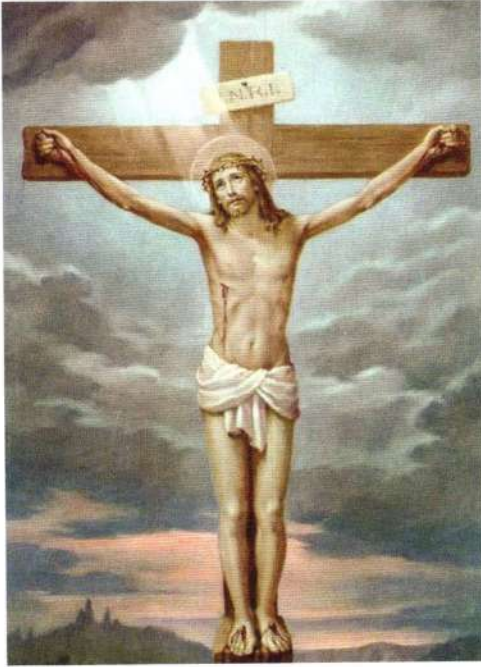
All evangelising is Our Blessed Mother’s work. Mary is the spiritual mother of every person being contacted, and she is hoping for the salvation of every one of her children, irrespective of whether they have a religion or not. The key to visitation work is doing it in union with her. Our Lady knows every person and she will direct us because she knows the needs of each individual. Mary also knows how much Our Lord suffered to save each and every soul; for that reason a consideration should be given to consecrating everyone visited to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We could also ask our guardian angels to speak to these people’s guardian angels and ask them to prepare the residents for the visit of the legionaries.

Every thinking person has an opinion about God and, given the right circumstances, most people will express these ideas. This is why we should be reluctant to accept a first “not interested” when contacting people for the purpose of evangelising. We might be calling at an inopportune time; consequently, it is always a good idea to make a second attempt, if we are rejected. Considering that Heaven wants the conversion more than we do, souls should be encouraged to engage, and hopefully come to appreciate that God loves them.

While doing work of this nature we might consider the expression “non-verbal communication.” This is where we should realise that our very demeanour is sending out messages about ourselves. That is why we should be neat and tidy and “look” the part. We are representing the Church, the Legion of Mary, and Jesus, and we should make it clear early on that we are Catholics. We could say that we are calling on behalf of the parish priest, bringing his good wishes and enquiring, perhaps, if they know where the local church is situated. Without being too intrusive we could try to find out if they have any religious affiliations. People from other denominations can often be as committed as we are, and so we should keep the conversation “God centred.” We could ask them to consider inviting Jesus into their lives because people who have a relationship with God will receive His blessing for their families and themselves.

The prime reason for our visitation work is to invite people to become Catholic. While showing total respect for other people’s beliefs when speaking about these matters, we should be very clear ourselves that the Catholic Church is the only church founded by Jesus Christ. He came from Heaven, fulfilling hundreds of prophecies that were spoken about His coming. He established a new covenant between God and mankind, fulfilling the old covenant between God and His chosen people (the Jews).

OUR LORD SUFFERED AND DIED ON THE CROSS



Now, in the new Christian Era, Our Lord suffered and died on the cross, paying the debt for all the sins of humanity. This sacrifice of His is commemorated at our Masses where we are present at the Last Supper, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. Jesus came to teach the truth and establish His Church. He gave authority to the apostles and their successors to go forth and teach the Good News of salvation. The Church has the copyright to the Christian Scripture and anyone who deviates from this message is in error.

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to confirm the Church and He Himself said that He would always remain with His Church. While meeting those of other faiths, and of none, there should never be any arguing and we should pray that our

meeting be grace-filled and peaceful. It is also recommended that we be better listeners than talkers, because then we earn the right to speak. We should be able to talk about the many blessings that there are in being a member of the Catholic Church: for example, being able to go to Mass and to receive Our Lord Jesus Himself, in Holy Communion. We can have our sins forgiven in Confession and benefit from the many graces and blessings that are available when we take part in the other sacraments.

In our evangelising work we should realise that we are in a fight for souls. To the observer it might appear that we are taking part in some human activity, but St. Paul assures us that we are in a battle with the spiritual army of evil in the heavens (Ephesians 6:12). The Good Lord wants the souls being approached brought to conversion no matter what their situation. Despite the fact that we are poor sinners who continually fail, we should endeavour to live good lives, have an ordered prayer life and attend Mass and receive Communion, daily if at all possible, so as to have on the 'armour of the Lord.' If we want to change the world, we must begin with ourselves! If we are proposing the Catholic Church to other people then we should be availing of the sacraments and the other privileges associated with being Catholic. It is important that we continue to study the scriptures and keep up to date with church affairs.

Peregrini might often determine that the success of a PCC project is reflected in the number of people who attend the final night's Mass of a project, or by the number of people who sign up for the next R.C.I.A. Programme in the parish. But these externals might not necessarily be what is in the mind of Providence, when these missions are planned. The legionary calling might be what was needed to bring peace to a home. Another resident might conclude from the encounter with our members that they are not in a "good place" in their lives, and realise that they might need help. The visitors might persuade someone to pursue the religious vocation they were contemplating, or in another case a

marriage breakdown might be averted by the call. Some lonely soul might just enjoy the encouraging chat. Millions of such encounters, and any of the other experiences of life of which we can think, have all been recorded in the Legion of Mary records. More often than not, the positive consequence of their call might never be known to the legionaries themselves. This is part of the mystery of our Legion Apostolate. Do consider also that the few words spoken between the visitors and their contact could be used by the Holy Spirit at some stage during a person's life to bring about even an imperfect act of contrition that could result in the eventual salvation of the soul.

JOY OF BEING A LEGIONARY

BY DORIS A.M. LAWRENCE,
*A legionary of Our Lady of Good
 Counsel Curia, Birmingham, England.*

Joy is a facet of a legionary's characteristic. Joy is one of the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit. There is great joy for the legionaries when they take their Legion Promise. There is joy when going on Peregrinatio Pro Christo (PPC) and radiating this joy to the people they meet. A legionary cannot afford to be miserable when offering the gift of faith to others. If a recipient witnesses a joyful legionary, this brushes off on the person. There is great joy and hope when reading about legionary activity in other parts of the world.



The Holy Rosary begins on a joyful note with the five Joyful Mysteries. It inspires us to do great things for the love of Our Lord and Our Lady and for the love of souls. At Christmas there is joy in the air for the coming of the Lord.

Report on Peregrinatio Pro Christo

Projects for 2018- organised from Ireland



By Emer Gallagher

The number of projects undertaken by the Dublin PPC Committee for 1918 was: fifteen projects to the UK and one project to Stockholm, Sweden.

The total number of volunteers who were administered through the Dublin office was 173.

We were blessed to have five priests and two religious brothers on projects.

Legionaries visited approximately 46,000 homes and obtained a replies from some 20,000. Legionaries met 1,650 non-practising Catholics and 1,270 practising Catholics. They took the names of 174 people who were interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. They also took the names of 43 people who were interested in active Legion membership, and 77 people who were interested in auxiliary membership. Approximately 26,000 Miraculous Medals were distributed.

Mere statistics however are not important; they serve only as a guide to ascertain the number of people who were contacted, but they do not prove the success of the PPC project. In fact we shall never fully know the full fruits of a PPC project. Because every home that was visited on PPC was visited on

behalf of Our Lady, so in a sense it is really Our Lady who is visiting these homes. We cannot quantify the graces that are distributed, even by just knocking on the door. In one report a man attended Holy Mass on the Friday after reading the leaflet dropped into his letterbox; he had not personally met any legionary. On the same Friday he spoke at length to two legionaries and decided to go to Confession and make his peace with the Lord. We really do not know what happens after we have returned home.

In many of the reports, accounts are given of legionaries visiting schools in the parishes to which they had gone. This is absolutely wonderful work as children are like sponges: they absorb it all. For example, in one report legionaries visited a junior school and were invited to a 'Pop in to Pray' session which is held twice weekly in the school. Legionaries brought a Miraculous Medal for each child in the school and the students who attended the sessions were very eager to act as ambassadors to carry the message of the medal to their classes.



In all reports the pages are filled with encounters with lapsed Catholics. Sometimes all these people need is a reminder or a nudge to entice them back to the practice of their faith. For example, in one report a man who had been away from the Church for many years said to legionaries that deep down he was still a Catholic. The legionaries spoke to him about the importance of Holy Mass and of receiving the sacraments. To their delight, he came on the Friday and went to Confession and Holy Mass.

In another report legionaries encountered a man who was driving into his driveway. He said that he had lapsed many years previously. The legionaries spoke to him about Jesus calling him back. He became emotional and said he was very happy that they had called. He said that it was a strong reminder for him to go back to Confession; he accepted a Miraculous Medal.

In another example, it was the final afternoon of a project, and legionaries called at a house but there was no reply; however, as they were walking away a lady called after them. She was lapsed and was delighted to meet them. She had often walked past the church and thought of going inside. She said her middle name was Rose, named after Our Lady of the Rosary. She was happy to talk, and agreed to come to Mass on the Friday. She hugged the legionaries as they left.

Legionaries also visited a 92-year old woman who had been away from the

Catholic faith for almost 50 years. Her husband died last year. She said she was too old to return to her faith and how could God forgive her after all the years! They told her God would certainly forgive her if only she asked. She did ask, and the priest visited her the next day and heard her Confession. All went well, thank God.

The reports refer to many encounters of legionaries speaking with non-Catholics and atheists. After returning home from PPC, it is important to pray for all the contacts that have been made during the week. Sometimes cases are highlighted in the reports that require specific prayer; for example, in one report legionaries spoke to a couple who were atheists. They invited the legionaries into their home and spoke to them for an hour. The legionaries told them about the Catholic faith and the couple listened to everything the legionaries had to say. They had an element of fear about finding out the truth, especially about eternity. The legionaries parted on friendly terms.



One story that could be told to atheists: Our Lady appeared in 1917 to the three children in Fatima. During the apparitions, Our Lady told the children

that the war would soon end but if people didn't change their ways a worse war would take place during the reign of Pope Pius XI. Pope Pius XI was not elected Pope until 1922 - some five years later. How could children know the name of a future pope and the prediction of World War II, if it did not come from God?

On another project legionaries met a lady at the door whose face was etched with weariness and desolation. The legionaries introduced themselves. She was a member of the Church of England but was not practicing her faith. She invited the legionaries into her house; they told her she had a beautiful home. On hearing this, she immediately began to cry and told them that her treasured home was being repossessed. The legionaries explained that she was never alone on this journey and God was always with her. They introduced the Miraculous Medal and spoke of the terrible suffering in Our Lady's life. The lady cradled the medal as if it was one of her most treasured possessions. They suggested that she come and place her fears at the foot of the altar with Mary at Calvary. Her face lit up and she said: "I was feeling so low today with no hope and you both appeared and I promise you I will visit the Church."

In many reports it was highlighted that the legionaries who went on PPC were

wonderful; that their holiness, their willingness and eagerness for the work, and their team spirit also made the week fruitful and enjoyable. One report remarked that the legionaries did everything with a smile on their face. It was also commented in reports that the work and planning done in the parishes and by local legionaries, such as the supply of maps, the preparation of leaflets from the parish, the areas to be visited, etc., greatly enhances the project. It was mentioned in reports that the hosts and hostesses and the local parishioners were most supportive; that in addition to providing accommodation and delicious meals, they also provided transport which was very welcome. And finally, reports commented on the hospitality, humour and generosity of the Parish Priests, with many taking time out of their busy schedules to attend meetings and to support the legionaries.

A quote from Fr Finnegan - a priest from one of the projects:

"Our Parish would like to thank you so very warmly for your generosity in participating in the PPC in Caterham. We have indeed seen some new faces appear in recent weeks. I have heard no negative comments about your visits, and this, I am sure is down to the kind and gentle approach which seems to have characterised all of you."

The Legion of Mary keenly exhorts councils of the Legion to make every effort to promote, plan and organise PPC projects as an effective and grace-filled method of evangelisation.



At the Permanence Lourdes: May 2018

By Charlene Marie McQuitty

The Blessed Mother said to
St. Bernadette at the Grotto in Lourdes
"WILL YOU DO ME THE FAVOUR
OF COMING HERE "

It seemed to be a regular Thursday-evening praesidium meeting. The Houston Senatus meeting was the Sunday before, and I was able to give a few highlights, especially on an article from the Concilium Bulletin entitled: "*Appeal for Assistance in the Apostolate of the Legion in Lourdes.*" Immediately after the meeting, legionaries asked me if I would assist them in making this journey for the purpose of participating in the apostolate!

Lourdes is located in southwestern France and is a major pilgrimage site where people from around the world come for prayer, reconciliation, and healing. They come to learn about the story of St. Bernadette and the message of the Blessed Mother. Twenty one years ago, legionaries had assisted me in making a pilgrimage to Lourdes, and now I felt that Our Lady was asking me to return. And this time, I would be returning as a legionary, ready to immerse in the apostolate.

Active legionaries who would like to participate in the apostolate must first submit applications to be approved by

the Committee of the Permanence of Lourdes. Those going, in addition to myself and my legionary husband, Holly, were: Fr. Anthony Ekanem, MSP, our praesidium spiritual director, and Senatus officers: Sharon Reese, Lydia Coleman, and Rose Ledet.

Plans progressed rapidly. Our applications were approved by the Dax Regia President, Marie Claire, dates confirmed, and travel arrangements made. We arrived at the Lourdes train station almost one year later on Sunday, 20 May, 2018.

Greeted at the train station by legionaries, we traveled by car a very short distance to the Legion of Mary house called the Permanence that originally belonged to the great niece of St. Bernadette!

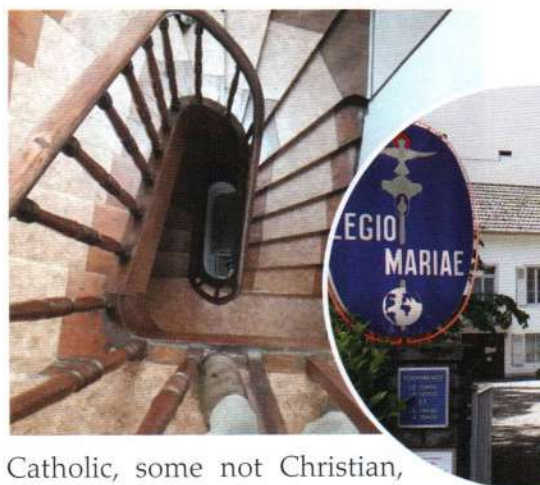


The very first thing we did was to climb the old spiral staircase holding on to the bannister that so many holy hands have touched. Reaching the third floor, we entered the chapel where Fr. Anthony celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving.

During our stay, the caretaker of the house was a legionary from Italy named Marcello. We quickly became multicultural as four legionaries from Dublin arrived to join us, including former Concilium officers Raymond and Annette Mulrooney. Raymond was a Concilium correspondent to Houston for 25 years. It was a great reunion.

Each day began with morning prayers and Mass, followed by breakfast. Then the legion meeting took place where the goals and functions of the apostolate were clearly explained. Now this was no ordinary pilgrimage. This was a very unique working legion project.

Working in pairs, there were many assignments to keep everyone busy from sunrise to sunset. Besides basic house duties and receiving visitors in the reception room, legionaries are invited to assist in the Lourdes apostolate by inviting holiday campers and people they meet in the near vicinity to visit the grotto. Not everyone in the area was aware of the beautiful spiritual oasis that exists, and most were very happy to accept a leaflet that we had available in six different languages explaining about the Blessed Mother and her message to St. Bernadette. On the other hand, we met a number of pilgrims who were not



Catholic, some not Christian, who were actually on their way to the grotto.

Accepting the invitation for this Legion work project was a major highlight for all of us. We were gently moved out of our comfort zones as we learned how to conduct street contact by the wisdom of the 'master and apprentice' method as explained in the Legion Handbook.

An unforgettable moment for me was when Raymond and I were walking up a very busy-narrow street hoping to make contacts as we headed to the train station. "Hello, do you speak English", he said as several groups smiled and passed us by. Then we heard a voice saying: "I speak English!" She was a lovely lady from Germany who was a legionary in a praesidium that was commenced by Hilde Firtel!

Now if you don't know of the late, legendary legionary named Hilde Firtel, I will give you a hint. She wrote a biography of Alfie Lambe. A Jewish convert to Catholicism, she was a Legion of Mary Envoy to Germany, establishing many praesidia. What an incredible encounter!

Our Lady said to St. Bernadette: "WILL YOU DO ME THE FAVOUR OF COMING HERE....." Will you...?



LYDIA'S HIGHLIGHT: As Fr. Tony, Rose and I were walking to the train station, we met a young man who spoke Spanish. I asked him if he had been to the Lourdes Sanctuary? He said 'no.' We invited him, and showed him a brochure, and the sanctuary, and suggested that he spend time in the grotto with Our Blessed Mother. He said that he had just arrived by train, and had come from South America. He did not know why he was here, but that he felt drawn to come. He thanked me for stopping to invite him and talking with him, took the brochure, and said he would go there. I said: "I think the Blessed Mother has called you here. He replied: 'YES.'

Another part of the Legion Apostolate in Lourdes is that every evening at 5 pm there is a Eucharistic Procession in which the Legion of Mary has the privilege of carrying the Legion banner. And at 9 pm, legionaries participate in the Marian procession by carrying a large illuminated processional vexillum.

In the afternoon there were a couple of hours of free time that we spent in the sanctuary. Many Catholics have already heard the story of how Our Lady asked Bernadette to "Go and drink at the spring." The opportunity to bathe in the pure-spring water, or to wash one's face, or drink from the fountains, is available to all. Some bathed, some washed, and all of us drank daily of the pure spring water. It truly is a spiritual

oasis that words fail to describe. Some people have said: 'Lourdes is a place where Heaven touches Earth.'

Fr. Anthony shared some of his thoughts on his experience with the legionaries at Lourdes. This was a great opportunity for me to pray the Rosary with people in different languages. I felt the beauty of our faith expressed in the long processions that were colored by beautiful Latin hymns, and many bishops, priests, nuns and people from everywhere. Along the river Gave du Pau, near the grotto, one can sit and gaze at the grotto where Our Lady appeared to Bernadette on 25 March, 1858 and said: 'I am the Immaculate Conception.'

Being immersed in the apostolate in such a beautiful and holy place gave me the desire to do more, pray more, and love more. When we respond with our 'yes', it does seem that graces begin to flow swiftly like the current in the river Gave de Pau near the grotto where we prayed daily. It was a legionary experience of a lifetime.

We were told that individual legionaries from the USA have come and participated in the Legion Apostolate in Lourdes, but this was the first time they remembered that a United States legionary team has participated. We may possibly be the first, but our prayer is that we will not be the last. We will always remember the day: 20 May, 2018, PENTECOST SUNDAY.

The author of this article is President of the Praesidium of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral of The Sacred Heart, Houston, Texas.

First Legion of Mary Praesidium in India

By Michael Walsh

CHENNAI: (*Capital City of the Indian State of Tamil Nadu - Formerly Madras*):

The first Legion praesidium in India was commenced by Mrs. Muriel Mackenzie-Smith and met in the Little Flower Convent, Teynampet, Madras, on the 2nd of February 1931. The first Curia was set up also in Chennai in 1931.



Founder Mrs Muriel Mckenzie-Smith seated centre with Senatus officers

BANGALORE: “Comforter of the Afflicted” was the title of the first praesidium started in St. Patrick’s Church on 9th November, 1936 in Bangalore (Bengaluru), Southern India by Sr. Mary Evorette, a Madras legionary. The first Spiritual Director was Fr. I. Vampenee. The praesidium consisted of 17 lady members. From this impressive start many senior and junior praesidia were established, and later, Curiae and Comitia in Bangalore, and throughout the State of Karnataka.

After the establishment of these praesidia and councils throughout Bangalore, the first Comitium consisting of legionaries speaking English, Tamil and Kannada was inaugurated on 26th April 1949.

In the year 1966, Most Rev. Dr. Lourduswamy the then Archbishop of Bangalore sanctioned the formation of three Comitia for English, Tamil and Kannada-speaking legionaries. These three Comitia were later merged and the Karnataka Regia was inaugurated in January 1980 under the guidance of the Most Rev. Dr. P. Arokiaswamy, the then Archbishop of Bangalore.

Since its foundation in Southern India in 1931 the Legion of Mary has spread from Chennai and Bangalore throughout the State of Karnataka to New Delhi, Bombay, and to the various cities, towns, villages and country areas in India, later crossing borders to such countries as Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Burma (Myanmar), and Nepal.

An example of how the early councils have progressed and the great support given by priests and bishops is the fact that: (1): The Comitium of Chennai was raised to Regia status by Concilium in December 2015, and extension was undertaken in an area 700km away

from Chennai. This council comprises 13 directly-affiliated praesidia and 19 Curiae in the Archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore. To it would be added the Legion in the four suffragan Dioceses of Chinglepet, Coimbatore, Ootacamund and Vellore, as well as other territory for which permission is being sought. (2): Mumbai Senatus reported in September 2018 that their Spiritual Director’s Conference had 28 priests and the Bishop attending. (3): Throughout India since 1931 a myriad of reports have been received from the various councils referring to conversions, returns to the sacraments, home, hospital and prison visitation and many other apostolic works.

As is the case with legionaries of many other nationalities, everywhere migrating Indian Legion of Mary members go they take their membership with them and these legionaries are a huge asset to the Legion in their adopted countries throughout the world today. As we approach the Legion’s 100th Anniversary, Frank Duff would surely be proud to see the Legion spreading its wings across India and the entire world in this manner.

Homily of the Holy Father Pope Francis



Given at Holy Mass with the dedication of the altar of the Cathedral Basilica of Santa Maria la Antigua with priests, consecrated persons and lay movements on World Youth Day, Panama City, Panama, 26 January 2019

“Jacob’s well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her: ‘Give me a drink’” (Jn 4:6-7).

The Gospel we have heard does not shrink from showing us Jesus wearied from His journey. At midday, when the sun makes all its strength and power felt, we encounter Him beside the well. He needed to relieve and quench His thirst, to refresh his steps, to recover His strength in order to continue His mission.

The disciples personally experienced the extent of the Lord’s commitment and readiness to bring the Good News to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners, to comfort those who mourn and to proclaim a year of favor to all (*cf. Is 61:1-3*). These are all situations that consume life and energy; yet they show us many important moments in the life of the Master, moments in which our humanity, too, can find a word of Life.

Weary from the Journey

It is relatively easy for us, compulsively busy as we are, to imagine and enter into communion with the Lord’s activity. Yet we do not always know how to contemplate and accompany his “weariness”; it seems this is not something proper to God. The Lord knew what it was to be tired, and in His weariness so many struggles of our nations and peoples, our communities and all who are weary and heavily burdened (*cf. Mt 11:28*) can find a place.

There are many reasons for weariness on our journey as priests, consecrated men and women, and members of lay movements: from long hours of work, which leave little time to eat, rest and be with family, to “toxic” working conditions and relationships that lead to exhaustion and disappointment. From simple daily commitments to the burdensome routine of those who do not find the relaxation, appreciation or support needed to move from one day to the next; from the usual and predictable little problems to lengthy and stressful periods of pressure. We have a whole array of burdens to bear.

It would be impossible to try to cope with all these situations that assail the lives of consecrated persons, but in all of them we feel the urgent need to find a well to quench our thirst and relieve our weariness from the journey. All these situations demand, like a silent plea, a well from which we can set out once more.

For some time now, a subtle weariness seems to have found a place in our communities, a weariness that has nothing to do with the Lord's weariness. It is a temptation that we might call the weariness of hope. This weariness is felt when – as in the Gospel – the sun beats down mercilessly and with such intensity that it becomes impossible to keep walking or even to look ahead. Everything becomes confused. I am not referring to that “particular heaviness of heart” (cf. *Redemptoris Mater*, 17; *Evangelii Gaudium*, 287) felt by those who feel “shattered” at the end of the day, yet manage a serene and grateful smile. I am speaking of that other weariness which comes from looking ahead once reality “hits” and calls into question the energy, resources and viability of our mission in this changing and challenging world.

It is a weariness that paralyzes. It comes from looking ahead and not knowing how to react to the intense and confusing changes that we as a society are experiencing. These changes seem to call into question not only our ways of speaking and engaging, our attitudes and habits in dealing with reality, but in many cases they call into doubt the very viability of religious life in today's world. And the very speed of these changes can paralyze our options and opinions, while what was meaningful and important in the past can now no longer seem valid.

The weariness of hope comes from seeing a Church wounded by sin, which so often failed to hear all those cries that echoed the cry of the Master: “My God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mt 27:46).

We can get used to living with a weariness of hope before an uncertain and unknown future, and this can pave the way for a grey pragmatism to lodge in the heart of our communities. Everything apparently goes on as usual, but in reality, faith is crumbling and failing. Disappointed by a reality that we do not understand or that we think has no room for our message, we can open the door to one of the worst heresies possible in our time: the notion that the Lord and our communities have nothing to say or contribute in the new world now being born (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 83). What once arose to be the salt and light for the world ends up stale and worn.



Give me a Drink

Weariness from the journey can happen; it can make itself felt. Like it or not, we do well to have the same courage as the Master, and to say: "Give me a drink." As was the case with the Samaritan woman and perhaps with each one of us, we want to quench our thirst not with any water but with the "spring of water welling up to eternal life" (*Jn 4:14*). Like the Samaritan woman who for years had been carrying the empty pitchers of failed loves, we know that not just any word can help us regain energy and prophecy in our mission. Not just any novelty, however alluring it may seem, can quench our thirst. We know, as she did, that neither knowledge of religion nor upholding options and traditions past or present, always makes us fruitful and passionate "worshippers in spirit and truth" (*Jn 4:23*).



The Lord says: "Give me a drink"; He asks us to say those same words. To say them, let us open the door and let our wearied hope return without fear to the deep well of our first love when Jesus passed our way, gazed at us with mercy and asked us to follow Him. To say those words, let us revive the memory of that moment when His eyes met ours, the moment when he made us realize that He loved us, not only personally but also as a community (*cf. Homily at the Easter Vigil, 19 April 2014*). It means retracing our steps and, in creative fidelity, listening to how the Spirit inspired no specific works, pastoral plans or structures, but instead, through any number of "saints next door" – including the founders of your institutes and the bishops and priests who laid the bases for your communities – he gave life and fresh breath to a particular moment of history when all hope and dignity seemed to be stifled and crushed.

"Give me a drink" means finding the courage to be purified and to recapture the most authentic part of our founding charisms – which are not only for religious life but for the life of Church as a whole – and to see how they can find expression today. This means not only looking back on the past with gratitude, but seeking the roots of their inspiration and letting them resound forcefully once again in our midst (*cf. Pope Francis-Fernando Prado, The Strength of a Vocation, 42*).

"Give me a drink" means recognizing that we need the Spirit to make us men and women mindful of a passage, the salvific passage of God. And trusting that, as He did yesterday, He will still do tomorrow: "Going to the roots helps us without a doubt to live in the present without fear. We need to live without fear, responding to life with the passion of being engaged with history, immersed in things. With the passion of lovers" (*cf. ibid., 44*).

A wearied hope will be healed and will enjoy that "particular tiredness of heart" when it is unafraid to return to the place of its first love and to find, in the peripheries and challenges before us today, the same song, the same gaze that inspired the song and the gaze of those who have gone before us. In this way, we will avoid the danger of starting with ourselves; we will abandon a wearisome self-pity in order to meet Christ's gaze as He continues today to seek us, to call us and to invite us to the mission.



For me it is no small thing that this cathedral now reopens its doors after a lengthy renovation. It has experienced the passage of the years as a faithful witness of the history of this people, and now with the help and work of many, it wants once more to show us its beauty. More than a formal restoration, which always attempts to reproduce the original appearance, this restoration has sought to preserve the beauty of the past while making room for all the newness of the present. A Spanish, Indian and Afro-American cathedral thus becomes a Panamanian cathedral, belonging both to past generations and to those of today who made it possible. It no longer belongs only to the past: it is a thing of beauty for the present.

Today it is once more a place of peace that encourages us to renew and nurture our hope, to discover how the beauty of yesterday becomes a basis for creating the beauty of tomorrow.

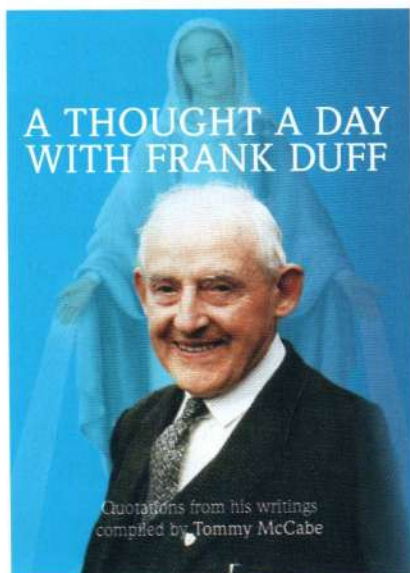
That is how the Lord works.

Brothers and sisters, may we not allow ourselves to be robbed of the beauty we have inherited from our ancestors. May it be a living and fruitful root that will help us continue to make beautiful and prophetic the history of salvation in these lands.

On the back cover of this issue you may marvel at the famous painting of the Annunciation by Fra Angelico, the great Italian renaissance painter who gained the name Angelico because of his personal holiness as a Dominican Friar. In 1982 Pope John Paul II formally declared him "Blessed." At the time of his formal beatification, the normal evidence of miracles as proof of exceptional holiness was not required because, as Pope John Paul II declared: 'His miracles are his paintings.'



The Annunciation
by Fra Angelico



A THOUGHT FOR THE DAY WITH FRANK DUFF

Compiled by Tommy McCabe

Frank Duff: Mary bore a Son who was God, and ever since He likes to listen to her petitions – just as any great man would like to please his mother.

Frank Duff: The moon shines with the light of the sun; it has no light of its own. Similarly, Our Lady is lustrous with the light of her Child; she lives by Him; what she gives is His.

Frank Duff: Remember, God will enter in if He finds something which is responsive to Him.

Frank Duff: Know the Gospels. Oh, do not deprive your minds of that intellectual treat and your soul of that Heavenly treat.

Frank Duff: We must be honest and thorough; we must produce; we must add to that which we have received from others, and then pass it on.

Frank Duff: It is a divine principle what one begins on earth one continues in Heaven.

Frank Duff: Denial of Mary leads inevitably to the denial of the Incarnation.

Copies of this lovely book may be purchase direct from Concilium at €7 each.
Copies may also be purchased from St. Pauls Publishing, Maynooth, Co. Kildare
and from Veritas, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin 1.

Praises of Mary



Happy are those to whom the Holy Spirit reveals the Secret of Mary in order that they may come to know her.

Happy are those to whom He opens the "Enclosed Garden" that they may enter and to whom He gives access to the "Sealed Fountain" that they may drink of the living waters of grace. *St. Louis Grignion de Montfort*

Mary's words were discreet, and her voice was measured.

She did not shout and she was careful not to say anything bad about another person - nor even to listen willingly to a wrong that was spoken.

St. Athanasius

Mary is the heir and fulfilment of the faith of Abraham. Just as he is regarded as "our father," so Mary must with greater reason be regarded as "our Mother" in faith.

Through Mary's faith and obedience, all the families of the earth are blessed, in accord with the promise made to Abraham (Genesis 12:3).

Pope Saint John Paul II

See the humility. Note the devotion. She who has been chosen to be the Mother of the Lord calls herself His handmaid!

In no way does she become haughty over this promise of such an exalted position. She does not take as a right what is freely given as a grace.

St. Ambrose

When Mary became the Mother of Jesus, true God and true Man, she also became our Mother.

In His great mercy, Jesus wished to call us His brothers and sisters, and by this name He constituted us adopted children of Mary. *St. John Bosco*

Hope takes its rise in faith. God enlightens us by faith to know His goodness and the promises He has made and so rise by hope to the desire of possessing Him.

Since Mary had the virtue of faith in the highest degree, she also had hope to that same degree. *St. Alphonsus Liguori*





SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina: Buenos Aires **Senatus** organised great celebrations in January for the 60th anniversary of the death of the Servant of God Alfie Lambe, Legion of Mary Envoy to South America 1953 – 1959. The attendance included representatives from several countries. Noel Lynch, former Legion Envoy to Argentina represented the Concilium. The *Maria Legionis* intends to carry a detailed account of the celebrations in a future edition. In **Cordoba Senatus** the Legion in Dean Funes report home and nursing home visitation, street contact and public Rosaries as some of their works. In **Salta Senatus** families moving into new barrios are encouraged to start a praesidium and also engage in True Devotion to the Nation. In **Corrientes Regia** a new Extension committee set up three new presidia, one of them in a town where half the population are evangelists. In **Rosario Regia** works include preparing prisoners for First Communion and Confirmation, street contact and book barrow apostolate. The legionaries are giving special attention to their own preparation, both spiritual and practical.

Bolivia: Each month, in the **Senatus of La Paz**, conversions from the sects are reported. Groups of young people are met and spoken with for a few weeks before forming new junior praesidia. Exploratio Dominicalis is often done in rural areas in the local languages of Aymará and Quechua. Alfie Lambe's Anniversary is never forgotten as he started the Legion in Bolivia.

Brazil: In **Belem Senatus** home, hospital and nursing home visitation and teaching catechism are undertaken. A Curia in **Belo**

Horizonte Senatus reported 834 visits to homes. The attached Regia of Monte Claros reported the conversion of five Protestant families. In preparation for the centenary of the Legion of Mary the **Fortaleza Senatus** is sending a statue of Our Lady of Graces around praesidia and councils in their area. Visitation is undertaken to homes, nursing homes, hospitals and prisons in **Ponta Grossa Senatus**. Many new praesidia were set up in the **Recife Senatus**. Young people are contacted in trains, on the buses and in schools. Minutes of one meeting of the **Rio de Janeiro Senatus** show almost 7,000 visits to homes. Visits were made to 243 families, by the attached Niteroi Regia. Visits were made to two councils and 21 praesidia in the Amazonian region. Legionary catechists in **Salvador Senatus** prepared 26 adolescents to receive the sacraments of Baptism and First Holy Communion. The attached Regia of Aracaju carried out Peregrinatio Pro Christo to Salamanca in Spain. Praesidia in the **Santa Maria Senatus** area have as many as 15 members each. **São Luís Senatus:** Eleven Enthronements of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary were carried out. There was an attendance of 2,200 at a Concelebrated Mass in the Cathedral organised by the **São Paulo Senatus** to mark the Legion's 97th Anniversary. A Congress of young legionaries had an attendance of 125. In the **Brasilia Regia** area, in the city of Anapolis, almost 2,000 home visits were reported over a period of four months.

Chile: In the **Senatus of Santiago** immigrants arriving in Chile are joining praesidia in great numbers. Punta Arenas Curia had a visit from their Bishop who praised them saying that if it

wasn't for the Legion, this would be a very sorry place spiritually. Some auxiliaries have started prayer groups and eventually became active members.

Colombia: Reports to the **Senatus of Bogota** show work among the homeless resulted in one man returning to college to finish his studies. A Video Club in a prison shows films on the lives of the saints. There is an apostolate to military personnel. The Regia of Baranquilla reports 10 new senior and 15 new junior praesidia. The Regia of Villavicencio set up three new Curiae and four new praesidia. The Regia of Neiva reported 700 undertook the True Devotion to Mary consecration. In **Medellin Senatus**, legionaries in an attached Curia took Holy Communion to many sick and housebound. The attached Regia of Arma reported 80 legionaries doing prison visitation.

Ecuador: Home visitation is very prominent in the **Senatus of Quito** and many conversions are reported including that of a Jehovah Witness. Exploratio Dominicalis projects have been carried out in many areas. Legionaries report helping invalids and bringing them to the doctor.

Paraguay: In the **Senatus of Asunción** the women's prison is visited and a praesidium is being formed there. The Senatus has formed an Alfie Lambe Committee to promote his cause. The works of the new Regia Stella Maris include: catechesis, home visitation, an apostolate to colleges and Enthronement of the Sacred Heart.

Peru: Reports presented to the **Senatus of Lima** showed 82,000 home visits, 29,000 visits to the sick, 42,000 street contacts and 16,000 people prepared for the Sacraments; the Sacred Heart was enthroned in 4,934 homes. Several praesidia visit prisons each week and there are six praesidia made up of prisoners. Several book barrows are in use. Almost all

praesidia carry out an annual Exploratio Dominicalis project. They report over 600 visits to public buildings with an image of Our Lady. Considerable work is done with the Quechua-speaking peoples. The Legion has been extended to Cuyumalca and Santa Rosa.

Uruguay: The **Senatus de Montevideo** reported on home, hospital and prison visitation and street contact, catechesis and mobile Chapels. Rosary Groups have been organised in apartment blocks.

Venezuela: The Legion exists in every Diocese. The **Caracas Senatus** reports a number of praesidia in formation. Also reported are people rescued from witchcraft and 20 abortions avoided. Extension in the Comitium of Guadalupe resulted in 11 senior and 3 junior praesidia.

AFRICA

Democratic Republic of Congo: Bukavu Senatus had an attendance of 1,433 Legionaries at the Acies on 26 May 2018, in the presence of the Archbishop of Bukavu, Mgr. F. Xavier Rusengo, who celebrated the Mass. In his homily, he expressed his appreciation of the Legionaries for their spirituality and the discretion of their works. He requested that each member should choose a priest for whom they would pray daily. In **Butembo Senatus** seven new praesidia were set up for young people. Retreats on themes such as drunkenness and its consequences, sexuality and its corollaries were prepared and given. Camps were organised to promote peace and harmony among youth during holiday season with the help of prayer and activities, i.e. work in the fields, breeding of chickens, showing educational films and organising games. In July, the month of the Precious Blood, prayers were asked for forgiveness of those who have spilled the blood of the Congolese through killings, abortions and lootings.

In **Lubumbashi Senatus** two Exploratio Dominicalis projects took place, with 546 homes visited, bringing about the conversion of five people and the setting up of six new praesidia. In a Comitium, attached to **Kisangani Senatus**, four young men legionaries have entered a Seminary, and two young women legionaries entered a religious order. In the **Kinshasa Senatus** The Acies took place 25 March in the Deanery parish of each Curia. The Senatus has sadly announced the death of Bro. Ernest Luwawu, who was twice President of the Senatus. R.I.P. Visitation of the Central Prison is among works undertaken. A Comitium attached to the **Kananga Senatus** had a recruitment drive during Easter which resulted in the return of 420 former legionaries to membership, 1,120 returns to Mass and Confession, and 15 children baptised.

Republic of Congo: In the **Senatus of Brazzaville** home visitation and teaching catechism feature in many reports, also highlighting many returns to the Sacraments, undertaking instruction in the Catholic faith and bringing of the Sacraments to the housebound. Much visitation of the sick, prisoners, orphans and bereaved is undertaken. Mass was organised in a prison and at a hospital.

Guinea: Fr. Declan Lohan who had been Correspondent with **Conakry Comitium** in Guinea, recently visited Conakry on behalf of Concilium accompanied by one of the legionaries from Maynooth and two officers from the Senatus of Lomé in Togo, the result of which was a request from the Conakry officers for their Comitium to be affiliated to the Senatus of Lomé (Togo). Concilium gave its approval.

Kenya: In the **Senatus of Kenya** the annual Mass at Venerable Edel Quinn's grave in Nairobi had a large attendance of legionaries, including some from Uganda, Tanzania, and Malawi. **Kisumu Regia** reported that in the course of

hospital visitation the priest was brought to 2,223 patients and 755 were baptised. Over 5,000 homes were visited resulting in 398 couples receiving the sacrament of marriage. Over 5,000 people were recruited for instruction classes and 2,447 were baptised. 1,703 infants were baptised and 2,087 adults returned to the Church.

Lesotho: The Spiritual Director of the **Lesotho Senatus** is planning to translate the Venerable Edel Quinn and Alfie Lambe prayers into Sesotho. Some praesidia organise meetings for auxiliary members. One praesidium reported visiting fifty children in a special home.

Malawi: In **Blantyre Senatus** there is a great focus on setting up praesidia in Secondary Schools. A praesidium in **Maula Senatus** reported on home visitation where six couples agreed to receive the sacrament of marriage. The couples had all their children baptised. Thirty families returned to practice of the faith.

Nigeria: One Comitium in **Abuja Senatus** reported 55 conversions, 15 couples received the sacrament of marriage and 117 lapsed returned to the Sacraments. **Makurdi Regia** reported 263 conversions and 21 new praesidia. A total of 1,228 legionaries in **Benin City Regia** took part in four week-long evangelisation projects. A praesidium in **Ibadan Senatus** visits homes, a hospital and a brothel; they give catechism instruction. **Nsukka Regia**, attached to **Enugu Senatus**, has over 20,000 members; almost 6,000 are probationers. Reports included 54 prostitutes changing their way of life, Confession arranged for 166 hospital patients, 15 prisoners received into the Church and two new Patricians groups started. **Awgu Regia** recruited 232 members, established a number of new praesidia and a new senior and junior Curia. As a result of Exploratio Dominicalis projects 60 non-Catholics converted to the Catholic Faith. A Comitium in **Onitsha Regia** prepared 1,200 for

First Holy Communion, 273 for Baptism and 178 couples for Marriage. 29 lapsed returned to the Sacraments. A family of five were received into the Church. Reports from a Comitium in **Ikot Ekpene Regia** included 73 prepared for Baptism. The Regia is working on the Efik translation of the Handbook. Active works carried out in **Jos Regia** include home and hospital visitation, catechism instruction, care of children at Mass, care for junior praesidia, crowd contact, marriage counselling and family Rosary. There was a report to **Lagos Regia** that at a gathering of non Christians and non-Catholics the Rosary was taught to the people present.

Rwanda: In **Kigali Senatus** home, hospital and prison visitation are among the works done, as well as contacting orphans, street children and prostitutes. One Comitium and two new Curiae were set up.

Senegal: Works undertaken by legionaries in the **Dakar Comitium** include home, hospital and prison visitation, plus teaching catechism. Baptism and returns to the Sacraments and couples receiving the sacrament of marriage were reported.

Sierra Leone: There was an improvement in attendance at the November meeting of the **Freetown Curia** which they attributed to the recent visit to praesidia by the Spiritual Director and Curia Officers. The Spiritual Director emphasised the need for regular attendance at Curia, submission of Annual Reports, study of the Handbook and promotion of all grades of membership.

South Africa: A praesidium in **Johannesburg Senatus** carries out home visitation, speaking to people about the faith and encouraging lapsed Catholics to return to the Sacraments. Street contact is also done and one youth contacted attended RCIA meetings. A praesidium in Durban Comitium engages in

home and hospital visitation. They have 30 auxiliaries. A praesidium in Matatiele Comitium reported eight people returned to the Church and nine catechumens were baptised. Another praesidium reported that 21 children were revived in their faith and a further 15 were baptised. Members of the Marianhill Comitium visit parishes in the area to talk about the Legion with a view to getting it started in these parishes. The Spiritual Director is very enthusiastic about extending the Legion. Among the works mentioned in the Annual Report is visiting the sick, both in hospital and at home. There was good news of the return of a large family to the Church after a long absence. At the Acies of the **Cape Town Senatus** Archbishop Stephen Brislin spoke highly of the Legion of Mary and the work they do in Cape Town. Legionaries visited Namibia. Planning for the Centenary celebration has started. A team of legionaries will visit parishes to speak about the Legion and set up new praesidia.

Southern Sudan: There are two Curiae functioning in Juba Archdiocese and they had a very successful training day in July. The Senatus of Uganda are helping the legionaries in Southern Sudan but they have been asked to defer their visit to the Yambio Diocese due to difficulties in the country. The Legion is present in the 22 parishes in Yambio Diocese but there is no Curia. Uganda invited two priests from Sudan to their priests' Conference in Uganda.

Tanzania: In **Dar-es-Salaam Regia** in February each year Seminarists help with a Legion of Mary promotion in the parishes, resulting in many new members. The Swahili Handbook has been published. The Regia has also translated "*I knew Edel Quinn*". Two legionaries from the Regia spent a week visiting the various Curiae and praesidia in Mtwara Diocese. They received a great welcome

especially from Bishop Titus Mdoe who put a car and driver at their disposal for the week. Works in **Hai Moshi Comitium** include home and hospital visitation, contact with drug and alcohol addicts, encouraging couples to marry in Church and preparing adults and children for the Sacraments. Particular attention is given to contact with youth and establishing junior praesidia.

Togo: Several Curiae attached to **Lomé Senatus** held Congresses and many projects of Exploratio Dominalis were mentioned in the reports. Home, prison and hospital visitation as well as teaching catechism are among the works done. Several abortions were prevented. Sotouboua Comitium reported 48 conversions. A detailed report of the visit to Conakry was given. One legionary made her final profession as a religious sister. 19 participated in the successful Peregrinatio Pro Christo to Ghana and the Peregrinatio Pro Christo to Badou in Togo had 18 participants.

Uganda: The **Senatus of Uganda** organised a very successful priests' Conference for three days in August. 156 Spiritual Directors from the 19 Dioceses in Uganda participated. Two priests from Juba Archdiocese, Southern Sudan also took part. His Excellency, Archbishop August Blume, Apostolic Nuncio opened the Conference and His Grace, Archbishop Emmanuel Obbo, Tororo, closed it. The theme of the Conference was "The Young must be specially sought for and catered for."

Zambia: One Comitium attached to **Lusaka Regia** has translated the handbook into the Bemba language. The Regia Officers are working hard visiting the legionaries in distant dioceses. The legionaries in Lusaka have a special prison ministry.

Zimbabwe: Harare Curia takes six-monthly reports from its five praesidia and visits them on a regular basis. They are trying to contact

the Legion councils in other parts of Zimbabwe with a view to putting them back in touch with Concilium. The Treasurer of the Hwange Comitium attended the August Concilium meeting.

OCEANIA

Australia: **Melbourne Senatus** celebrated its 1,000th meeting with some past Presidents attending. Adoration and Benediction and refreshments followed. A Summer School had an attendance of 120 including legionaries from Fiji. Reports show Extension, Retreats, teaching catechism, and visits to lapsed. Western Suburbs Curia reports eight Pilgrim statues are in circulation. Twelve adults were received into the Church. In **Sydney Senatus** most of the apostolate is door-to-door visitation with the co-operation of the Parish Priest. The apostolate includes recruitment for Eucharistic Adoration and involvement in all aspects of parish life. Visits are made also to hospitals and nursing homes distributing Miraculous Medals and circulating the Statue of Our Lady. Legionaries teach Catechism. Book barrow apostolate is undertaken at the train station and street contact also done. Mass is organised in the State schools. The Vietnamese Curia has an active membership of 143 and over 1,000 auxiliaries. Works reported to **Brisbane Comitium** included visiting the hospital and bringing Catholic literature; visiting sick and elderly people and transporting them to Mass; bringing Holy Communion to residents of nursing homes and assisting residents to Mass; Pilgrim statue visitation, and giving assistance at funerals. The Korean Curia has five praesidia. Visits are made to the lapsed, non-Catholics, and bereaved; they transport migrant families to Mass, and teach catechism. Members of a Vietnamese praesidium visit the sick, lonely and bereaved.

New Zealand: In **Auckland Senatus** a praesidium organises Catholic Movie Nights based on the lives of the Saints. 50 juniors attended a Retreat. Other reports featured outdoor Rosaries recited in October, and a young adults' discussion group; a Brown Scapular enrolment and an Exploratio Dominicalis project, visiting 600 homes. Other work reported: 50 Miraculous Medals distributed during Fresher's Week. The Korean Comitium in Auckland has 16 senior and three junior praesidia and there are eight praesidia attached to the Korean Curia in Christchurch.

Pacific Islands: *Attached to Melbourne Senatus:* Noumea Comitium, **New Caledonia**, reported ten Curiae on **Wallis Island**. 160 legionaries

attended a Retreat and the juniors had their own Retreat. One praesidium on the Island has started a Novena for families in dispute and visitation is done to the tribes including Protestant ones. Catechism is taught. *Attached to Sydney Senatus:* In **East Timor** the Legion is very strong and reaches out to the lapsed. The **Solomon Islands** has a Comitium and they carry out an excellent apostolate. *Attached to Auckland Senatus:* A Curia in **Tonga** was in touch after a long time and reported six senior and three junior praesidia with a membership of 29, including five Praetorians. Legionaries in **Samoa** have an apostolate to the lapsed, prepare children for Baptism and urge couples living together to avail of the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Legion Update: Good News!

Concilium Legio Mariae is pleased to announce that on 23 November, 2018 Juridical Validity of the Diocesan Process held in Argentina for the Servant of God, Alfie Lambe was given by the Congregation for Causes in Rome. Fr. Festa, Postulator, will now ask for a Relator to be appointed by the Congregation. *Deo Gratias*

Prayer for the Beatification of the Servant of God Alphonsus Lambe

O God, by your infinite mercy inflamed the heart of your servant Alphonsus Lambe with an ardent love for you and for Mary, Our mother, a love which revealed itself in a life of intense prayer and sacrifice for the salvation of souls, grant, if it be your will, that we might obtain by his intercession, what we cannot obtain by our own merits.

We ask this through Jesus Christ Our lord,
Amen.

with ecclesiastical approval



FAVOURS ATTRIBUTED TO HIS INTERCESSION

Should kindly be reported to:

Concilium, Legion of Mary, Brunswick Street, Dublin 7.

The Annunciation by Fra Angelico

Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid



Fra Angelico's painting of the Annunciation is displayed in the Prado Museum, Madrid. It is a large altarpiece painted circa 1430 and stands a little over six feet square. The Virgin Mary is seated in an open porch with her arms crossed and an open book on her lap. The Angel Gabriel stands at a respectful distance and awaits Mary's reply. On the top-left corner two open hands, in a blaze of light, is directing a golden beam towards Mary, while a dove, representing the Holy Spirit, is travelling within the beam of light.

The porch leads into a beautiful Garden of Eden from which an unhappy Adam and Eve are being expelled by an angel. Because of their disobedience, humanity has lost Paradise, but now through the obedience of Mary, Our Saviour Jesus has taken flesh in the womb of Mary, and through His Death and Resurrection restores to mankind our lost heritage. Throughout the centuries the Church considers Jesus as the New Adam who would conquer sin and death, and considers Mary as the New Eve.

