

Maria Legionis



Maria Legionis

The Voice of the Legion of Mary

No. 4 of 2005

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The Nativity

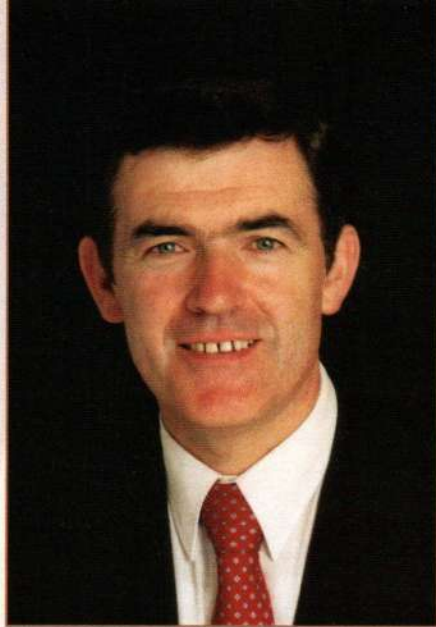
Hendrick de Clerck

"The Lord does not leave us alone on this journey. He is with us; indeed, he wishes to share our destiny to the point of identifying with us"

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI

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NEW PRESIDENT ELECTED

*On June 19, 2005
Tommy McCabe
was elected President of
Concilium Legionis Mariae,
the International Governing Body
of the Legion of Mary.*

Tommy joined the Legion of Mary at the age of 10 and continued his membership through secondary school where his praesidium oversaw the activities of young people in the Dublin inner city area.

At University, he was a member of a student praesidium, that carried out an apostolate to students and visited the sick in hospital. After qualifying, he worked initially in Germany where he learned German and helped extend the Legion.

On his return to Ireland, he was elected President of Annunciata Curia, one of 14 Dublin Curiae. He was elected Assistant Treasurer of the Concilium in 1992 and Secretary in 1998. He avails of part of his annual holidays to promote and develop the Legion in many countries including a number of European and African countries and also further afield to Siberia and Korea. He was instrumental in setting up the Legion in Latvia and Belarus in the mid-nineties.

Currently he is a member of a praesidium in Dublin, undertaking an apostolate to the local African community. He is Concilium correspondent with Legion Councils in Germany and Austria.

Hopefully all legionaries will keep him in their prayers.

Frank Duff Beatification Prayer the Concilium Recommendation May, 2005



Dear Legionaries,

We wish to inform you that a decision was taken by the Concilium at its April 2005 meeting permitting the recitation of the Prayer for the Beatification of the Servant of God, Frank Duff. The recommendation was that the prayer would be recited at the end of every Legion meeting (praesidium and Council) which takes place throughout the world.

It is to be understood that the recitation of this prayer is not interfering with the prayers invariably coming, as it does, after the Concluding Prayers of the Legion and is provided for under Chapter 19, Section 16 of the Handbook.

It is also to be understood that the recitation of this prayer for beatification refers only to Frank Duff in his capacity as founder of the Legion of Mary.

The idea is to mobilise all 3 million active members of the Legion encouraging those already reciting the prayer to continue to do so daily. For those not already saying the prayer to encourage them to undertake daily recitation. Hopefully the 10 million Auxiliary members will be encouraged likewise.

The Concilium commends those Councils throughout the world which have had the Prayer for Beatification translated into the languages used by the legionaries. The Concilium will gladly assist in paying for the translation and printing of those written languages and dialects yet to be translated. Where translations have already been done we encourage every Council to print copies of the prayer leaflet for distribution to all their members and for the general public so that, if God so ordains, the Servant of God Frank Duff can yield many favours and miracles.

We set out for the information of all legionaries the reasons for the decision:

The absolute necessity of prayer for the Vice Postulator and the team working on the Cause because of the magnitude of the work involved.

The theology of the grace of a founder whose Cause takes much greater precedence than those who follow him.

The fact that none of us would be members of the Legion of Mary but for Frank Duff.



Frank Duff Beatification Prayer
the Concilium Recommendation
May, 2005
Continued

In writing to the councils directly attached to the Concilium we ask your co-operation in making this decision known to all directly attached praesidia and Councils in your care.

The Concilium has no doubt that the implementation of this decision will shower many graces not just on those working for the Cause but on us as members and on the Church as a whole. It is an opportunity for us all to read up as much as we can about our founder and come to a fresh realisation of just how blessed by God and Our Lady he was. From when he was a young man right through his life to his death in 1980 Frank Duff was in the special care of the Providence of God. Each one of us owes him our deep gratitude. Recitation of the prayer for his beatification is one way of showing this.

*Yours sincerely in
Jesus and Mary,*

*Fr. Bede McGregor O.P.,
Spiritual Director
Concilium Legionis Mariae
Silé Ni Chochláin, President*

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

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

**Prayer for the Beatification
of the Servant of God,
Frank Duff**

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.

FRANK DUFF AND THE EUCHARIST

*When I kneel and pray at break of day,
from this mundane world I pass,
to the realm of the angels, when I assist at Mass"*

*Bro. Stephen Russell**

Fr. Michael Kennedy, Glasnevin Cemetery, June 12, 2005



At about 10 years of age, Frank received Holy Communion for the first time. When an elderly man he was asked if he had realised the value of it. He replied "Yes, even at that time I did realise the extraordinary value of it."

His religion had been a fairly routine affair up to the age of 24. But this was to change when he joined the St. Vincent de Paul Society. They emphasised Christ's words "As long as you did it to one of these the least of my brethren, you did it to me." It dawned on him that those he served were really and truly **Christ's Body on this earth** not simply poor people to be helped for Christ's sake.

Without a proper appreciation of **the Church as Christ's continuing presence** on this earth, it wasn't possible for Frank to realise the thrilling adventure that religion could and should be.

From the age of 25, the amount of time spent daily in prayer was astonishing. Every morning he attended Mass at about 7.00a.m. and then would spend one hour in Church. After a quick lunch he would do a Holy Hour in the Oratory of the Convent of Maria Reparatrix where there was Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. After work he would spend another hour in the Church. In addition to all this he would spend at least a further hour in prayer in his own home.

The very fact that the Mass is **the great mystery of Faith** led him to delve more deeply into the mystery to increase his understanding of it. He read religious books on the Mass. If he found a good book he would send it on an apostolic round to others after finishing it himself. He was a great believer in spiritual reading. He wrote "We must form a taste for religious literature. It must take a definite place in each day. From it we will acquire an interest in our religion and (it will) extend our knowledge of the doctrines of the Church."

Frank often spoke of his indebtedness to the Cistercians in Mount Mellerau for his knowledge and appreciation of the Mass. He was indebted mainly to Fr. Brendan who walked through the gardens with him after breakfast and explained the true meaning and infinite value of the Mass in a way he had never heard before.

While many describe the Mass as boring, Frank viewing it through the eyes of faith, referred to assistance at Mass as a "thrilling adventure."

The Mass is God's way of obliterating the distance and the 2,000 years, which separate us from the event of the Crucifixion. It places Calvary in our midst. We are present there along with His Mother, Mary, St. John the Evangelist and the others!

The Mass became the centre of Frank's life

He would take extraordinary steps to ensure that he never missed his daily Mass.



Frank did not normally leave the church when Mass had ended. Perhaps he intuitively knew what the Catholic Catechism later taught: "the Eucharistic presence of Christ begins at the moment of the Consecration and **endures** as long as the Eucharistic species subsist."

Frank urged the members of the Legion to assist frequently - everyday if possible - at Mass and at that Mass to receive Holy Communion.

Our Lord did not begin His mission without the consent of Mary. Neither did he complete it on Calvary without her presence and her consent. "Mary stands by the altar just as she stood by the Cross... a loving attention to her ought therefore form part of every Mass rightly heard. And when we come away, he said, Mary will be with us, giving us a share in her administration of graces."

Frank was amazed when he reflected that the Jesus, whom others admire Catholics possess, living in the Eucharist.

Blessed Sacrament

He went so far as to say that "**every avenue of legionary action** must be availed of to awaken knowledge and love of the Blessed Sacrament."

"The most ardent activity," he stressed, "will accomplish nothing of value if it forgets for a moment that its **main object** is to establish the **Reign of the Eucharist** in all hearts". "After all, the

purpose for which Jesus came was to communicate Himself to souls so that He might make them one with Himself. The means of that communication is chiefly the Holy Eucharist."

On a visit to address seminarians at Thurles Seminary on the subject of the priesthood, he intimated that although he had lived a long life of the most intense activity, yet it was not to those activities that he now pointed as the cause of whatever success he had, no, but rather to something higher. "**I was depending on the Lord and His Mother and not on myself.**"

The daily rosary, the recitation of the breviary and his attendance at daily Mass had assumed a place of paramount importance in his life and mission.

*When I kneel and pray
at break of day
from this mundane world I pass,
to the realm of the angels,
when I assist at Mass.
For when I feel him on my tongue,
I, a poor earthbound clod,
through the Eucharistic mystery
am really one with God.*

*Bro. Stephen Russell**

**Verses taken from his book
"Poems and Parodies of Brother Stephen"
Published May 1974 and printed
by Oriel Press, Charleville, Co. Cork.*

THE CATENA DAILY PRAYER

Rev. Gerald Canon Healy

This prayer is especially important for legionaries. With good reason it's called the Catena, the Latin word for chain. It's a chain binding us to Our Lady. By it we associate ourselves with her own song of praise to God. It also binds legionaries to one another; we all share the same thoughts no matter in what language they're expressed.

The Catena is represented on the centre of the Tessera picture by a chain border. Enclosed in the links are Bible quotations in Latin - relating to Our Lady. The bottom section of the chain has the words: "Woman, there is your son."

On the right-hand section there are the words: "There is your mother"

On the left-hand section are the words: "Blessed is she who believed."

Continuing from halfway on the left, over the top and down the right-side are the words spoken by God to Satan after the Fall of Man: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; it will crush your head."

You'll notice that the chain is without a gap. There's no link missing. Legionaries are meant to be living, unbroken links in the chain, being bound to Our Lady and to one another. The daily recitation of the Catena prayer by each individual legionary expresses that unity.

The core of the Catena are words sung by Our Lady on her visit to her cousin Elizabeth. Called the "Magnificat" because that's the first word in the Latin version. In English it is the word "glorifies" of the opening line: "My soul glorifies the Lord"

It's Mary's answer to Elizabeth's congratulations; as though she says: "There's no reason to congratulate me. It's all the work of the Lord. My blessing consists in the fact that he has stooped down to notice one so small as I am." The key idea is that God is gracious especially to the poor and the humble. Mary who has called herself "the slave of the Lord" insists in keeping her place, because he looks on his servant in her lowliness. Henceforth all generations will call her blessed. She acknowledges that since God is her Saviour she needs salvation. As a descendant of Adam she needed her Son's redemption.

The flooding of her soul with sanctifying grace from the first moment of her conception was due to the foreseen merits of her Son yet to be born. God's mercy is from age to age on "those who fear him." "Those who fear him" here means "those who serve him." God always keeps his promise. Through the descendants of Abraham the whole universe will be blessed.

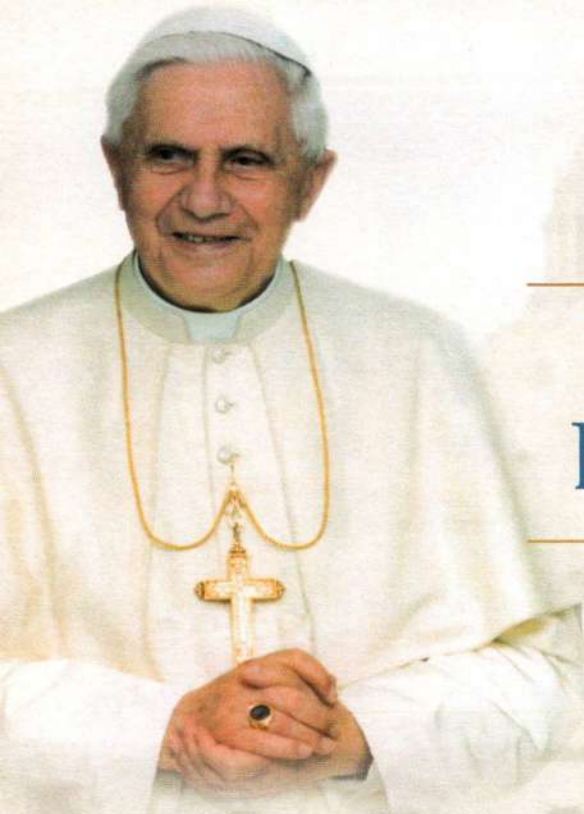
That this fifteen year old girl, as it is supposed she was, should have burst into such a song is no surprise to those who appreciate her cultural background. We need not marvel at the sight of Mary pouring forth her feelings under this poetic form. In the East, Song is the natural expression of every emotion, sorrow, joy, triumph. Only a few thoughts are needed for a development of a poem. Traditional phrases are worked in and given a personal touch. In Mary's song, there are echoes of traditional songs of Israel. We must remember that from early childhood the Jews learned a certain number of Biblical passages by heart. The public reading of the Sacred Books at the synagogue familiarised them with still more passages.

Above all, we know that this whole episode was under the action of God the Holy Spirit.



*Legionaries are
meant to be
living, unbroken
links in the chain,
being bound
to Our Lady
and to one
another.*





VATICAN BULLETIN

Words from
Pope Benedict XVI

"Even when the believer feels lonely and is surrounded by risks and hostility, his faith must be serene because the Lord is always with us; his power surrounds us and protects us"

Commenting on Psalms 125(124)

"But religion sought on a "do-it-yourself" basis cannot ultimately help us. It may be comfortable, but at times of crisis we are left to ourselves. Help to discover the true star which points out the way to us: Jesus Christ! Let us seek to know him better and better, so as to be able to guide others to him with conviction."

Addressing young people ... Cologne - Marienfeld, Germany, August 21, 2005

"Hearing the call "Come let us worship him" young people from all cultures of the world gather together as pilgrims seeking Jesus Christ, whom we adore in the Eucharist. Together, they made a journey of interior conversion, coming to embrace and know our Lord more intimately, in order to bear witness to his light and joy."

"Of particular significance was my meeting with seminarians, called to a radical following of Jesus the Shepherd and Teacher. World Youth Days have given rise to many vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. Let us pray that more young adults will heed Christ's call!"

General Audience of August 24, 2005 ... reflecting on World Youth Day

PRAISES OF MARY



Happy is he who lives and dies under the protection of the Blessed Virgin.
Sermon on the Feast of the Rosary

Let us pray to the Blessed Virgin, and she will go with us on the road to Heaven.

On Our Lady

I love St. Joseph so much because he had the care of the Blessed Virgin.
Notre-Dame d'Arts, Meditation 6

Humility is like a pair of scales: the lower one side falls, the higher rises the other. Let us humble ourselves like the Blessed Virgin and we shall be exalted.

Notre-Dame d'Arts, Meditation 9

When you hear Mass, do you come in the same frame of mind as the Blessed Virgin at Calvary? Because it is the same God, and the same Sacrifice.

Sermon on Good Friday

When one loves anyone, it is a great happiness to have something of theirs as a souvenir. If we love our Mother, the Blessed Virgin, we should make it both our duty and privilege to have one of her pictures or statues in our home, which from time to time will remind us of her.

On the furniture of a Christian home

Although Mary knew that God had raised her to the most supreme of all honours - that of being the Mother of God - nevertheless she regarded herself as the least of all creatures.

Catechism on the real presence (M)

Above passages from: Thoughts of the Curé D'Arts

First Commemoration Mass for the Servant of God

ALFIE LAMBE

Church of the Assumption
Tullamore, Ireland



On Sunday June 26 at 3.00pm on a fine sunny day 300 people gathered in the home town of Alfie Lambe for a Mass of Commemoration. Among the attendance were members of the Lambe family and legionaries from many parts of Ireland. The chief celebrant was the Bishop of Meath Most. Rev. Dr. Michael Smith.

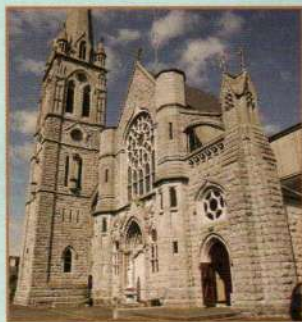
The concelebrants were Monsignor Sean Heaney P.P. Tullamore, Fr. John Nally C.C., Fr. Joe Gallagher, Fr. Tom Gibney, Fr. Oliver Skelly, Vice Postulator of Alfie's Cause, Fr. Gerry Rice, Fr. Martin Halpin and Fr. Lorenzo Brecken a Mill Hill father and a former classmate of Alfie's.

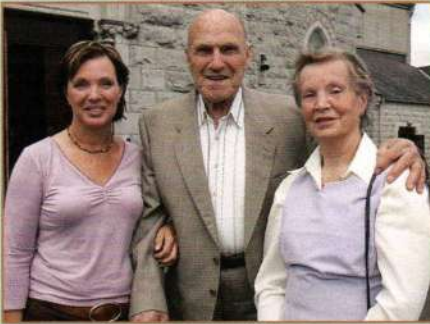
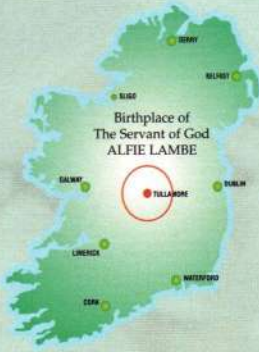
The homily was preached by Bishop Michael Smith and he referred to the gospels dealing with the call to Apostleship of all the Apostles, how they left everything and followed Jesus. There are sacrifices to be made in leaving family and friends to be labourers for the

Lord of the harvest. Alfie Lambe heard the call and when his desire to be a Christian Brother could not be fulfilled he joined the Legion of Mary where he found his true vocation. At the age of 21 in 1952 he volunteered to be an envoy to South America along with Seamus Grace. He was to labour in this vast Continent for the next six years.

Some incidents from these years reflect the character and intensity of Alfie. On a twenty four hour train journey from La Paz, Bolivia, he set up three praesidia of the Legion through contacts made on board.

The Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, steadfastly refused to have the Legion but when four new dioceses were formed to cover the suburbs of the city Alfie started the Legion in these dioceses.





*Summary of homily given by Bishop Smith
at the Mass honouring Alfie Lambe
in Tullamore on Sunday, June 26, 2005*



At the Mass honouring Alfie Lambe in the Parish Church of Tullamore, his home town, Bishop Smith spoke on the extraordinary contribution the Legion of Mary has made and continues to make to the mission of the Church. In many countries of Asia, Africa and in South America the Legion has been the primary instrument of evangelisation. He cited the work of one priest from the Diocese, the recently deceased Fr. Charles Carolan, a Columban missionary who served in Korea and who had 33 praesidia in his parish.

Central to the spreading of the Legion was the work of the Envoys. Two of whom were, Venerable Edel Quinn and the Servant of God Alfie Lambe. Both suffered from poor health yet Edel traversed vast tracts of Africa and Alfie touched most countries in South America.

Bishop Smith posed the question as to why Alfie was able to achieve so much in the few years that the Lord gave to him. He was a young man, just turned twenty, from a far-off country who came to a vast Continent where the Church was long established and was proposing the value of the Apostolate of the Legion of Mary to Cardinals and Bishops.

One has to ask the question as to why he was able to touch the lives of so many and persuade so many to listen to him. His absolute integrity and total commitment spoke to them.

However apart from his obvious integrity and commitment there was another reason why he touched so many lives. He was a young man totally at ease with God. He was a man of deep prayer and reflection.

Bishop Smith told of one small incident recounted by the late Fr. Malachy Lynam, a Columban priest who worked in Peru. He was asked to bring Alfie to a town out in the country on his

motorbike. At one point they had to cross a river and Alfie got off the bike. When he got to the other side Fr. Malachy forgot he had a passenger and headed off. He was many miles down the road before he realised he had left Alfie behind at this isolated spot. When he returned Alfie was sitting quietly saying his prayers.

While the Cross was never far from his life he carried it with a grace and acceptance that opened many a door. Bishop Smith ended by saying that the words spoken by Christ at the last supper found fulfilment in the life of Alfie Lambe 'you did not choose me, no I chose you and I commissioned you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.



THE ANATOMY OF A CAUSE

The Servant of God Frank Duff

(1889 - 1980)

By Fr. Eamonn McCarthy

Probably the most frequently asked question in relation to the Cause of the Servant of God Frank Duff is "when do you think he will be canonised?" It is a fair question. After all, is it not now twenty-five years since his death and should we not be seeing some progress in this department? Of course, it is impossible to foresee results in this matter as there are too many imponderables involved, not least among which is the Divine Will! It is well to bear in mind that Edel Quinn died in 1944 and it took nearly fifty years before she was declared Venerable by the Church with work of promoting her Cause still ongoing.

In relation to Frank Duff's Cause we can give a progress report on the work undertaken so far and allow the reader to have an insight into the scale of the task at hand.

Under the impetus of the former Spiritual Director of the Legion of Mary, Fr. Joseph Moran O.P. a team of volunteers, all Legion members, began to meet weekly and sort through the papers. Very quickly, it was found that this was no small task.



It was decided that Frank Duff's house would be put in order and restored as far as possible to its original condition so that visitors might experience the atmosphere of his time. Great care was taken to ensure that furniture and fittings were replaced in their original settings.

Some legionaries took on the task of cataloguing Frank Duff's entire library of around 1,750 books. These are now on display in large book cases and give us an insight into his taste for spiritual reading, in particular his love of books in both English and French concerning Our Blessed Lady. Curious too, is his collection of lighter reading - the detective novel and the whodunit stories, each of which was passed among his friends and initialled inside the back cover as having been read by them.

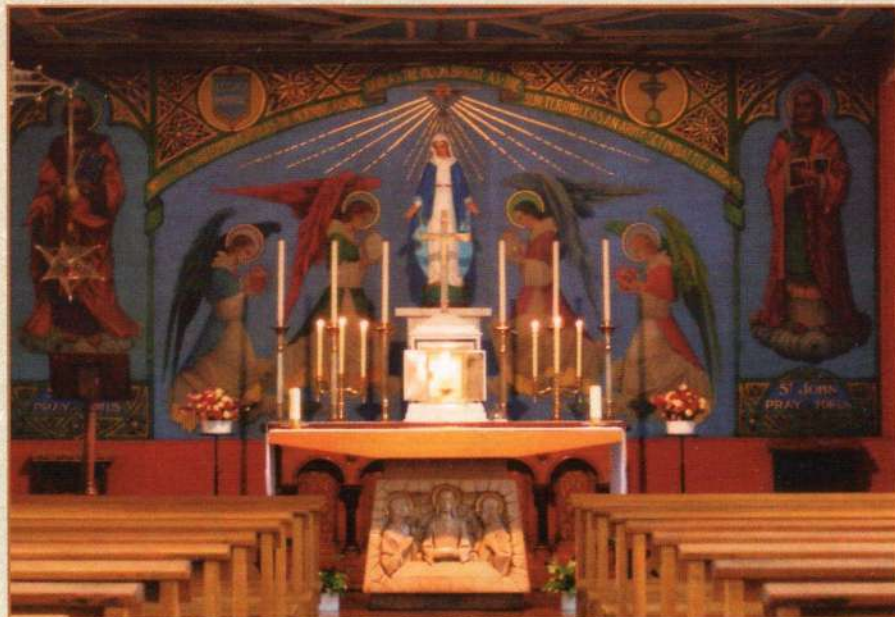
The Anatomy of a Cause

It was well known that Frank Duff had a voluminous body of writings but few realised how extensive they were. The first team of workers set themselves the task of gathering and listing all of the published and unpublished writings available. This was no easy endeavour as several of the works appeared in numbers of different journals and were sometimes duplicated among the five definitive collections of his articles in his books.

The unpublished writings consist of around 2,000 manuscripts of talks and allocutions which Frank Duff himself had kept on file. These had to be collected from the wealth of surviving paperwork and were catalogued and listed for reference purposes.

A parallel task, commenced during the mid-1980s, involved the collation of all of the audio material available and preserving the sound tracks onto audio cassette from the original reels of tape - 135 initially being transferred. These recordings, talks given by Frank Duff and interviews with him, were then roughly transcribed to computer text files by way of further preserving the spoken word.

Several thousand letters addressed to Frank Duff but filed separately by him in his home, and not in the Legion archive as was customary, constituted another source of material requiring sifting and filing. These letters date throughout his working life from 1919 to 1980, many of which are personal in nature rather than directly related to Legion matters.



Oratory of the Morning Star Hostel where the "hands on" day commences

Perhaps one of the most important tasks begun prior to the formal introduction of Frank Duff's Cause was accessing the Legion archive in an effort to draw out all letters authored by him.

Chronologically filing approximately thirty thousand letters he wrote began in the early 1990s and took some ten years of weekly part-time effort to finalise. In the Legion archive are several thousand files, packed with several years of correspondence bearing upon Legion councils all over the world.

The product of this arduous task now proudly occupies the shelves of the Cause's office in 212 ring binders.

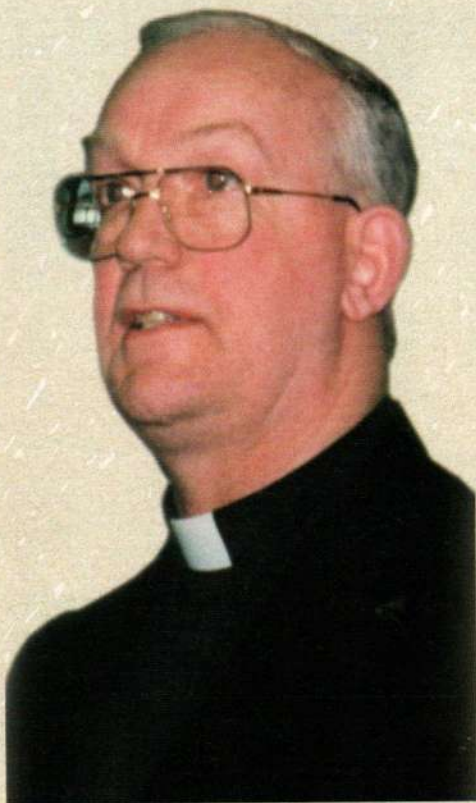
Efforts were likewise being made to gather all related photographs and slides taken of and by Frank Duff. These too, run into thousands.

Biographical material, books and pamphlets, newspaper cuttings and articles were also collected and various unofficial audio interviews were made with persons of advanced age whose memories were considered to be of importance.



Sr. Coronata working on documents for the Cause





So far so good! Upon the appointment of Rev. Fr. Bede McGregor O.P. (above) as Vice Postulator of the Cause of Frank Duff in June 1996, the work of the Cause took on a new impetus. The official tribunal of investigation and a team of experienced religious and lay people were appointed as judges and notaries. Formal interviews were carried out under oath, the details of which have been transcribed, witnessed and signed. This testimonial evidence constitutes a primary source in the evidence to be provided to the Archbishop of Dublin as to the life of heroic virtue lived by our Founder.

In September 2003 the writer by the gracious permission of his Bishop, Most Rev. John Magee was granted release from duty in his native diocese of Cloyne, Ireland to work full-time on the Cause of Frank Duff. During holiday periods he had with the assistance of some legionaries from the diocese of Arlington, USA been transferring to computer all of Frank Duff's published writings.

At an early stage it had been noted how important the contents of the now collated letters of Frank Duff were. It was considered vital that this information be preserved on disk for accessibility and research. A team of volunteer typists, now exceeding 330 from all around the world has, for the past 18 months, been engaged on this project. At the time of writing 25,000 letters have now been transferred to disk and provides access to the mind of Frank Duff on many important issues.

Frank Duff was once asked why he never wrote his biography. He said he did not have the time. The reality is that his letters, sent out in their thousands, are his true biography. He sent as many as 500 letters each to several Legion Envoys, among them Alfie Lambe and Edel Quinn, when they were serving abroad.



Courtesy of legionaries of Philadelphia, USA, notably Msgr. Charles Moss, (*above*) a series of video interviews made with Frank Duff in 1979 have now been transferred to digital video and audio disk formats and their associated transcripts have been proof-read.

At the risk of tiring the reading with this close detail, suffice it to list other activities also being pursued.

- All photographs and slides are being scanned to digital format.
- The unpublished hand-written manuscripts are being typed.
- Informal video interviews with many who knew Frank Duff are being conducted.
- Newspaper cuttings and articles spanning the decades are being collated.
- Thousands of letters sent to Frank Duff are being analysed.



Fr. McCarthy in the Cause office

A second trawl through the Legion archive is now being pursued. What has become known as the 'Hands-on Day' has been organised on a number of Saturdays commencing with a celebration of the Eucharist. On average 60 or more legionaries attend and leaf through the files in search of valuable Cause related material.

All the various strands here described will be drawn together by the Vice Postulator for presentation to the Archbishop of Dublin, Most Rev. Diarmuid Martin.

Meanwhile, each one is exhorted to recite daily the Prayer for Beatification of the Servant of God Frank Duff if that is the will of God.

World Youth Day

An Irish legionary's perspective

All the nations will come and worship (Rev15.4), and surely they did from all corners of the globe! We flew the flag high for Ireland. The language barriers just melted away as we all came to share one thing in common 'our Faith'. It was truly amazing to see so many young people so enthusiastic about the 'Faith', 1.2 million to be exact. I was privileged to go with 30 young fellow legionaries from the Legion of Mary. Among us we were blessed to have Fr. Eamonn McCarthy and Fr. Pdraig O'Cochlain, who kept us from getting lost in more ways than one.

We flew to Zurich where we were greeted by Veronica Ruepp and her sister Elizabeth Metzler, two Austrian legionaries. Fr. O'Cochlain unfortunately lost his luggage but truly lived the beatitude, 'Blessed are the poor.' and kept smiling and kept us smiling for the entire trip with his contagious sense of humour.

We took a bus to Austria and joined 120 young Austrian legionaries.



It was encouraging to see so many young vibrant legionary faces. We stayed 4 days in a beautiful convent beside Lake Constance in the foothills of the Alps. We prepared ourselves for our pilgrimage to Germany with daily Holy Mass, Adoration, the Divine Office, Catechism, and good fun, sharing our dynamic cultures of song and dance. We took time out to climb the Alps, and went swimming in Lake Constance. We felt a real sense of community under the banner of The Legion.



Marienfeld

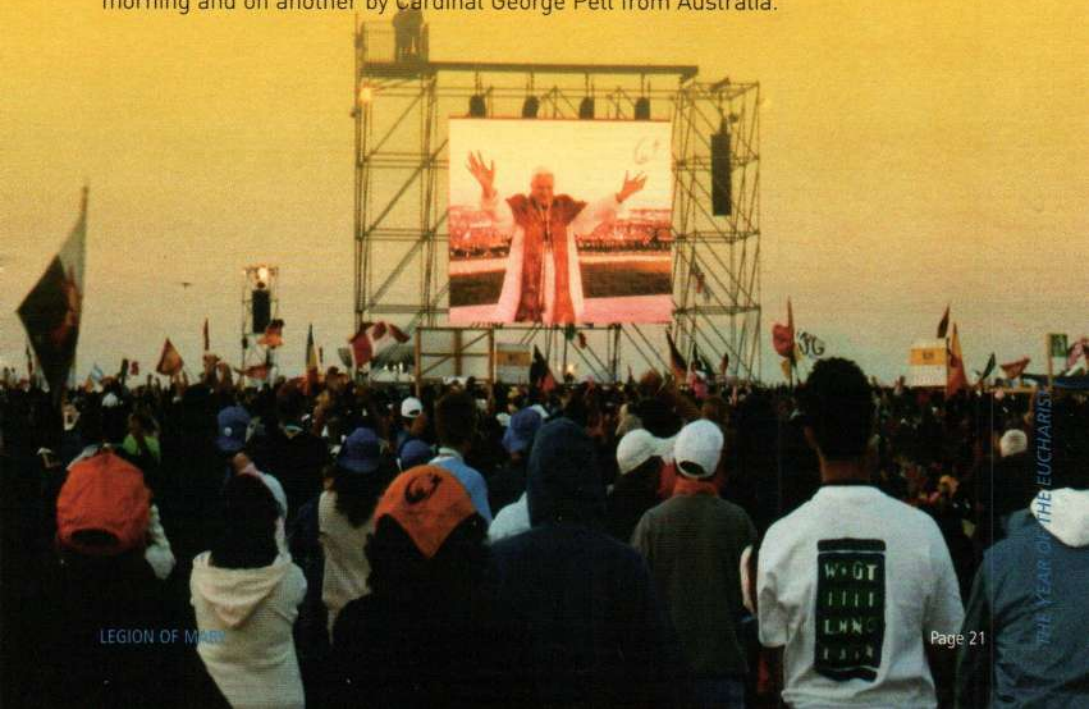
WORLD YOUTH DAY

Our bus trip to Germany with our new found friends and pilgrims lasted 8 hours; we found it difficult to contain our excitement about meeting Pope Benedict XVI. We arrived in Dusseldorf on the feast of the Assumption. Following a beautiful welcoming Mass with many nationalities present we retired for the night. The German people not only opened their hearts to us but also their homes.

The next day we got up at 6.00 a.m. for our trip by train to Köln Cathedral, where according to tradition the relics of the Three Wise Men are kept. It's immense size and magnificent structure took our breath away.

The next few days there was much travelling between the cities of Bonn, Köln and Dusseldorf. As legionaries we spent time evangelising and chatting to the locals who were both excited and impressed. We made some very good spiritual contacts.

There were concerts and talks on every Faith issue imaginable. Communities such as Cenacolo, Mother Teresa Sisters spoke of their way of life. Youth 2000 organised around the clock Adoration. An International Day for The Legion of Mary was held. The Korean legionaries performed traditional dance and song, and afterwards catered for us all. Catechises was led by Cardinal Francis Arinze from Nigeria one morning and on another by Cardinal George Pell from Australia.



“Benedetto”

WORLD YOUTH DAY

After celebrating Holy Mass, early Saturday we commenced our five hour trek to Marienfeld. There we spent the night on Vigil with an estimated one million young people.

To see so many people gathered together brought home the reality of the Mystical Body of Christ.

When Pope Benedict arrived he was greeted with the chant “Benedetto.” He spoke at the Vigil about the Saints ‘the true reformers of the Church’, how we are to learn from them, how to live our Christian lives and grow in holiness.

On Sunday, he spoke about the Holy Eucharist and encouraged us to bring the joy of our Faith to others and not to keep it to ourselves.

He announced that Sydney, Australia will host; *World Youth Day 2008*.



THE JOY OF THE EUCHARIST



FROM CRIB TO CROSS

Monsignor John Moloney



In the Eastern Church there is a practice at Christmas of embroidering on the swaddling clothes the Sign of the Cross. Also, the figure of the Divine Infant is presented with arms extended as he would be on the Cross.

In those symbolic ways is presented the unity of the mystery of redemption. From the wood of the crib to the wood of the cross, the mystery is one. The poverty, the abandonment, the rejection which Jesus suffered on the Cross, he already experienced at his coming.

No royal home but a cross. The closed doors already prefigure the abandonment of Calvary. So quickly after his coming came the shedding of the blood of innocent children. Later he, the innocent Lamb, would shed his own blood.

Just as beneath the Cross there was the comfort of loving hearts, so at

Bethlehem he was greeted with the joyful welcome of pure hearts and the song of angels.

Not long after his coming he was on the road to exile, who at Calvary would welcome all of us, exiles, home.

When we celebrate his coming every year with special solemnity, we greet him with the age old song, 'Venite adoremus, 'Come, let us adore him.'

Beneath the Cross, our prayer of worship is the same: 'We adore thee, O Christ and praise thee.'

In our lives, punctuated by the interplay of Bethlehem joy and Calvary sorrow, we are certain that the same love that made him come and made him die for us, is always beside us.

His name shall be called Emmanuel, (which means. God with us). (Mt 1:23)

*Lord, on the road of life each day, stay close by me.
Ease the cross of those who are burdened
with illness, stress, loneliness.*



AFRICA

Ethiopia - great devotion to Our Lady by the Ethiopian people was evident to the Ugandan legionaries when they visited on behalf of the Concilium. *Addis Ababa* has a praesidium of 25 members and one in *Jimma* has 20 members. *Tazar* also has the Legion but it was not possible to travel there on this occasion. Need for a translation of the Handbook into Amharic is a priority.

Malawi - the Regia is working at extending and consolidating as well as developing the Junior movement.

Nigeria - *Benin City* set up 3 praesidia and is hopeful of starting one in the prison. *Jos* has raised more higher councils. *Enugu* is doing much work of evangelisation. *Abuja* reported an increase of 121 junior members and 5 new praesidia in 16 months. *Ibadan* - 12 members of one comitium entered the seminary. *Lagos* give their active membership at 27,472 seniors and 24,462 juniors.

Sierre Leone - held a congress with 100 legionaries in attendance.

Liberia - people expressed appreciation for the visits of legionaries.

Zambia - *Lusaka* report continuous growth. A new work for them is the visitation of cells in police stations. Many Baptisms arranged as well as regularisation of Marriages were reported. *Kasama* have hopes of setting up a Curia in a Refugee camp with 300 members.

Tanzania - *Rombo* a Curia of 77 members covering 4 parishes gave its first report and a Junior Curia celebrated its golden jubilee.

Kenya - 6 legionaries were ordained deacons. Home and hospital visitation is done extensively resulting in 45 non-believers being invited to join the Church.

Uganda - the schools Curia in *Kampala* held its reunion with 400 pupils attending and the one in *Katigonda* had 600 pupils present.

Lesotho - All reports feature teaching of catechism, home, hospital and prison visitation. 4 children encouraged their parents to become interested in the faith.

South Africa - a Rosary Rally drew a large attendance. Members of the seminary praesidia join their local praesidia when on holidays. 60 youths attended a day of recollection and prayer. 2 prisoners returned to the practice of the faith. All praesidia make good contacts with young people.



Angola - prayer leaflets for the Servant of God Frank Duff have been translated into Umbundu. Legionaries make many sacrifices to attend their Council meetings.

Cabo Verde - 86 senior and 17 junior praesidia have a total membership of 2,000. Visitation of homes and instruction through catechism classes is done.

Ghana - the Archbishop of Accra encouraged the legionaries to take the words of Our Lady to heart and to be faithful to the Rosary. He also emphasised the value of home visitation.

Central African Republic - numerous reports on abortions being prevented and of counselling of girls who have regretted having had abortions are included in reports.

Rwanda - homes, hospitals, orphanages and prisons as well as the sick, the aged, the handicapped and distressed are contacted. Follow-up is done with recent converts and people who have fallen away are also helped to return to practice. The growth of the junior praesidia continues.

Democratic Republic of the Congo - spiritual and personal needs of people of all religions are being attended to.

Reunion Island - special emphasis in reports on promotion of Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Madagascar - travel is difficult but legionaries make many sacrifices to enable their presence at their Council meetings. 3 praesidia have 40 members each.



ASIA

Papua New Guinea - *Madang* awaits a visit from the Concilium. Children are taught the meaning of the Blessed Eucharist and adults are encouraged to receive the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion.

Australia - *Melbourne* - 24 hour vigils were organised to promote the "Year of the Eucharist." Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament was also arranged in parishes in the afternoons with non-Catholics also availing of the exposition. 170 legionaries attended a summer school. *Perth* started a junior praesidium and membership of the seminary praesidium is small at 4. *Sydney* - the Korean curia has 25 praesidia and 27 adults were received into the Church. Home visitation and the teaching of catechism is widely done.



New Zealand - visited the legionaries in **Samoa** and a praesidium was established in Auckland University.

Philippines - *Cebu* Evangelising works are done in prisons, visitation of homes, contact in market places, bus and train terminals. Catechism is taught in schools, Patrician meetings are held and homes are enthroned to the Sacred Heart and to the Immaculate Heart. *Bicolandia* after 4 successive typhoons causing a lot of destruction to homes, legionaries visited to offer encouragement and assistance. *Western Visayas* over 100 people lapsed from the Church were brought to a penitential service. Legionaries are working to counteract the Born Again Christians who are targeting junior legionaries. They also counsel against suicide. *Manila* 79 Patrician groups are organised. Seamen, street vendors, hospitality girls, waiters and waitresses are among those contacted by legionaries.



SOUTH AMERICA

Peru - growth of the Legion continues. 1 comitium has 562 members.

Paraguay - a Curia promotes Eucharistic Adoration and does street contact work. 19 prisoners were Baptised as were 39 other adults, among them 24 Indians.

Venezuela - some street girls have given up this way of life. New Curiae and praesidia were set up and a Junior Curia was divided in two.

Ecuador - 500 legionaries were present at their golden jubilee celebrations. 200 prisoners are contacted in the course of jail visitation

Uruguay - street contact and follow up resulted in some conversions. A retreat organised by legionaries was the means of many returning to the Sacraments.

Argentina - *Cordoba* the Cause of the Servant of God Frank Duff is being promoted and talks are being arranged in order to make him better known. *Buenos Aires* junior legionaries carry out an apostolate to youths in a rural area. *Rosario* legionaries participate in a local radio programme, teach catechism and recite the Rosary at wakes and funerals. Catechism classes in a prison have resulted in 11 Baptisms and 21 Confirmations.

Brazil - *Sao Paulo* visitation of homes, the sick, prisoners, women of the streets and transvestites are undertaken, resulting in many coming back to practise of the faith. *Rio de Janeiro* reports tell of the prevention of 3 suicides leading on to return to the practice. Street people are taught manual skills, prisoners are taught catechism and



how to recite the Rosary. Young people are evangelised by means of emphasis on prayer, chastity and avoidance of drugs. 2 were persuaded against having abortions. *Belo Horizonte* - 5 new praesidia started. An 82 year old evangelist returned to practise her faith after a 19 year lapse. Information on employment, blood donations, social welfare and access to medical care is provided. *Salvador* cares for abandoned children awaiting adoption. Adolescent mothers are shown how to care for their children.



USA/WEST INDIES/CANADA

USA - *Philadelphia* 81 took part in a day of Evangelisation when 1,314 homes were visited, 500 people were contacted and 16 interested in the Faith were met. *Houston* 1 Curia had 114 returns to the Sacraments. Members of the Spanish Curia visited 600 homes of which 75 were enthroned to the Sacred Heart. *St. Louis* - natural family planning and sidewalk counselling in the vicinity of abortion clinics forms part of the work of legionaries. *Los Angeles* a lady 60 years away from the Church returned to practice. *Cincinnati* Eucharistic Adoration is organised by several praesidia. *Chicago* 'white collar' prisoners were encouraged to return to the practise. This led on to a Patrician meeting being set up when different facets of the Faith were discussed resulting in others returning to the Sacraments. *New York* crowd contact at fairs, markets and outdoor events meant good discussions with people. A programme of talks for young people has been set up discussing the Old and New Testaments, the Eucharist and the lives of the Saints.

West Indies - *Haiti* has a membership of over 4,700. The members visit homes, hospitals and orphanages as well as doing crowd contact. Many of different or no faiths were met. Many family members of legionaries were drowned in the heavy flooding which occurred in their country.

Puerto Rico - Catechism is taught in prisons and there is excellent co-operation between the legionaries and religious sisters who also work in the prisons.

Dominican Republic - a youth was counselled against killing his father and this has resulted in their reconciliation. Two young girls were counselled against having abortions.

Canada - *Toronto* home and hospital visitation is carried out. Juniors have a very positive response to the Handbook. The Korean Curia now has 27 praesidia attached and brought 153 people into the Church. Five Patrician Groups meet monthly. *Vancouver* a man 30 years away from the Church has returned to practice.

Sermon by Bishop Martin Drennan

at Legion of Mary Pilgrimage, Knock, Ireland

In the second half of July I spent five days in Paray-le-Monial in central France. There's an annual gathering of Catholic families there each year. It's a pilgrimage, a coming together to pray, to get some spiritual nourishment, to meet and return home strengthened in their faith. It was very clear how the annual coming together gave them energy for the mission ahead for living and sharing their faith as families and as community. Many of them feel isolated because they don't have a community of faith back home. The annual pilgrimage is a very important part of their faith journey.

The first speaker at this year's assembly in Paray-le-Monial was Jean Vanier, a man known to many in Ireland for his work with the L'Arche communities who care for people with mental handicap. He offered his vision of how to be the face of Christ in today's worlds the face of compassion and forgiveness since these are the core of Jesus' message.

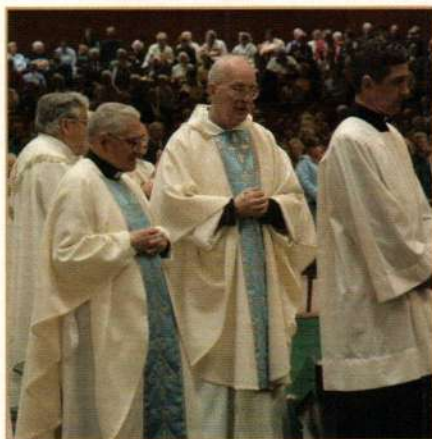
This is the call in a world pock-marked by conflict and division. People on the margins, those rejected by the world, can be the very ones who heal us. Pope John Paul said that those with handicaps show us how to be truly human. Every mission begins with pondering, with contemplating the person of Jesus, learning from him what we are to be as his witnesses. In the second, reading (Phil 2:1-11) St. Paul shows us a way to do that. In a community in a world badly divided, he sees how the humility of Jesus is the way to healing divisions. Humble people are no threat, they don't need to engage in the rivalry or competition that divides. Like Jesus they draw people together in the service of God. In a world where the divisions between rich and poor, between the powerful and powerless, are becoming greater, that humble service which the Legion of Many offers is as necessary as ever.

There's a view - I hear it in the media almost every day - that in an age like ours, of unprecedented change, our values, too, must change. Forget marriage and the stable family, forget virtues like honour, fidelity, courtesy, restraint, above all forget religion. They're old, past their sell-by date. We're living in the 21st century after all! It's a view that couldn't be more wrong. It's when the hurricane blows hardest that you need the deepest roots.

When you are entering unknown territory, it's then you need a compass to give you a sense of direction. What gives us strength to cope with change are the things that don't change - a loving family, a supportive community, our faith that keeps alive the wisdom, of the past. If we live just for the present moment we lose contact with the wisdom of the past and we have nothing to pass on to the next generation. Those who value and carry with them the heritage of the past are those who can face the future without fear. The gospel message is as urgent and relevant as ever in a new millennium. Pope Benedict said recently that God's joy longs to break into the world and that it can happen only through us. Joy is God's gift to those who live for him, who are most in tune with him. Finding and sharing that gospel joy is the calling of every Legionary, of every Christian.

A few weeks ago I watched a short programme in the series, The World's Most Photographed. It was about Mahatma Gandhi, his long struggle to win freedom for India and then his time of fasting and prayer to persuade Hindus and Muslims to end their violence against each other. For me that programme brought back a scene from an earlier film about Gandhi where during that awful time of bloodshed a Hindu came to his leader and told him he had killed a Muslim and wished to make up for his crime. Gandhi told him to adopt a poor muslim boy and to be sure to bring him up as a Muslim. In that way he would unlive the past, live differently. That is real conversion, the kind called for in today's gospel (Mt 21:28-32). Involved in it are insight into our resistance to God's ways, accepting forgiveness, a change of direction, a new way of living. It leads to joy. St. Francis

of Assisi said that true joy is not when people praise us or when great people want to join us, but when we love those who reject us. That is the joy Pope Benedict would wish us to give to the world. Let us pray for what we need to carry out that mission as messengers of joy for the Lord in our time, just as Mary was the Lord's messenger of joy in her time.



Prison Praesidium USA

Mankato Curia

Judy Hoppe, President of Our Lady of the Universe Curia,
Mankato, Minnesota, USA

Some members of our Legion of Mary Praesidium started visiting the local Federal Corrections Institution in Minnesota, USA, about five years ago. FCI is a low security prison with basically “White collar” in-mates who have committed crimes that are non-violent. At that time we attended Mass with the men, showed a religious video and visited them. The men were educated, came from good backgrounds, and were involved in many leadership situations on the outside, but unfortunately, had made some bad choices and got into trouble.

As we got better acquainted we realised that they had a desire to learn more about their faith to prepare them to become better citizens of their Church and their country when they were released. We presented the idea about forming a Legion of Mary praesidium in the compound. They listened with great interest and after a couple of weeks all 20 voted unanimously to form a presidium in the prison and promptly chose the name ‘Our Lady of Quadaalupe’ for their praesidium.

The Legion meetings are conducted “by the book”. The men are given assignments each week which involve working within the prison and have created a definite Catholic presence among the many different sects trying to influence the men into other atheistic and non-christian alliances. They have converted some and encouraged many others back to the Faith.

As they read their Handbooks and learned about the *Society of the Patricians* they decided they would like to have an information/discussion opportunity in the prison.

We have a two and one half hour block of time each week to do our Legion work and always start with Mass said by the local parish priest, who is also our Spiritual Director. We then conduct our praesidium meeting and follow with Catechism study for the rest of the period. Monthly we have our Patrician meeting instead of the catechism lesson.

Our Bishop is very interested in the prison ministry of the Legion of Mary and has written about this ministry in the diocesan newspaper saying that the Legion is a “valuable instrument of evangelisation that every parish should consider.”



THE VALUABLE ROLE OF *Maria Legionis*



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