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*Maria Legionis*



# Maria Legionis

The Voice of the Legion of Mary

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## "Jesus The Teacher" – *Antonio Bongiorno*

"The Christian has no keen expectations, no acute mortifications. He is fair, equitable, considerate towards all men, because he has no temptation to be otherwise, he has no violence, no animosity, no bigotry...

He knows that his Lord and Saviour must triumph "

Cardinal John Henry Newman  
Parochical and Plain Sermons V, nn 64-65



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# The Cause of Frank Duff

*Fr. Bede McGregor O.P.  
Postulator for the Cause*



*Dear Legionaries,*

*As Postulator, I am writing to  
legionaries all over the world*

*concerning the Cause for Beatification of our  
founder, the Servant of God, Frank Duff.*

*First of all, I wish to thank you for all you have  
already done to help the Cause and for what  
you continue to do.*

*The Cause was formally introduced by Cardinal Desmond Connell in 1996 and consists of several parts.*

#### **THE FIRST PART -**

was the huge task of collecting all the writings of Frank Duff: his books, articles and letters (so far totalling about 33,000), his tapes, books written about him and indeed any material that might prove significant in an evaluation of his life and holiness. This part of the Cause process has been completed.

#### **THE SECOND PART -**

concerned the Tribunal, which consisted of examining witnesses under oath about the life and virtues and any possible faults in our founder. The Tribunal conducted by the representative of Cardinal Connell, the Promoter of Justice, and two secretaries. This took place over several months and has largely been completed.

#### **THE THIRD PART -**

concerned the theological assessment of the published works of our founder and this has been done by two distinguished theologians.

#### **THE FOURTH PART -**

concerns the work of the Historical Commission. This has still to be done and submitted to the Episcopal Delegate. We need your prayers to help bring this pivotal part of the process to a successful conclusion as soon as possible.

Alongside all the above work we continue to keep a record of all the favours, big and small, which have been granted through the intercession of our founder.

Once all the above steps have been concluded all the material is submitted to the Archbishop of Dublin. If he judges everything to be in order, he would then forward the relevant papers to Rome for the next phase of the Process.

Integral to all of this is the promotion of the Cause by legionaries throughout the world. This consists of making Frank Duff better known both inside and outside of the Legion. In addition, we need to continue to pray to our founder for favours and especially for miracles.

The central point of my letter to you, dear legionaries, is to encourage you to keep on praying for the Cause.

Thank you to the many legionaries who have already translated the prayer leaflet into your own languages and dialects. Please continue to distribute these to legionaries and to the general public in the belief that our founder is looking after our needs. One of the first questions, which will be asked in Rome, is: "Is there any demand for his Beatification?"

"Who desires it?" Surely at least our estimated membership of 10,000,000 (between active and auxiliary members), would deeply long for it?

It is up to all of us to show in practice our desire to have our founder beatified.

Cardinal John Henry Newman, a seminal influence on Frank Duff and very frequently quoted in the Handbook, was



Beatified recently. His Beatification ceremony had a huge impact on those who were present and continues to have an impact on the whole Church. This should spur us on to work hard at making Frank Duff better known. If every country, where the Legion is present, worked to promote his Cause, he would be a source of great blessings and encouragement to many people. His spirit and the spirit of Mary would be a tremendous gift to any individual or group or local Church and indeed to a nation.

It is important to always remember that we are not simply concerned with showing that Frank Duff was a truly great man but we pray that if it be God's



will he should be declared to be a saint. We seek to bring to light for the benefit of the Legion of Mary but principally for the whole Church his heroic practise of the theological and moral virtues, the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit in his life and the inspiration and example of the dynamism and fire of his interior life. We need to know not just the external chronology of his life and his many achievements but much more the story of his very soul. His life illustrates the call to holiness of all the lay faithful of the Church and the limitless call and possibilities of the lay apostolate.

The promotional side is one of the most important aspects of the Cause. This belongs in a special way to every individual legionary. It is a very real way in which you can participate in the process of the Cause. Once again, thank you for the contribution you are making.

Let us pray to Mary, who is the Mother and real Foundress of the Legion, to help us in all our endeavours for the Cause.

Yours gratefully in Corde Mariae,

*Fr. Bede McGregor*

Bede McGregor O.P.

Postulator for the Cause

# The Apostle takes Her to His own

John xix. 27.

*Frank Duff*



In the *Handbook* it has been stressed that we cannot pick and choose in Christ; that we cannot receive the Christ of glory without at the same time bringing into our lives the Christ of pain and persecution; because there is but the one Christ who cannot be divided. We have to take Him as He is. If we go to Him seeking peace and happiness, we may find that we have nailed ourselves to the Cross. The opposites are mixed up and cannot be separated; no pain, no palm; no thorn,

no throne; no gall, no glory; no cross, no crown. We reach out for the one and find that we have got the other with it.

And, of course, the same law applies to Our Blessed Lady. Neither can she be divided up into compartments as between which we may pick and choose what seems to suit us. We cannot join her in her joys without finding that presently our hearts are riven with her sufferings.

## ADEQUATE DEVOTION MEANS UNION

If we want, like St. John the beloved disciple, to take her to our own (John xix. 27), it must be in her completeness. If we are willing to accept only a phase of her being, we may hardly receive her at all. Obviously devotion to her must attend to and try to reproduce every aspect of

her personality and mission. It must not chiefly concern itself with what is not the most important.



For instance, it is valuable to regard her as our exquisite model whose virtues we must draw into ourselves. But to do that and to do no more would be a partial and indeed a petty devotion to her.

Neither is it enough to pray to her, even though it be in considerable quantity. Nor is it enough to know and rejoice at the innumerable and startling ways in which the Three Divine Persons have encompassed her, and

built upon her, and caused her to reflect Their own attributes. All these tributes of respect are due to her and must be given to her, but they are no more than parts of the whole. Adequate devotion to her is only achieved by union with her. Union necessarily means community of life with her; and her life does not consist mainly in the claiming of admiration but in the communicating of grace.

## MOTHERHOOD – MARY'S DESTINY

Her whole life and destiny have been motherhood, first of Christ and then of men. For that she was prepared and brought into existence by the Holy Trinity after an eternal deliberation (as St. Augustine remarks). On the day of the Annunciation she entered on her wondrous work, and ever since she has been the busy mother attending to her household duties. For a while these were contained in Nazareth, but soon the little house became the whole wide world, and her Son expanded into mankind. And so it has continued; all the time her domestic work goes on and nothing in that Nazareth-grown-big can be performed without her.

Any caring of the Lord's Body is only supplemental to her care; the apostle only adds himself to her maternal occupations; and in that sense

Our Lady might declare: "I am Apostleship," almost as she said: "I am the Immaculate Conception."



That motherhood of souls being her essential function and her very life, it follows that without participation in it there can be no real union with her. Therefore, let the position be stated once again: true devotion to Mary must comprise the service of souls. Mary without motherhood and the Christian without apostleship, would be analogous ideas. Both the one and other would be incomplete, unreal, unsubstantial, false to the Divine intention.

# I am Apostleship





# "I am the Immaculate Conception"

## DEVOTION TO MARY MEANS APOSTLESHIP

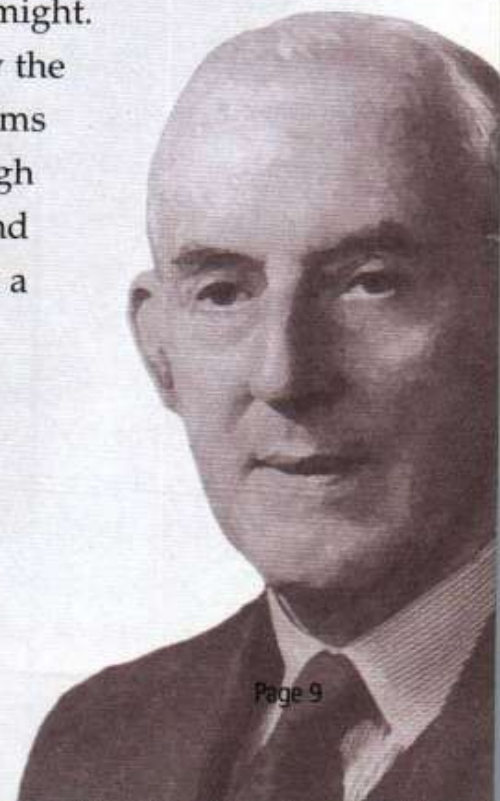
Accordingly, the Legion is not built, as some suppose, upon two principles, i.e., Mary and apostleship, but upon the single principle of Mary, which principle embraces apostleship and (rightly understood) the entire Christian life.

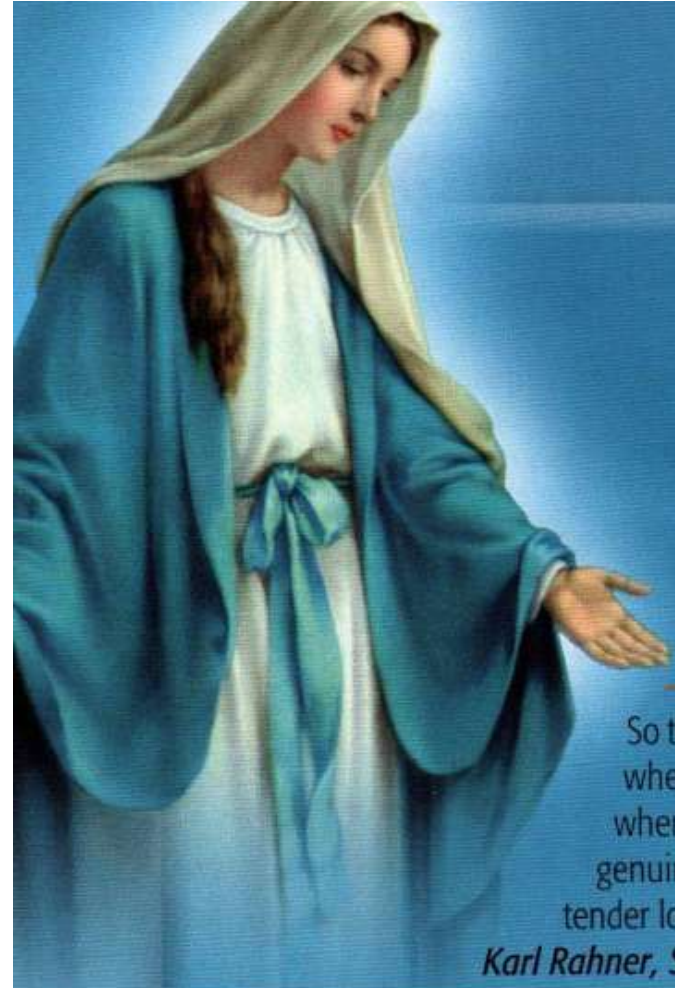
Wishful thinking is proverbially an empty process. A mere verbal offering of our services to Mary can be as empty. It is not to be thought that apostolic duties will descend from Heaven on those who content themselves with waiting passively for that to happen. It is rather to be feared that those idle ones will continue in their state of unemployment. The only effective method of offering ourselves as apostles is to undertake apostleship. That step taken, at once Mary embraces our activity and incorporates it in her motherhood.

Moreover, Mary cannot do without that help. But surely this suggestion goes too far? How could the Virgin so powerful be dependent on the aid of persons so weak? But, indeed, such is the case. It is a part of the divine arrangement which requires our co-operation and which does not save

man otherwise than through man. It is true that Mary's treasury of grace is superabundant, but she cannot spend from it without our help. If she could use her power according to her heart alone, the world would be converted in the twinkling of an eye. But she has to wait till the human agencies are available to her. Deprived of them, she cannot fulfil her motherhood, and souls starve and die. So she welcomes eagerly any who will really place themselves at her disposal, and she will utilise them, one and all; not only the holy and the fit, but likewise the infirm and the unfit. So needed are they all that none will be rejected. Even the least can transmit much of the power of Mary; while through those that are better she can put forth her might.

Bear in mind how the sunlight streams dazzlingly through a clean window and struggles through a dirty one.





# Praises of Mary

So there is no need for us to be nervous, sparing or niggardly when we honour Mary. It is a sign of a truly Catholic life, when there grows to maturity in our hearts, slowly but genuinely, cultivated humbly and faithfully, a personal and tender love of the Blessed Virgin.

*Karl Rahner, S.J.*

By honouring and imitating Our Great Queen and Mother, Christians will come to know each other as genuine brethren. They will get tired of jealousy and greed. They will work to promote social charity. They will respect the rights of the poor and the weak. They will be lovers of peace.

*Pope Pius XII*

It is the nature of Jesus Christ to lead us to the Father. In the same way, it is the nature of the Blessed Virgin to lead us surely to Jesus.  
Saint Louis Grignon de Montfort

Virgo Praedicanda means the virgin who must be preached – that is we must announce her, we must tell the world about her: this virgin most great: this virgin most essential: this co-operator in salvation both in its roots and in its fruits; the woman through whom Our Lord came on earth and without whom He would not have come – the New Eve beside the New Adam.

*Frank Duff*

Oh Mother of love, you have given me your Heart. Now take firm possession of my heart and offer it completely to the pure love and sole glory of your beloved Son.

*Saint John Eudes*





# Celebrating Ninety Years of the Legion of Mary

*by Janet Lowthe*



Myra House, Francis Street, Dublin, Ireland,  
where the Legion of Mary was founded in 1921

**W**hen we mention the celebration of any anniversary, it is normal to look back at the past and reminisce, to think of the highs and lows during that time. Without doubt the Legion of Mary encountered various difficulties, since that first meeting in Myra House, Francis Street on September 7, 1921 but the last 90 years have also witnessed abundant blessings for our organisation, a wonderful development and growth of the Legion spreading to all comers of the globe, with an approximate membership of **many, many millions** and a presence in more than 170 countries. The history of the Legion since 1921 is a wonderful story, there are many visible positive results but one can be sure that

membership of and the apostolate of the Legion will have brought many more wonderful unseen results over the years.

The Legion was founded well before the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) yet the documents of the Second Vatican Council correspond to the Legion's concept of the lay apostolate.



The last 90 years has brought great changes to society, many of these making life easier, improved standard of living, transport, communications etc. Many of the apostolic works of the Legion have also changed as the different needs of society evolved, yet the core aim and reason for the existence of the Legion of Mary in 2011 is exactly as it was in 1921 and despite all the wonderful advancements in technology, personal contact with an individual will still remain the greatest way of approaching people. When we think about this, maybe in today's world there is an even greater need for personal contact with people.

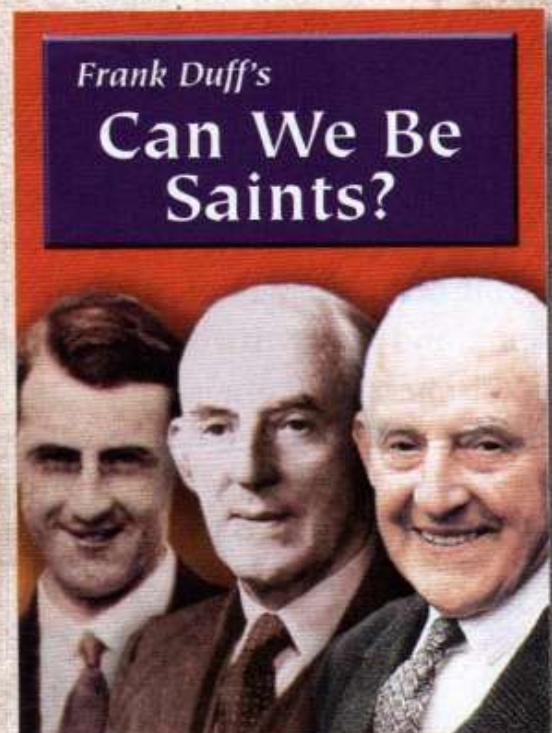
## On this anniversary we should look to the future.

In an Allocutio on *The Legion and the New Evangelisation* in May 2006, Fr. Bede McGregor O.P. Spiritual Director of the Concilium summed up the core aim and reason for the existence of The Legion of Mary when he said -

*"All legionaries should know that the Legion exists in order to evangelise. That means that the legionary is called to live the Gospel fully and to share the Gospel fully. Or in the language of the Legion family we are called above everything to be saints. That is the primary explicit focus of our lives and flowing from that our lives must be authentically apostolic. The Legion is a school for making saints and minting apostles"*

## Primary object

The primary object of the Legion is the personal sanctification of its members. The call to be a Saint is daunting for many of us! In his first ever publication our Founder, The Servant of God Frank Duff, helps those of us who might be overawed when he says "Thus, there is another definition of what a Saint is. It is this: One who, with the object of pleasing God, does his ordinary duties extraordinarily well. Such a life may be lived out without a single wonder in it, arouse little notice, be soon forgotten, and yet be the life of one of God's dearest friends." (Can we be Saints?)





*"It must not be forgotten that the Legion is for the lowly and underprivileged as much as for the learned and powerful."*

Since its very beginning a wonderful feature of the Legion of Mary is that it is for everyone, not just the highly intellectual and very talented people but for all of us "little people" too, it is for all who will generously use the many or the few talents that the Lord has given them. The late Father Thomas P. O'Flynn, C.M., former Spiritual Director of the Concilium said *"It must not be forgotten that the Legion is for the lowly and underprivileged as much as for the learned and powerful."* Every Christian without exception, is called to be apostolic, each one of us has a duty to the Ascension commandment of *"Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation."* (Mk 16:15)

Keeping in mind that *"The Legion is a school for making saints and minting apostles"*, membership of the Legion will help us to put the Ascension commandment into action.

## Looking to the future

Looking to the future of the Legion of Mary, a very apt quote from our Legion Handbook is -

*"A primary law for every religious society is to perpetuate itself, to extend its apostolic action over the world, and to reach the greatest possible number of souls. 'Increase and multiply and fill the earth.' (Gen 1, 28) This law of life imposes itself as a duty upon each person who becomes a member of the Society. Pere Chaminade thus formulates this law:— 'We must make conquest for the Blessed Virgin, make those with whom we live understand how sweet it is to belong to Mary so as to induce many of them to join us in our onward march.'"*

(Petit Traite de Marialogie Marianiste)

## What is our role in the future?

Many of us are very fortunate to be active members of the Legion, it has helped us greatly, bringing our Catholic Faith to life, giving us the opportunity to play our part in evangelisation and bestowing many blessings on our lives. We now have a duty to maintain the special spirituality of our organisation, to be loyal and obedient to our Legion system but we must also strive even more to involve others in the lay apostolate of the Church.



The Legion was blessed to have the presence of its Founder Frank Duff for almost 60 years. During these years he was always on hand to guide and help. He helped so many people who came into personal contact with him and also the many people around the world to whom he wrote letters. These included people from all walks of life. During his life he wrote in excess of 33,000 letters as well as giving many talks.



The theme of the worldwide Legion for 2011 is **The Charism of Frank Duff and the Legion of Mary.**

This gives everyone a great incentive to encourage people to learn more about Frank Duff and to promote the writings of Frank Duff to all, not just to the active legionaries. His charism is something special, therefore it is something to be shared and promoted.

The Legion is blessed to have a wonderful powerhouse of Auxiliary members, who support the Legion through their prayer. (They pray all the Legion prayers on the Tessera and the Rosary every day.) There are also many people who are associated with the Legion in various ways, e.g. those attending the Society of Patricians (discussion groups) and going on pilgrimages organised by the Legion. The Legion is a family and as we celebrate the 90 Anniversary and look to the future, hopefully our Auxiliary members and friends will also seek to learn more about our Founder and use opportunities they may have to encourage others to recite the prayer for his beatification, to read his writings and to embrace the Charism of Frank Duff.

*It is strongly recommended that every active and auxiliary member of the Legion of Mary daily recite this prayer*

God our Father,

You inspired your servant Frank Duff with a profound insight into the mystery of your Church, the Body of Christ, and of the place of Mary the Mother of Jesus in this mystery.

In his immense desire to share this insight with others and in filial dependence on Mary he formed her Legion to be a sign of her maternal love for the world and a means of enlisting all her children in the Church's evangelising work.

We thank you Father for the graces conferred on him and for the benefits accruing to the Church from his courageous and shining faith.

With confidence we beg you that through his intercession you grant the petition we lay before you...

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

through Christ our Lord, Amen.

With ecclesiastical approval



Favours attributed through his intercession should be notified in writing to: Legion of Mary, De Montfort House, Morning Star Avenue, Brunswick Street, Dublin 7, Ireland.

# Mater Dei Happy Valley Hong Kong

*Mary Greeney*



## **MATER DEI COMPRISES 16 PRAESIDIA FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES AROUND THE HAPPY VALLEY AREA, HONG KONG.**

It has over 160 active members. It presented its 46th Annual Report to the Rosari Senior Curia, to which it is attached. The Senior Curia expressed hearty appreciation of the young legionaries' dedication in bringing more youth under the standard of Mary and said that their progress has truly inspired all the Senior members.

Every Saturday the members from various Praesidia gather in Sham Shui Po (Home of Love) to help students ranging from primary to secondary school with their school work. They also incorporate some religious elements, aiming to not only help them academically, but also spiritually. Following the teaching session the legionaries help with kitchen work, as the Home of Love is a centre for street sleepers. Contacts are made among the residents there too.

St Mary's home is a new assignment for most of the legionaries. On Saturdays legionaries gather to help and serve the elderly. They say that "sometimes the work assigned may be very hard and new for teenagers, many Legionaries still try their very best to finish it. Through our actions, we can surely show others how powerful Legion of Mary is and bring warmth and love to the elderly who are living there."



MATER DEI EVEN HAS ITS OWN  
PUBLICATION...

## THE BRIDGE

The young legionaries are also very active in their apostolate to their own age group, their fellow students.



*Like all teenagers they enjoy all the social events; their weekend summer camp was a great success with 80 members participating. They had a detective game and campfire as the features of the two nights, along with a series of games.*

*They had a Retreat, the theme of which was 'I am the Bread of Life', which was similar to the theme of their Curia for the year, 'Eucharist our treasure'. In this retreat, all the programs were centred on the theme so that participants would learn more about The Eucharist.*



*The Curia members combined their talents and organised a carol service with musical accompaniment. The evening procession with the Holy Family to the manger attracted many passers-by to approach them. In one area where their performance was very well received, their "spirit went to its highest".*

Fr. Pietro Paolo Dossi, the Spiritual Director of Mater Dei Curia, expressed "great gratitude to God" for all the great things that he has witnessed during the last five years and that over five years ago God sent two members to invite him "to walk together with Curia Mater Dei".

# Vatican Bulletin

## Words from Pope Benedict XVI

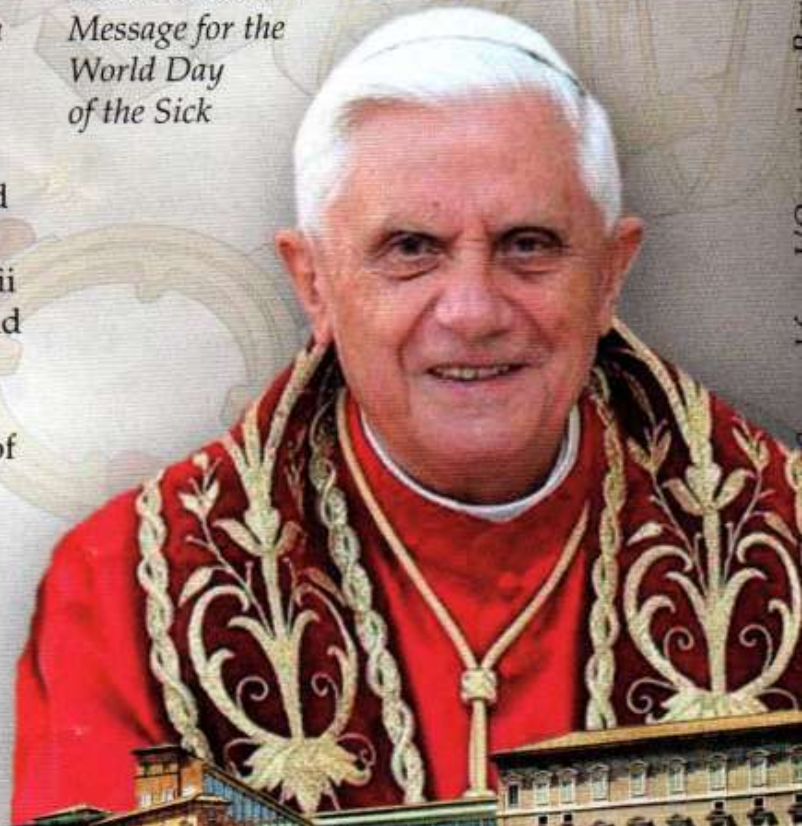
The new man is outlined in him, who looks with trust and courage to the future. He does not follow his own plans but entrusts himself without reserve to the infinite mercy of the One who will fulfil the prophecies and open the time of salvation. *Commenting on St. Joseph and how he felt about the birth of Jesus*

In receiving Baptism these children obtain as a gift an indelible spiritual seal, the "character" that inwardly marks belonging to the Lord forever and makes them living members of his Mystical Body, which is the Church. *At the Baptism of 21 newly born infants in the Sistine Chapel*

In the difficult and delicate moment in history following the end of the Second World War, with that solemn act (Dogma of Mary's Assumption) Pius xii wanted to point to Mary as a model and paradigm of the new humanity redeemed by Christ, not only for Catholics but for all men and women of goodwill. *To Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi for 15th public session of the Pontifical Academies*

I too invite all of you to be guided by Mary in proclaiming and witnessing the hope that flows from contemplation of the Mysteries of Christ, who died and rose for our salvation. *To Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi for 15th public session of the Pontifical Academies*

If every person is our brother, how much more must the sick, the suffering and those in need of care be at the centre of our attention, so that none of them feels forgotten or marginalised; indeed, "the true measure of humanity is essentially determined in relationship to suffering and the sufferer...". *Message for the World Day of the Sick*



### THE HOLY FATHER

The Roman Pontiff, as the successor of Peter, is the perpetual and visible principle and foundation of unity of both the bishops and of the faithful. *LUMEN GENTIUM, 23*



# Sixty Years of the Legion of Mary in Brazil

*Tadhg McMahon*  
former Legion Envoy to Brazil



## INITIAL LEGION FOUNDATIONS 1951-1956

While the first praesidium of the Legion of Mary in Brazil had been established in Rio de Janeiro in 1951 by Rev. Br. Creff of the Missionaries of La Salette, the Legion's initial extension in Brazil was carried out by Joaquina Lucas, from the Philippines. She set up the Legion in the northeast city of Fortaleza and the small town of Anapolis in the centre of the country. In Fortaleza, her greatest conquest was a young priest, Fr. Mário Gurgel, later Bishop, known as Dom Mário, who was to serve the Legion right up to his death in 2006, at which time he was the Liaison of the Brazilian Hierarchy with the Legion. In the Primatial See of São Salvador, Bahia, an initial step was made when Joaquina addressed a meeting of priests.

She previously met the Cardinal Primate, Dom Silva, in Rio, who invited her to Salvador. Joaquina also travelled south to the State of Paraná, where she set up the Legion in Ponta Grossa, now a Senatus covering two States. With the Servant of God, Alfie Lambe, she set up the Legion in São Paulo, Brazil's largest city and industrial hub.



Accompanying the two experienced Envoys was Mary Clerkin, a young primary school teacher from Monaghan.



Joaquina Lucas



Alfie Lambe



Mary Clerkin

## EXTENSION THROUGHOUT BRAZIL 1956-1960

Mary, the least experienced of the three, with no knowledge of Portuguese on her arrival, after less than a year initiated the work which could be said to have completely opened up most of Brazil's dioceses in less than four years - a mission to about two hundred dioceses. At present there are over two hundred and forty dioceses in Brazil covering an area one



Tadhg McMahon

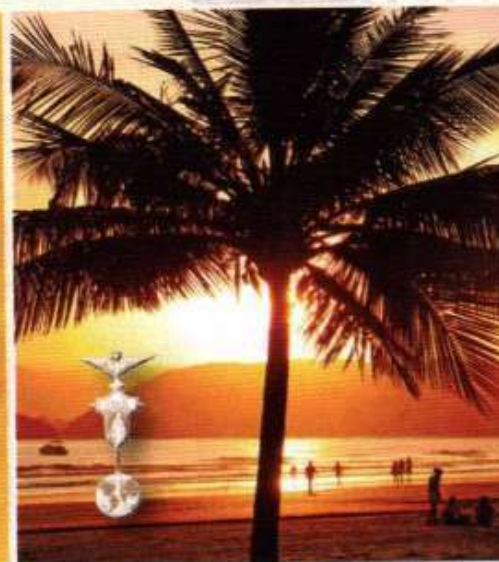
hundred times the size of Ireland. Mary's initial steps were aided by the training and companionship of both Alfie Lambe and Joaquina. Within a year she was alone - and continued so for

four years until the arrival of another envoy (the author) in her final year. As Alfie and Joaquina had trained her, in the final months of 1959 she trained the recently arrived 24 year old Dubliner (the Author) who was privileged to benefit from her knowledge, wisdom and experience. Although frequently alone, particularly in the remote tropical areas of the Amazonian region, Mary succeeded in setting up the Legion in dioceses and parishes where she had convinced the relevant Church authorities to accept the Legion.



## ADVENTURES IN THE TROPICS

One of the many areas in which Mary Clerkin worked was in the lowlands of the State of Maranhão, an area of heat and humidity and at that time inaccessible by road. Undaunted, Mary took to the horse as a means of transport. She also availed of air transport. One Christmas Day, however, Mary waited for the small plane all day in a field that served as an airstrip. No plane arrived. Christmas Day - spent alone in a field.



## LEADING AND TRAINING OTHERS

As an Envoy Mary Clerkin could be rightly described as the personal representative of the Concilium and even more of the Legion Founder, the Servant of God, Frank Duff, who guided her every step of the way replying to the twice monthly letters. The model of Legion leadership taught by Mary was to lead affectionately from the front. She strode through the distant tropical dusty regions joyfully sharing all the guidance given by Frank Duff with the Legion pioneers. Some members found the pace exhausting but went on subsequently to travel to remote regions near to Amazonia—perhaps at a more moderate pace. We recall St. Mark who found the pace of St. Paul's evangelising beyond his youthful resources. It can certainly be said that the relationship between Mary Clerkin and the first Legion officers was primarily one of friendship - bringing to that service of her fellow legionaries the warmth, enthusiasm and confidence of the Irish missionary faith. Although Mary left Brazil over half a century ago she is remembered with great affection among those whom she inspired to imitate her zealous and affectionate apostolic spirit. Mary has since gone to her reward.

## CONSOLIDATION AND CHURCH RENEWAL - TO THE 3RD MILLENNIUM

Other Envoys continued Legion development – their work being largely one of consolidation rather than of breaking new ground. Tom Honey from Belfast spent two periods of three years. Besides the crucial work of consolidation he initiated the Legion in the populous State of Rio Grande do Sul. Tom also braved the Amazon region - travelling for days by boat on the Amazon, sleeping in a hammock above the pig that was to provide meals for passenger and crew. Subsequently the late Joan Cronin helped steer the Legion through the necessarily uneven years after Vatican II when the Church in Brazil sought to move forward in obedience to the norms of the great Council. At the same time and occasionally accompanying Joan was another Envoy, Lina Vaccaro, recently arrived from Brazil's sister country, Argentina. The more flamboyant Latin style of one contrasted and indeed complemented Joan's more restrained approach to the great enterprise as the Legion played its part in renewing the Church of Vatican II.

Brazil also provided an Envoy in the person of Therezinha da Souza from Belo Horizonte. Finally Brazil also welcomed Maria Senra from Portugal to its shores, She returned to her homeland in 1989. Through regular visitation by its correspondents, the Concilium has continued to maintain its close bonds with Brazil, the most recent visit being in 2010, in which the President of the Concilium, Tommy McCabe, took part.



Tom Honey



Joan Cronin



Lina Vaccaro



Maria Senra

## GROWTH OF THE LEGION IN BRAZIL IN THE PAST TEN YEARS

A special golden jubilee edition of the Legion of Mary magazine of Brazil published in 2001, carried the following basic statistics on the Legion's presence.



Higher Councils included four Senatus and seven Regiae administering the movement of 280,000 active members.

This past decade however has seen a growth in active membership of more than 40% - reaching 400,000 - a truly Pentecostal outpouring of grace through Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces.



Administration has had to keep pace with this growth so that now there are eight Senatus and 17 Regiae.

While the worldwide Legion follows the same system of formation, apostolic work and administration, many countries give the Legion some of their own culture and genius. In Brazil the annual pilgrimage to Brazil's national Shrine in Aparecida has an attendance of 80,000. Following the death of Dom Gurgel, R.I.P., the Brazilian Hierarchy has appointed as its representative to the Legion, Dom Edson de Castro Homem, Auxiliary Bishop of Rio de Janeiro. Through the Legion's influence the main part of the Catena is among the most popular hymns sung all over Brazil. A biannual two day conference of Spiritual Directors is held with an attendance of over eighty Spiritual Directors including members of the Episcopate. Young Legionaries arrange 24 hour vigils of prayer and formation. In the context of the Catholic Church's presence in the world Brazil in the past half century has truly become a beacon of Catholic hope. At present the population of Brazil amounts to almost two hundred millions, an increase during the past 55 years of 140 million. Nowadays Brazilian missionaries in their thousands - lay, religious and priests are found throughout Africa and Asia. There are some even in Ireland. The Legion has played no small part in this achievement.



**LEGION OF MARY IN BRAZIL 1951-2011**



Officers from Sao Paulo Senatus including present president first on left and Fr Ivan spiritual director between correspondents



Officers of what is now Senatus of Recife provide the Concilium visitor with appropriate open air transport in the tropical North East.....



Senatus of Recife officers



Young Brazilians take part in Open Air Eucharist at Hallel, Brazil. It is an annual event in which all Catholic groups participate and contribute ...

# 30th Anniversary of Frank Duff's death

Legion of Mary Mass  
St. Mary's Cathedral  
Sydney  
7 November, 2010



*George Cardinal Pell*  
*Archbishop of Sydney*

Today we celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the entry into eternal life on November 7, 1980 of Frank Duff, who founded the Legion of Mary in 1921, a lay apostolic movement working for the spiritual development of its members and advancing the reign of Christ through Our Lady.

Frank was born in Dublin to well-off parents and educated at Blackrock College. Ill health dogged the family and Frank had become the breadwinner, joining the civil service at the age of 18.

A devout Catholic, an important turning point in his life came about after he joined the St. Vincent de Paul Society and became exposed to the poverty in Dublin, which was real and widespread. He realised that these unfortunates needed spiritual health as much as material support and so the Legion was born.

The impact of Frank Duff's Legion and his talks and writings have been noted



in many places. In Ireland, for instance, Peter O'Dwyer has commented that the Legion "had a deep influence on a large section of youth in the country". The director of the International Marian Research Institute at Dayton University has noted in an Italian publication how much the Legion was "renowned for its apostolic impact". It is my opinion that the Legion and Frank Duff's writings contributed to a growing ecclesial consciousness in directions that impacted also on theology. I would propose four areas for consideration.

**1** Firstly, the phenomenon and teachings of the Legion advanced a growing realisation in theological reflection of the primacy of the Marian Profile in the Church's divine constitution. In a 1988 address Pope John Paul II affirmed that the Church's "Marian profile is also – even perhaps more so – fundamental and characteristic for the Church as is the



apostolic and Petrine profile to which it is profoundly united.... The Church lives on this authentic 'Marian profile', this 'Marian dimension'. Indeed, Pope John Paul II also commented that the Marian profile of the Church is what summarizes the deepest contents of the conciliar renewal. This emphasis on the Marian principle in the Church is a theme continued in the discourses of Pope Benedict XVI.



It is not without significance, therefore, to note that already in 1960 Pope John XXIII asserted to the Legionaries in France that, "the Legion of Mary presents the true face of the Catholic Church" by recognising how much Mary is the model of the Church's mission in giving Christ to the world. With its vibrant sense of the link between sanctity, the lay apostolate, ecclesial identity and Mary, Frank Duff's foundation and writings helped to render more explicit within the *sensus fidelium* the awareness of the "presence" of Mary within the Mystical Body of Christ as an operative principle in the pilgrimage of the Church in history. It should also be noted that Pope John Paul II himself acknowledged his own contact with the Legion in Poland. The Church's Marian profile found expression in Frank Duff's encouragement of the Legion's style of presence that is not noisy, but hidden and pastorally very effective.



**2** The second area of theological significance is in the area of the theology of the laity. Frank Duff founded one of the first of the major movements that came to life in the twentieth century with a new vision for lay mission. The fact that Frank Duff was invited as a lay observer to the Second Vatican Council is evidence of the significance of his life and writings on the topic of laity in the Church. He spoke of and strongly advocated the "apostolate of the body". The writings of Frank Duff resonate with many themes of Vatican II and of writers such as Yves Congar on the priestly, prophetic and kingly dimensions of the lay vocation. Prophetically, he wrote of marriage as a vocation. Cardinal Suenens, author of *Theology of the Apostolate of the Legion of Mary* and very much involved in the work on the Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, clearly admired Frank Duff's theology of the laity. It has been said that the Legion Handbook was consulted at the commission level for the formulation of the Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity.



**3** A third area of theological interest is Frank Duff's bringing together of the theology of the Mystical Body and the teaching of Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort about whom it is said that "no Saint has played a greater part in the development of the Legion". It took several centuries for de Montfort's proposal of Marian consecration to Christ to be received in the Catholic Church and Frank Duff's widespread movement and his writings contributed to this.



Duff wrote that “the doctrine and fire of the True Devotion is so blended into the Legion Handbook that even if the True Devotion were not being mentioned, it would still amount to much the same thing”. Speaking of de Montfort’s canonisation, Duff wrote, “The spread of the Legion out over the world made him one of the most invoked Saints in the Church and supplied what had been the missing element, the popular estimation or cultus”.

There is a very clear understanding of the Mystical Body throughout Frank Duff’s writings. For him, the Mystical Body brought out the reality of the Church as the place where Jesus Christ lives. The union between Christ the Head and the Body is real. The life of the Church is the continuation of the life of Christ and the same can be said of each one of us. It is in a real sense too that Frank Duff understands that in the life of the Mystical Body, the de Montfortian consecration to Mary renders the Church most fully who it is – the Mystical Body of Christ and not simply an organisation.

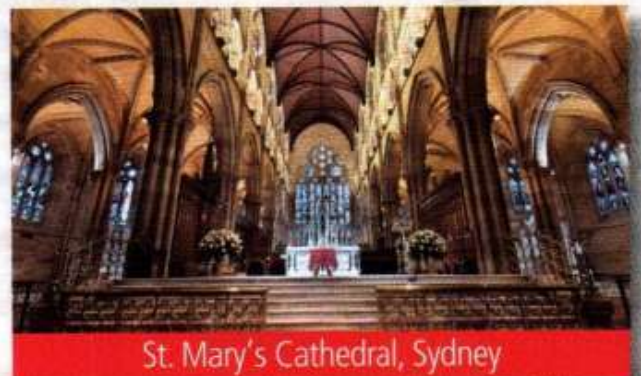
**4** A feature of Frank Duff’s writings that is not immediately explicit but nevertheless present is what might be called a “Trinitarian mindset”. In an article entitled “The Legion is Pure Christocentrism”, he argues that, “I do not know of any other active society which aims at giving to the Holy Trinity the same sort of attention. The Handbook sections on the subject of the Trinity were not originally comprised, but forced themselves in as the Legion began to mature and to understand itself”. Some traces of this can be seen when he approaches the topic of “thinking in Christ”.

These are only four of the theological aspects that emerge from reading Frank Duff’s writings. There are many other stimulating perspectives on topics such as evangelisation, the Church’s engagement with society, the relationship of ministerial and common priesthood and Marian spirituality. While Frank Duff constantly underlines the virtues of faith, hope and charity, what shines out above all is his clear recognition that the greatest of these is charity.

We thank God for Frank Duff’s contribution, for all the fine work the Legion of Mary has done and continues to do and pray that God will bless the Legion and all its members into the future.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen

George Cardinal Pell  
Archbishop of Sydney

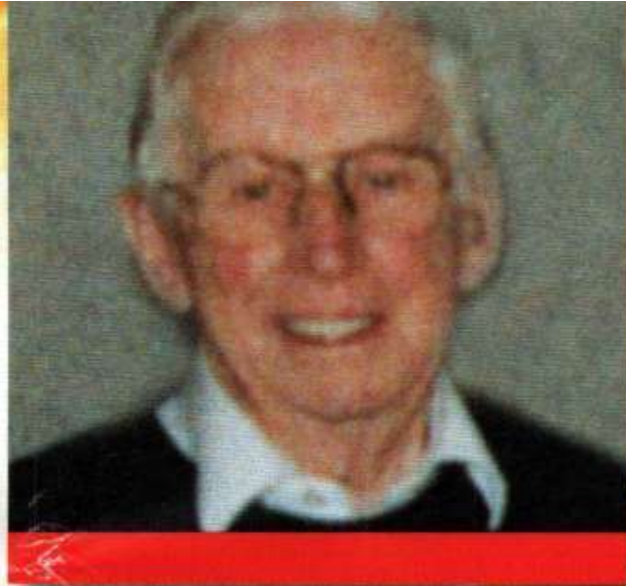


St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney

# Sam Hughes R.I.P.



## *A Tribute*



SAM HUGHES WAS BORN IN 1914 AND HAD OVER  
70 YEARS LEGIONARY SERVICE.

He threw himself into the legionary apostolate and in the course of his long life served in many officerships and initiated several legionary apostolic ventures. He was the first President of Porta Coeli Curia and organised the Legion's participation in the placing and blessing of the statue of Our Lady at Dublin Port. Later he took on the Presidency of the Morning Star Hostel for six years. He organised the Legion's Golden Jubilee Celebrations and the first Legion Youth Pilgrimage to Holy Cross Abbey. One of his great exploits was the organisation of the Peregrinatio Pro Christo to Trinidad which led to the Legion there reaching new heights and taking on the administration of the Legion in much of the Caribbean and in the Guianas. His brother, a Dominican priest, had died in Trinidad and it was a poignant experience for Sam to see where his brother had laboured to build up the Church. Sam's work was greatly valued by the Servant of God Frank Duff, who included him among his cycling companions. Sam served as a Concilium officer for some years before being elected President of the Concilium in

1981. During his six years in that office he also served for some of the time as Editor of the Maria Legionis. In his concern for the faith of young people he initiated what was known as the Maria et Patria movement. Later, he was elected President of Immaculata Curia. As well as being an active promoter of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart, he set up a Eucharistic League in his own parish of Crumlin. Sam was a dedicated Concilium correspondent for a great many years, dealing with Legion Councils both in Ireland and in other countries, one of these being Korea, where the Legion made great progress. Shortly after Sam joined the Legion he recruited the late John Gavin, who was later to serve as President of the Concilium and in other Concilium officerships. Sam died on November 9, 2010. His contribution to the Legion of Mary was quite extraordinary. His great devotion to Jesus and Mary and to the Church was shown by his faithful practice of the Christian life and his total dedication to the legionary apostolate.

MAY HIS GENEROUS AND LOYAL SOUL  
REST IN PEACE



## AFRICA

**GHANA** Most Reverend Charles Palmer-Buckle, Archbishop of Accra, attended a recent meeting of the **Accra Senatus**: His visit was a great encouragement to the legionaries. Most Reverend Dominic K Andoh, Archbishop Emeritus continues to take a great interest in the Legion and promotes the Cause for Beatification of the Servant of God, Frank Duff. Praesidia in prisons continue to grow with some of the warders becoming members. Legionaries help to arrange for children of prisoners to be baptised. A copy of the DVD "Meet the Legion" was screened on the Catholic Digest programme. The Senatus is preparing its own website. The affiliated Kumasi Regia organised a Youth Week project in the Ashanti region with 125 young legionaries helping in the organisation of religious and social programmes. Seventy three new members were recruited and three new praesidia were started. New praesidia have been started in the Major Seminary and in a Senior High School and in nine other areas.

**CAPE VERDE:** The Regia keeps contact through correspondence with Legion Councils, which are spread over a number of islands. The Comitium in Guinea Bissau reported to the Regia that there were 103 Exploratio Dominicales projects during the year.

**THE GAMBIA:** The Banjul Curia has eight praesidia and is trying to start a further two.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Legionaries in the **Johannesburg Senatus**: are engaged in home and hospital visitation, teaching catechism, literacy classes for adults and contact with young people who have drink and drug problems. The **Capetown Senatus**: Organised a Conference for legionaries on Back to Basics. It went very well with good discussion. A praesidium in Durban Comitium visits a hospital for Aids sufferers. Matatiele Comitium has a Patrician meeting.

**MAURITIUS:** The recent joyful commemoration by the Mauritius Regia of the 70th Anniversary of the Legion in Mauritius gave an opportunity for the production of a booklet giving a composite overview of the present state of the Legion there and in neighbouring Rodrigues, as well as its history, resulting in renewed interest in Venerable Edel Quinn, its founder, who spent nearly a year there in 1940. Recent minutes show a great variety of apostolic work, including an apostolate to the sick and elderly, drug addicts, the marginalised and children in shelters and care of the youth through Retreats.

**REUNION:** Works include home and hospital visitation, recitation of the Rosary in Mortuaries and bringing Holy Communion to the sick. Junior legionaries promote family prayer, visit the sick and elderly, carry out an apostolate in schools and present miraculous medals. Teenagers who have left home are often helped by legionaries and their return home is facilitated by prayer and contact with parents. A young girl who was being pressurised to have an abortion was helped to resist and gave birth to a baby girl.

**TOGO:** On September 7/8, 2010 a Vigil was held to celebrate the Legion's 89th anniversary. The Cause of the Servant of God, Frank Duff was promoted with Novenas finishing on November 7, the 30th anniversary of his death with concelebrated Mass at which Archbishop Amuzu-Dzakupah was Chief Celebrant. A Conference was held on November 13 with the theme "Priests and lay people, the vision of Frank Duff." Congresses, Patrician meetings, Exploratio Dominicalis projects and enclosed Retreats are mentioned in reports. Many conversions have been reported. A Curia in Lomé has a praesidium in the prison. Three new Comitia and a new Curia have been set up and a Peregrinatio Pro Christo to Ghana was undertaken.



**KENYA:** All reports indicate home visitation being done with many returns to the sacraments, marriages regularised and many catechumens being recruited. The book on Venerable Edel Quinn has been translated into Kikuyu. Large numbers, including legionaries from neighbouring countries, gathered for the annual Mass at Edel's grave in Nairobi.

**UGANDA:** A schools' Curia Acies had 644 present while 1,000 members attended a Tertiary Institutions' Acies. Six praesidia were started in colleges. Visiting the sick is one of the works of legionaries in Seminaries.

**NIGERIA: Enugu Senatus:** reported 107 senior and 108 junior praesidia being started. Many people were prepared for the sacraments, a number of street girls returned home, family disputes were resolved and marriages regularised. A Comitium attached to Ibadan Regia reported 207 marriages regularised and 104 returns to the practice of the Faith. Eighty legionaries from Onitsha Regia participated in an eight day project to ten villages. Most praesidia in Jos Regia are recruiting ten new members per year and juniors are graduating to senior ranks. A Curia in a Major Seminary had fifteen members ordained to the priesthood and diaconate and a new praesidium was set up. A Comitium attached to Ikot Ekpene Regia held a weeklong extension project with 26 legionaries visiting nine stations in a parish, reviving weak praesidia and starting one. Five new Curiae were formed in Lagos Regia. Abuja Regia reported a Curia's junior membership rose from 90 to 190 in a year and five senior and two junior praesidia were set up; a Comitium attached to the Regia increased from 1,834 to 2,650 members in three years. A praesidium recorded seven conversions. The Regia had a successful Spiritual Directors' Forum. A Congress and Patricians groups are mentioned in reports from Kaduna Regia.

**MALAWI:** The Blantyre Regia is being raised to Senatus and four Comitia are to be raised to Regia.

**TANZANIA:** Legionaries in Hai Moshi Comitium are engaged in home and hospital visitation with many returns to the sacraments and marriages regularised. Non-Christians are taught about the Catholic Faith. Dar es Salaam Comitium had a good attendance at the annual Mass to mark the anniversary of the birth of Venerable Edel Quinn. Extension work is ongoing. A report on their Acies and a Retreat was received from Kahama Comitium. Legionaries in Mtwara Comitium are engaged in visiting the sick and doing works of service as well as teaching catechism, getting marriages regularised and bringing people back to the Church. There have been some conversions.

**ZAMBIA:** There are good reports from the Lusaka Regia of returns to practice of the Faith and of regularisation of marriages. The sick are visited. Retreats and Pilgrimages are held and well attended.

## WEST INDIES

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:** A Retreat was held for couples in irregular marriage situations and 22 couples were prepared for marriage. Home and hospital visitation and visits to the sick and bereaved are undertaken.

**HAITI:** The two attached Comitia have 2,000 members. Works include home and prison visitation, teaching catechism and running literacy courses, which result in many receiving the sacraments.

**PUERTO RICO:** Legionaries promote True Devotion to the Nation, First Friday Night Adoration and visit the sick, helping some of them with legal affairs.



## SOUTH AMERICA

**BOLIVIA: La Paz Senatus:** Housebound legionaries teach catechism in their own homes. Many conversions are reported which include a young drug addict from North America, who was taught the Rosary and returned to his country totally rehabilitated. Some active legionaries work in the street markets and when their work is done for the day they contact the others who work in the markets and say the Rosary.

**CHILE: Santiago Senatus:** Street contact work is carried out by many praesidia. The Week of the Family was organised by the Archdiocese and all legionaries spoke of the importance of this event while doing their apostolate.

**COLUMBIA: Bogotá Senatus:** 1,200 legionaries attended a Catholic Exhibition where there was a Legion stand and bookbarrow. The University praesidium formed three new praesidia recently. Street contact work is done. **Medellin Senatus:** Legionaries run literacy classes for groups of 60 – 80 adults. As a result of evangelising in schools and colleges there were twenty Baptisms and four Confirmations of youths and a senior praesidium was set up.

**ECUADOR: Quito Senatus:** A young boy who was brought back from the sects is now an 'excellent catechist'. Catechism is being taught to soldiers. An apostolate is carried out among Indians in Riobamba. The five children of Evangelical parents were baptised. More details have been requested about a reported cure of cerebral haemorrhage through Venerable Edel Quinn.

**PERU: Lima Senatus:** Jail visitation and work with drug addicts is carried out. As a result of Extension work eight praesidia were set up. Juniors figure prominently in reports.

**URUGUAY: Montevideo Senatus:** One legionary continued her legionary work until the age of 96. An elderly lady who was abandoned by her family was cared for until death. On May 13 a praesidium held a procession through the streets.

**VENEZUELA:** His Eminence Cardinal Urosa Savino, Archbishop of Caracas, who was a legionary in his youth, celebrated Mass for the Legion's 89th anniversary. Many successful initiatives, including Peregrinatio Pro Christo and Exploratio Dominicalis, were undertaken. Four drug addicts were rehabilitated.

## NORTH AMERICA

**CANADA:** Legionaries in **Ontario Senatus** are involved in market ministry. Twenty eight handicapped people were brought on a pilgrimage. A single mother had her five children baptised. Toronto Regia reports that the legionary apostolate includes visiting a Seamen's Mission and reciting the Rosary at wakes and funerals. Extension of the Legion is ongoing in many Councils. Vancouver Comitium had 100 people at a Marian event. Reports show two adults baptised before death and a legionary has entered a Seminary. A Chinese praesidium has 15 active members. Edmonton Comitium reported that a Legion Booth was set up at a Family Life Conference.

## EUROPE

**AUSTRIA: The Senatus** has a new Korean Curia with four praesidia in Vienna. An apostolate to street girls is carried out in the Northeast Vienna Curia. Zwettl Comitium held an afternoon meeting for Spiritual Directors. Hollabrunn Comitium reported that Bishop Tournovszky celebrated Mass to mark the Anniversary of Frank Duff. The Unter Dem Wienerwald Comitium, which has five Curiae attached, carries out an airport apostolate.



**UKRAINE:** A summer school was held with an attendance of fifty. Elizabeth Kriss and two legionaries from the Senatus of Austria were present.

**BELARUS:** Archbishop Kondrusevich and seven priests concelebrated Mass to mark the anniversary of the birth of the Servant of God, Frank Duff. Legionaries prepare people for the sacraments and contact youth in the streets, parks and railway stations. Extension efforts are being made in Grodno Diocese. A legionary from Lida Curia has entered the Seminary.

**CROATIA:** Extension work is ongoing and producing many new praesidia in the attached Councils. The legionary apostolate is being blessed with conversions, regularisation of marriages and many returns to the sacraments. In Sisak Curia junior legionaries lead the Rosary in a secondary students' hostel.

**BOSNIA AND HERZGOVINA:** The Sarajevo Curia has five praesidia. A presentation on the Legion was given at a study day for representatives of lay Catholic organisations.

**SLOVENIA:** Ljubljana Curia has six praesidia. Works being undertaken include street apostolate and visitation of retirement homes. A former Curia officer has entered the religious life.

**HUNGARY:** The Budapest Regia reported three new praesidia set up. The legionary apostolate includes visitation of homes, hospitals and prisons and street apostolate. People are prepared for the sacraments.

**LATVIA:** Recruiting drives resulted in a new praesidium being set up and another praesidium gaining six new members. A praesidium in Riga Comitium promotes a weekly Holy Hour with an attendance of 30-40 people.

**LITHUANIA:** A praesidium in Kaunas Comitium gained four new members following a recruiting drive. A praesidium in Silainiai reported eleven people returning to the Church. In Telsai Comitium a praesidium of thirteen members is engaged in home and hospital visitation. They prepared 54 people for reception of the sacraments. One Curia reported that following visitation of 500 families two adults were prepared for First Holy Communion and three marriages were regularised.

**POLAND:** Lublin Regia reported that an attached Curia has set up three new praesidia. Warsaw Comitium publishes 5,000 copies of the Polish Legion journal quarterly. It is sent to all the Bishops and to the National and University Libraries. A third praesidium has been formed in Gdynia in Gdansk Archdiocese. About 8,000 legionaries with two Bishops and sixty priests gathered in Czestochowska on September 11, 2010 for the 16th National Pilgrimage of the Legion of Mary.



# IEC 2012



**50th** INTERNATIONAL  
EUCCHARISTIC  
CONGRESS  
PRAYER

**Lord Jesus,  
You were sent by the Father  
to gather together those who are scattered.  
You came among us, doing good and bringing healing,  
announcing the Word of salvation  
and giving the Bread which lasts forever.  
Be our companion on life's pilgrim way.**

**May your Holy Spirit inflame our hearts,  
enliven our hope and open our minds,  
so that together with our sisters and brothers in faith  
we may recognise you in the Scriptures  
and in the breaking of bread.**

**May your Holy Spirit transform us into one body  
and lead us to walk humbly on the earth,  
in justice and love,  
as witnesses of your resurrection.**

**In communion with Mary,  
whom you gave to us as our Mother  
at the foot of the cross,  
through you  
may all praise, honour and blessing be to the Father  
in the Holy Spirit and in the Church,  
Now and forever.  
Amen**

50th International Eucharistic Congress, 10-17 June 2012 • [www.iec2012.ie](http://www.iec2012.ie) • [info@iec2012.ie](mailto:info@iec2012.ie)

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