

Maria Legionis



Maria Legionis

The Voice of the Legion of Mary

No. 1 of 2006

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Stained glass window of the Annunciation from the Taizé community.

Mutual understanding will not, of itself, bring about Christian unity, but misunderstandings will certainly hinder the pilgrimage. "It is above all in her personal pilgrimage of faith that Mary is a model for us all": may we all be inspired by the example of the Mother of Our Lord to continue our pilgrimage in discovering and responding to God's will for our Churches.

British Methodist/Roman Catholic Committee



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PRO-CATHEDRAL, DUBLIN, IRELAND.
19TH NOVEMBER 2005

25TH ANNIVERSARY MASS
OF THE DEATH OF
THE SERVANT OF GOD
Frank Duff

*Homily by
His Grace Most Rev. Diarmuid Martin,
Archbishop of Dublin*



We come together on the twenty fifth anniversary of the death of the Servant of God, Frank Duff. We remember his life and his work. We remember his devotion to the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ. We remember his devotion to Mary, Mother of the Church, and Queen of the Apostles.

Frank Duff was someone who had a passion for the Church, I would love to have heard him speak about how he felt when he was called to be among the first lay auditors at the Second Vatican Council, an extraordinarily visible honour for him personally and for the work that he had initiated.

I would love to have heard him speak about his reactions to the debate at the Vatican Council and especially his thoughts about the discussions on the role of the laity, which bore fruit with the promulgation of the Constitution on the Church and the Decree of the Lay Apostolate.

It must have been a source of great satisfaction for him - not to see himself recognised, that was not his style but to see recognised and developed into the teachings of an Ecumenical Council - such a rare and significant event - the insights that he had developed through his own commitment, his own prayer, his own study and indeed his own suffering.

Frank Duff had an extraordinary intuition into the role of the laity in the Church. The vocation of the lay person involves apostolate. The Council Decree on the Laity of Vatican II (#3) sets this out in unambiguous language: "The laity are made to share in the priestly, prophetic and kingly office of Christ; they have therefore in the Church and in the world, their own assignment in the mission of the People of God". The entire Church is missionary. The entire Church is called to apostolate, to be active witness in their lives to the kingdom of God.



*Most Rev. Diarmuid Martin,
Archbishop of Dublin*

Frank Duff was "post Conciliar" decades before the Council took place! He had early on an intuition of what the Vatican Council was later to say: "On all Christians rests the noble obligation of working to bring all people throughout the world to hear and accept the divine message of salvation."

Frank's intuition is more than ever valid today. My hope and prayer is to see a diocese where this statement of the Council becomes reality, a diocese in which lay persons - not because of shortage of priests, but on the basis of their own specific vocation - take on the task of evangelisation in every sector of society and take on responsibility for the quality of the Christian life of the community.

Again Frank had another vital intuition about the role of lay Christian in the mission of the Church which is equally important for us to recall.

Lay involvement is not a question of shifting the axis of power in the Church. No one better than Frank understood that the Christian life is not about power or influence. Few understood better than Frank how Jesus had come "not be served but to serve".

Few distinguished persons have reflected in their lives the humility of Jesus as did Frank Duff. He understood what authority means in the Church and he respected it. He realised that being an apostle - lay or ordained - requires above all entering in to the mystery of Jesus deeper and deeper by the day. No one can bring the "divine message of salvation" to the world who has not entered first into that message, that mystery.

Frank's intuition, like that of so many of the holy men and women who have changed the Church, came from a sense of mysticism, of entering personally more profoundly into the mystery of Christ and then of sharing that with others. We can well apply to Frank Duff the beautiful words of Pope Benedict XVI in his inaugural homily, which serve also as an appeal to all of us:

"There is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ. There is nothing more beautiful than to know Him and to speak to others of our friendship with Him".

“We remember his devotion to Mary, Mother of the Church, and Queen of the Apostles”

And each of us is called to share in that same mission, in those same three tasks. His kingdom is not of this world, but it is not outside this world entirely either.

The kingdom is already present in seed within our world, through the redeeming power of Jesus's death and resurrection. It is a kingdom which can and must be anticipated, even in our time, through grace and holiness, when we as believers attempt to shape our lives in terms of that truth and life, that justice, love and peace which are the signs of the kingdom and of God's presence.

"There is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ"

Tomorrow the Church celebrates the Feast of Christ the King. It is interesting to recall that the term "king" appears at the very first moments of the life of Jesus on earth and at the very last moments of his life. The angels announce to the shepherds that a king has been born. On the cross of Jesus is written "Jesus of Nazareth, King". Jesus is anointed priest/prophet and king.

COMMEMORATION
of the Servant of God
Frank Duff
Founder of the Legion of Mary

25th Anniversary Mass

in
St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral,
Marlborough St., Dublin 1
Saturday 19th November 2005
at 3.00pm

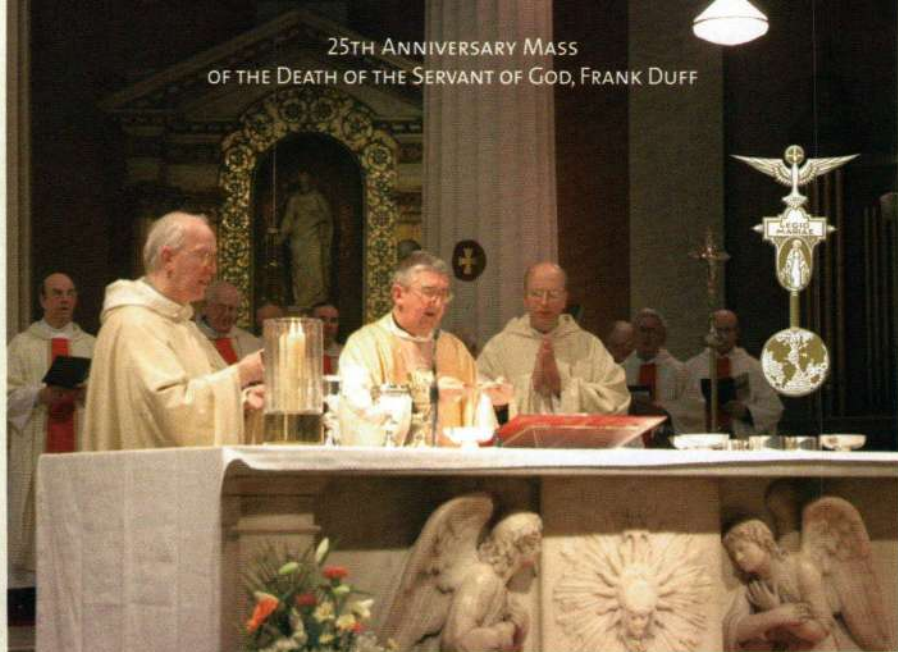
His Grace the Most Rev. Diarmaid Martin, D.D.
Archbishop of Dublin
Principal Celebrant & Homilist

All Are Welcome

Legion of Mary
September 1925

Born
7 June 1909
Died
7 July 1989

25TH ANNIVERSARY MASS
OF THE DEATH OF THE SERVANT OF GOD, FRANK DUFF



In a particular way the Feast of Christ the King is a special Feast for lay women and men. It is the responsibility of committed lay Christians to bring that message of Jesus into the complex situation of the world in which we live, so that the kingdom may be realised in the lives of ourselves and others and in contemporary culture.

God's kingdom must be realised within the social and cultural structures in which we live. But this will only happen when we bring to that world the values of transcendence, of a God who in his goodness and in his love created the world to be a true home, worthy of the dignity of each woman and man, created in God's own image.



Such a mission which aims at transforming the world in which we live will draw its inspiration from the Eucharist. It is in the celebration of the Eucharist that the kingdom is realised, through the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus, It is in the Eucharist that Jesus prepares us to go out in service. Living the kingdom means "giving ourselves up", as Jesus did, so that in our world there may be life and authentic life.

**"God's kingdom
must be realised
within the social and
cultural structures in
which we live"**

It is within the sharing and celebration of the Eucharist that we "become one body" through the power of the Holy Spirit. Celebrating the Eucharist inspires us to ensure that the true unity of humankind in Christ becomes a reality in our day. Celebrating Eucharist renews our commitment to building a more just and fraternal society, thus anticipating that kingdom of justice, love and peace, for which all humankind longs.

May Mary, who through her Fiat, her acceptance of God's word, enabled the incarnation of her Son to become reality, help us in the spirit of Frank Duff, to be "incarnations" of the truth and love of Jesus in our lives and to witness to his name with renewed depth and vigour.

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.

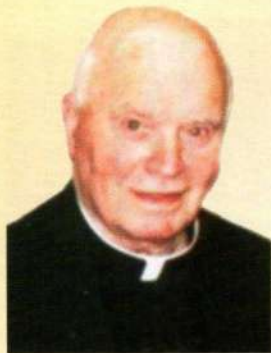
With confidence we beg you that through his intercession you grant the petition we lay before you... ..

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.

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.

With ecclesiastical approval



God Exists - I Have Met Him!

Monsignor John Moloney
from his book "The Time is Now"

André Frossard wrote an absorbing book with the title *God exists. I have met him.* Behind the title lies a remarkable story of a journey from unbelief to faith. André described himself as 'a complacent atheist.'

He had a varied career: Naval officer, prisoner of the Gestapo for a year who when released engaged as a journalist.

His remarkable story goes as follows. One evening he went for a drive with a friend, Willemijn, a devout Catholic, along the Latin Quarter of Paris. Willemijn went to visit a church which later he knew was a convent of Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

After a while, out of curiosity, Andre followed in. He entered a chapel and, on an altar brightly lit, he saw a monstrance in which there was a host. Suddenly, looking on the host he was surrounded by a dense brilliant light. He tried to describe it: 'an avalanche descended upon me'. He saw reality; he saw truth. 'I was quite unaware that before me was the Blessed Sacrament below which many candles were burning.'

After he had been prepared for Baptism by a priest of the Holy Ghost Order he was able to express his awareness of the full marvel of the Eucharist:

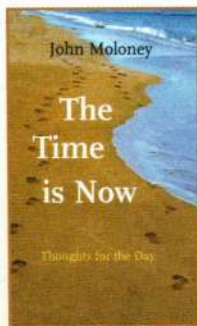
'I was amazed that the love of God should have used such an astonishing means of communication, and that for it bread, the food of the poor and of small children, had been God's choice. Of all the gifts which Christianity was showering upon me, the Eucharist seemed to me the greatest.'

Here is a story with a message for each of us. Reflecting on the experience of André Frossard we may, with an ever lively faith, say with St. Thomas Aquinas, 'O Jesus, whom veiled I now behold, I beg you, that

beholding you with countenance unveiled, I may be happy in the vision of your glory.'

I am the living bread which came down from heaven. (Jn 6:51)

Blessed be Jesus in the most holy sacrament of the altar.



Praises of Mary

Mary's "fiat" (Her response to the angel at the Annunciation)

The "fiat" ("let it be done") of Mary, the word of her heart, has changed the history of the world, because it brought the Saviour into the world.

*The spiritual vision of Benedict XVI -
Let God's Light Shine Forth*

The Heart of Mary is the Interior Sanctuary in which our Divine Saviour honours us with His most familiar conversation and most intimate communications.

The Heart of Mary - Pierre Jeanjacquot, S.J.

Jesus Christ after having given us all he could give, that is to say, the merit of his toils, his sufferings, and his bitter death; after having given us his Adorable Body and Blood to be the Food of our souls, willed also to give us the most precious thing he had left, which was His holy Mother.

St. John Vianney

It is impossible to meditate with devotion upon the Mysteries of the Rosary and live in a state of sin.

Sermon for the Feast of the Rosary. Thoughts of the Curé D'Arz

We have only to turn to the Blessed Virgin to be heard. Her heart is all love.

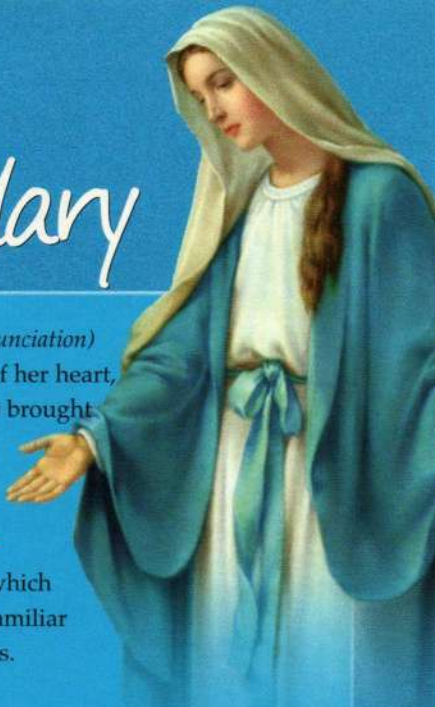
Catechism on the Blessed Virgin (Sp.) - Thoughts of the Curé D'Arz

If you invoke the Blessed Virgin when you are tempted, she will come at once to your help and Satan will leave you.

On the Sixth Commandment (C.) - Thoughts of the Curé D'Arz

Let us live as the Blessed Virgin lived: loving God only, desiring God only, trying to please God only in all that we do.

Sermon for the Feast of the Assumption - Thoughts of the Curé D'Arz



Legio Maria

Senatus of Bicolandia

City of Naga, Philippines



LEGIO MARIAE
SENATUS OF BICOLANDIA
CITY OF NAGA, PHILIPPINES

The Editor
Maria Legionis
Concilium Legionis Mariae
Morning Star Avenue
Brunswick Street
Dublin 7, Ireland

Dear Editor,

I am pleased to send you the attached photograph on the occasion of the 25th foundation anniversary of the Curia in the Holy Rosary Major Seminar where all students are active members and 97 members are praetorians.

Every year eight, ten or more students are ordained and return to their home towns for their Thanksgiving Mass. Then other groups come in from the different Minor Seminaries in the Bicol Region, and the cycle continues.

I am happy to inform you that the Legion of Mary is a requirement on their curriculum, hence, all seminarians are active members.

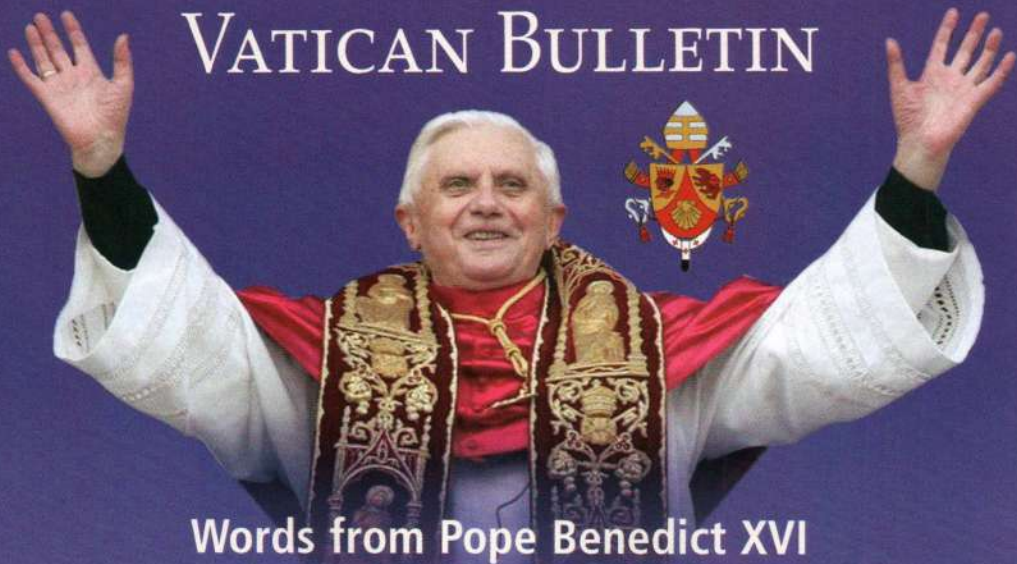
Thank You.

Very sincerely yours,

Leiticia P. Cipriano

Leiticia P. Cipriano
Senatus President

VATICAN BULLETIN



Words from Pope Benedict XVI

"The Church does not live for herself but for the Gospel, and it is always in the Gospel that she finds the direction for her Journey." *Reflections of the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation - Dei Verbum*

"As God is sovereignly free in revealing and giving himself because he is motivated solely by love, so the human person is also free and giving his or her own dutiful assent: God expects a response of love. *ANGELUS - Second Sunday of Advent, 4 December 2005*

"I remind you that every human life deserves respect and must be protected from its conception to its natural end." *St. Peter's Square Second Sunday of Advent, 4 December 2005*

"Religious liberty is indeed very far from being effectively guaranteed everywhere; In certain cases it is denied for religious or ideological reasons; although it may be recognised on paper, it is hindered in effect by political power or, more cunningly, by the cultural predomination of agnosticism and relativism." *ANGELUS - Second Sunday of Advent, 4 December 2005*

"The righteous one, heeding the continual warning of the prophets, puts himself on the side of the disenfranchised and sustains them with abundant help. Open-handed he gives to the poor" *GENERAL AUDIENCE - Wednesday, 2 November 2005*

"Yes, to become saints means to completely fulfil what we already are, raised to the dignity of God's adopted children, in Jesus Christ. *ANGELUS - St Peter's Square, 1 November 2005*

Sourced from L'Osservatore Romano
by kind permission of the editor

75th Anniversary of the Foundation of REGINA COELI HOSTEL

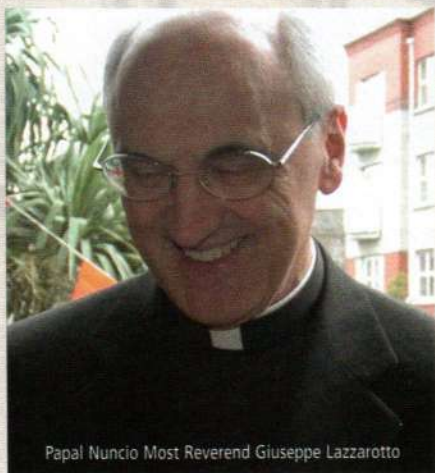
His Excellency Most Reverend Giuseppe Lazzarotto, The Apostolic Nuncio in Ireland
Dublin, 2nd October 2005

*I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord, to go
and bear fruit that will last (Jn 15:16).*

My dear brothers and sisters, we are indeed happy today to be celebrating the anniversary of the foundation of the Regina Coeli Hostel! It has, for the past seventy-five years, never failed to produce abundant fruits of goodness and charity, as much for those who devote themselves to their less fortunate brothers and sisters as for those who benefit from their caring love.

Someone might perhaps object that seventy-five years is not a particularly long time, above all if seen in our global context where events and circumstances flash by at such speed that we often find it difficult to give them due attention, calmly and objectively.

Nonetheless, there can be no doubt that when a Work, an Association, an Institute, has been seventy-five years in existence, it is because the idea that gave rise to it was a valid one and that the inspiration from which it sprang was solid. Of course, for anyone looking at it with the eyes of faith, it does not just appear to spring from the good will, the imagination or the determination of those who founded it; it reveals, too, the very hand of God and his grace and blessing.



Papal Nuncio Most Reverend Giuseppe Lazzarotto

That is certainly the case with this work, the Regina Coeli Hostel, which developed from the noble mind and heart of the Servant of God, Frank Duff. It was his deep faith that enabled him to contemplate the world around him with the eyes of Christ, who never ignored the sufferings of those who turned to him and who went about healing all kinds of ailments of body and soul.

Shortly after having founded the Legion of Mary, Frank Duff identified a number of the social ills of his day. But he did not then wait around for the findings of experts or the results of inquiries before trying to do something about them.

Prompted by the love of Christ, he immediately sought out those who were in difficulty and created an institution in which homeless or single mothers could, along with their children, receive care, warmth, and material and spiritual support.

We can say, of course, that what Frank Duff did was simply to put into practice the Gospel message that we have just listened to in the liturgy of this Sunday. He understood that there was a vineyard that the Lord had entrusted to him - one that needed his care and his labour. He was well aware that the Master of the vineyard would one day call his servant to account and come looking for the fruits of his vineyard. Frank Duff did not shy away; he did not say "Lord, there are others who can do this work better than I; turn to them!" No! He set about his task with generosity; he began his work with a great sense of responsibility and introduced many others to the same labour of love. So great was that early commitment, and so effective the work, that this vineyard, right up to this day, continues to produce its fruit, and fruit that we can all see and appreciate.

Thus, my dear brothers and sisters, we have good reason to rejoice as we come to celebrate this anniversary. But at the same time there is need to reflect seriously on our own responsibilities today and on our own resolve to be, like Frank Duff, good labourers in the vineyard that the Lord has entrusted to our care. You will remember how our present Holy Father presented himself, just after his election as the Successor of Peter, as "a simple and humble labourer in the vineyard of the Lord".

LEGION OF MARY



Lord Mayor of Dublin Catherine Byrne with Claire Ennis left and Marie Dunleavy right



THE VOICE OF THE LEGION OF MARY



Children at the Regina Coeli Hostel, Circa 1935



What, then, is the particular vineyard we are called to work in today? The historical, social and economic circumstances of our times are certainly different from what they were when Frank Duff founded the Legion of Mary and the Regina Coeli Hostel. Yet, if we have eyes to see and a heart capable of feeling, we have to recognise that, despite the changed circumstances, we find in our world, right here in Ireland, much the same reality, the same needs that existed in 1930, even if they present themselves today in a different shape. It is a well-known fact that in a society that enjoys widespread well-being, such as ours, there are still many people who have no roof over their heads and live below the poverty line.

A few days ago, we learned that Ireland occupies an enviable 8th place in the list of the most developed nations, but at the same time it is one of the countries that show the greatest gap between wealth and poverty.

By a happy coincidence, today we celebrate in Ireland the Day for Life. We know how endangered life is, and, paradoxically, how often the cause of this is to be found in the very scientific progress that is supposed to protect it.

It is right that we should seek to protect life from its first instant, the life of the unborn, and that we should strenuously oppose any attempt by those who believe they can decide for themselves the moment a life they consider incomplete must cease to be. Yet no matter how right it is that we should take care of life at its beginnings and life, too, that is drawing to a close, we must also take care of life in all its other stages of development. Today, we have before our eyes the splendid example of what Frank Duff did to help other people who were in need by making it possible for them to live their lives with dignity and serenity.





Lord Mayor of Dublin Catherine Byrne with Ciara Hayden and Sr. Coronata at the exhibition commemorating the Regina Coeli Hostel



It is fidelity to the word of the Lord and to his teachings that should urge us to follow his example. "I tell you, then, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit": that is the sharp warning with which today's Gospel passage concludes. Our Lord never has "second thoughts" about the gifts he gives us; they are given to us once and for all, as St. Paul says. But Our Lord does tell us that if the gift we receive remains sterile, there will be others to whom he will turn in search of fruits, and we will share the fate of the lazy and fearful servant who buried the talent he had received and did not allow it to bring forth its fruits.

We know that, in the eyes of God, we will not have to enumerate all the sins we

have committed. God wipes away our failings with his boundless mercy. We will be asked instead how much we have loved. Love will be the benchmark by which we will be judged. I believe that when Frank Duff appeared before the Lord, he was able to present, among other things, the Regina Coeli Hostel as proof of the intensity and earnestness of his dedication to charity.

We ask the Lord today to grant us something of that same generosity with which Frank Duff became an instrument of God's love for his brothers and sisters in his day, so that we too may be counted among those faithful servants who were admitted to share in the joy of the Master of the vineyard.



Homeless persons of all denominations or none are welcome and full respect is accorded to their religious beliefs.

Equality

The Legion in a Multi-cultural and Multi-religious Society

*Fr. Bede McGregor O.P. Legion of Mary Spiritual Director
Vice Postulator for the Cause of the Servant of God Frank Duff*

In many countries where the Legion is present there are deep divisions and differences that separate and alienate people. How should the Legion act in these situations? First of all the Handbook states that for entry into the Legion there shall be no social, racial, national or colour discrimination. The only ultimate requirement is that a person will try to live out faithfully the Legion Promise and live according to the spirit and directives contained in the Handbook. The Legion seeks to transcend all divisions and differences that exclude others. Members can come from different cultural and national backgrounds, different tribal or ethnic origins, from opposing political parties, from different sides of the generation gap, from radically differing economic and educational backgrounds. All are equally brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ and children of Mary, the mother of God and of every human person without exception.

The Handbook states: 'If the entire community is to be brought fully under the influence of legionary action, it follows that the Legion's ranks must contain representatives of every section of the community.' We all remember

how Edel Quinn with a deep legionary spirit was able to set up praesidia in several parts of Africa where people that socially would never mix or work together would join hands in the Legion, in a spirit of mutual love and service and a common effort at evangelisation. This has thankfully happened in many other parts of the world too. So recruitment must be done in all sections of the community. We must invite immigrants, refugees, migrant workers, all who share our Catholic faith into the Legion. And those of other religions, while they cannot become legionaries for obvious reasons, must come to know from personal contact that if there is any place of friendship and welcome in any country it will be in the Legion.

The Legion always has and must always endeavour, if it is faithful to its basic principles and practice, to set its face against every form of discrimination.

In many societies today this spirit of the Legion is profoundly needed. In a multi-cultural and multi-religious society the first apostolate of the Legion must be the witness of our lives characterised by an all inclusive love and welcome for all



people whatever their background of culture or religion.



The section of the Handbook that I am inviting you to reflect on today goes on to say: 'Within its own ranks there should be an unaffected simplicity and sincere mutual charity among the members, all distinctions being non-existent. If love is due to those whom the legionary serves, it is no less due to one's fellow members. The spirit of distinction is the evidence of the absence of the first qualification of membership, which is the spirit of love.' Members may have different temperaments, come from functional or dysfunctional backgrounds, and have different interests, attachments, or antagonisms outside the Legion. But the praesidium must be an authentic school of charity. No one must be sidelined within the praesidium, and the mutual love must be not only in words but in deeds. If mutual love is not the major characteristic of a praesidium what hope is there of really loving and serving those whom we meet in personal contact outside the Legion.

We as legionaries must be totally dependent on and devoted to Mary. She is distinguished by her unconditional and maternal love of all her children without exception. We ask to share in her maternal love and therefore it should be an all-inclusive love beginning with our fellow members in the praesidium and in all the councils of the Legion. The Legion is called to be a sign in the Church and the world of how Christians should live in a culturally and religiously pluralistic environment.

EXCERPT FROM FRANK DUFF'S WRITINGS

If you show yourself willing to listen in the right way, people will eagerly avail of that chance. People want to talk and to be listened to.

Everybody is inwardly soft and idealistic, no matter how case-hardened they may be, no matter how inhumanly they talk. I have in my time known many tough people - the toughest that could be got - and on innumerable occasions I have had the experience of seeing that crust collapse, and the hidden softness and idealism gush forth. So believe always in that possibility and cater for it.

We have been hearing of the young man of 20 on whom one of our legionary priests was lavishing great kindness. He asked the boy to tell him his history, whereupon he broke into tears and said: "This is the first time in my life that anybody has wanted to know anything about me." Very dreadful - if one thinks it out and reflects that the Christian characteristic is supposed to be that very interest!

So as a primary rule encourage others to talk.

Source:
The Spirit of Home
Visitation



South Korea

In the Year of the Eucharist the Legion of Mary celebrates 50 years of activity in South Korea

To celebrate 50 years of activity the Legion of Mary group organised, in this Year of the Eucharist, a National Congress in Seoul on the theme 'Living the Year of the Eucharist with Mary'. Some 130,000 Legion of Mary members from all over the country attended the Congress which called them "to become through spiritual renewal channels of evangelisation".

In a final statement the participants said they were determined to face the challenges of the future: proclaim the Gospel to the world; be humble and faithful collaborators with the parish priests; live a life of continual prayer inspired by Mary.



THE VOICE OF THE LEGION OF MARY

LEGION OF MARY

“Behind this growth there is also dedicated commitment on the part of the Legion of Mary”

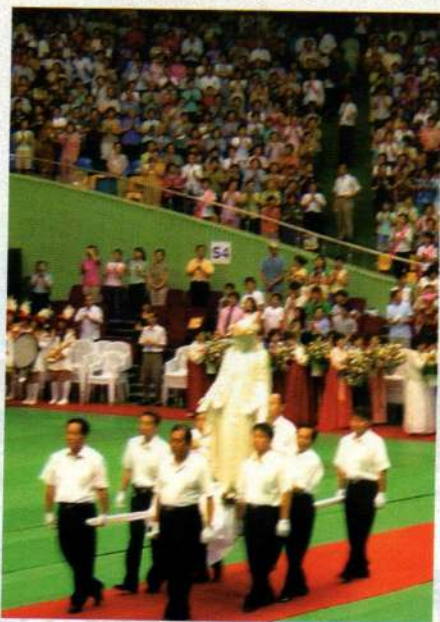
Archbishop Nicholas Cheong of Seoul who presided at the closing Eucharistic celebration said “50 years ago the annual percentage of new baptisms in Korea was 1%; today it is 10%. Behind this growth there is also dedicated commitment on the part of the Legion of Mary”.

The Legion of Mary, an apostolic organisation of lay people in the Catholic Church, has well over 3 million active members in almost every country of the world.

Works include besides daily rosary, door-to-door evangelisation, parishioner visitation, prison ministry, visitation of the sick or aged, crowd contact, religious education, visiting the newly baptised. Legionaries are under the guidance of a spiritual director named by the parish priest. The Legion is, in essence, an extension of the heart and hands of the parish priest.

Since January this year the Korean Legion of Mary members included the success of the Congress in the intentions of their daily rosary invoking the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the Church and the country.

“7% of Catholics in South Korea are members of the Legion of Mary”



(PA) (Agenzia Fides 6/9/2005 righe 15 parole 175)

Legion Adventures in Papua New Guinea

Liam Hayden and Maureen McManus, Concilium Visitators



Maureen McManus and I left Dublin on the 4th September 2005. After 20 hours flying, we arrived in Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea, at 5.30am on the 6th of September. We were greeted by a very enthusiastic Legion party.

Garlands were placed around our necks and we were whisked off to the Divine Word Missionaries (SVD) house by Rev. Brother Anthony, our host, in Port Moresby.



Here we were greeted by legionaries who performed traditional dances in our honour. After refreshments we were brought to meet Archbishop Brian Barnes, a charming and unassuming Australian who we found to be very supportive of the Legion.



Welcome to Mingendi



After lunch at the home of Fr. Bobby Cue, Spiritual Director of the Comitium, we were entertained by legionaries to traditional song and dance.



Welcome to Mingendi

The second day in Port Moresby was as busy as the first with meetings at Praesidium and Curia level, all punctuated by lively question and answer sessions.



Curia at Waigani

On the 8th of September we flew to Rabaul on the island of New Britain where the Legion was celebrating 50 years on the islands of New Guinea. This was truly a momentous two days with great pageantry and colour. Archbishop Karl Hesse welcomed us and was the main celebrant at the open air Mass attended by approximately 3,000 legionaries. Fr. Norbert Berkmann and his legionaries ensured that we wanted for nothing.

A severe earth tremor during our meeting with the Regia Officers alarmed the Concilium visitors but left our hosts utterly unfazed.

After two busy days of meetings and ceremony during which we learned that the Regia has 6,500 members, we returned to Port Moresby for more celebrations - the 84th Anniversary of the birth of the Legion. The Legionaries were most anxious to meet us in community and we were impressed with their desire to know the Legion better. Several large group sessions were held.





Offertory Procession, Rabaul

Next on our itinerary was Kundiawa in the Central Highlands where we were met at the airport by Fr. Richard Wajda SVD who drove us to Mingende, a large Catholic complex some 12 miles from the airport. Here the welcome was breathtaking with the now customary party of tribal dancers and about 600 others, all legionaries, who escorted us to the church area where a pig was killed in our honour! We addressed a packed church after which many questions were put to us. The school here is a Legion hotbed with all 28 teachers in active membership and their pupils are in the Junior Legion. Bishop Henk Te Maarsen was most gracious in welcoming us and takes an active interest in the Legion. This is an area where tribal fighting affects attendance at Legion councils and legionaries endeavour to reconcile the opposing factions. Several question and answer sessions were held. Many legionaries had travelled great distances to be with us. Their dedication and deep spirituality were a joy to behold. After Mingende we travelled by road to Goroka where Bishop Francesco Sarejo was our host. After a welcoming Mass followed by meetings with legionaries we retired for the day.



The next day Bishop Francesco brought us to the Goroka show, a stunning exhibition of traditional crafts and dance. Before departure from Goroka we had lunch with Wicklow man Fr. John Ryan SVD.

Madang, the seat of the Regia received us next and Fr. Ernest Golly with Regia Officers escorted us from the airport to our accommodation where we met Archbishop William Joseph Kurtz of Madang, an avid supporter of the Legion. Madang is a truly beautiful region with a glorious coastline bounded by a fertile soil yields an abundance of exotic fruits and vegetables. No less attractive is the spirit of Fr. Golly and his Legion team. The Regia distributes Legion literature to every Council including the islands. The Masses were characterised by beautiful Liturgy and angelic singing. We attended many meetings including that of the Regia where we found the Officers take their responsibilities seriously. The by-now mandatory question and answer sessions are very popular with PNG legionaries and Madang had particularly searching inquiries to make. Three days in Madang and surrounding districts ended with a visit to Alexishafen where the first Praesidium in Papua New Guinea was founded by Bishop Adolph Noser in 1954.

Our next flight took us to Wewak where Comitium President, Michael Weiwiw accompanied by a large Legion welcoming party headed by male dancers brought us to the SVD complex at Wirui. The following day we convened a meeting of all praesidia Officers in the Comitia whose numbers filled the Church.



Fr. Richard Wajda



Christian Brothers



Bishop of Kundiawa, Most Rev. Henk te Maarsen

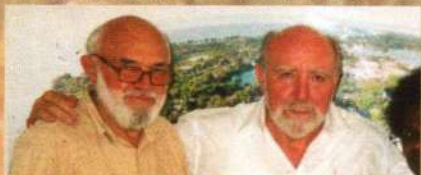




Maureen McManus



Liam Hayden



With Fr. Ernest Golly



Bishop Francesco Sarejo



Rabaul Anniversary Mass

We addressed the congregation of legionaries and a question and answer session ensued. A similar programme occupied our second day in Wewak and the Comitium meeting was a lively encounter. On our third and final day in Wewak we attended a Curia meeting in Yarapos, after which the members brought us on a picnic to Yam where we dined "Al Fresco" on the beautiful Pacific beach.

Our next port of call was Mount Hagan and we were feted all the way from there to Rabuaunai, the Catholic complex where Fr. Paul Czerwinski, Spiritual Director of the Comitium saw us safely through milling crowds of dancing and cheering legionaries to our quarters at the Michaelite congregation house. Our host here was Fr. Bogdan whose other hat is that of Spiritual Director of Wabag Comitium. The following day we walked in procession with over 2,000 legionaries to the Cathedral for Holy Mass, where ten Priests concelebrated to an overflowing congregation. The music and liturgy were simply awesome in their beauty, organisation, and devotional content. After Mass we adjourned to the YC Hall where we addressed the assembled multitude on behalf of Concilium and were greeted with rapturous enthusiasm. The PA system was not working so we moved among the legionaries addressing any concerns they might have. Our penultimate day in Mount Hagan commenced with a truly spectacular celebration of the Mass after which Ana Kombuk, Comitium President, led us to an adjoining hall where we met all Curia officers attached to Mount Hagan Comitium. A full discussion on the administrative problems faced by this growing council of almost 9,000 legionaries brought forth many enthusiastic proposals.

Our final engagement in this Legion stronghold was an interview for Trinita Catholic Radio, hosted by Fr. Victor Roche SVD wherein we were joined by Rev. Sr. Carmel Looby, a delightful nun from Sligo who is principal of a secondary school in Tari, Southern Highlands.



With Bishop Francesco Sarejo



Mount Hagan

The following day, the 25th of September we flew back to Port Moresby where Norah Nelson, our trusty chauffeur brought us to the Comitium meeting which was chaired by Jane Safihad. We had final discussions with the legionaries here and all were sorry to see us leave for Dublin the following day. Our last day in Papua New Guinea was an auspicious one as we met the Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Tito Yllana. The Nuncio hails from the Philippines and was most enthusiastic about the Legion. Taking our leave of the Nuncio we bade farewell to our dear legionary friends who made life so easy for us in Papua New Guinea and to whom we owe an enormous debt of gratitude.



Junior Legionaries - Mingendi

Overall we found the people most receptive to the Legion and knowledgeable of the Handbook. The growth of the Legion is evidenced by the statistics furnished. 15,000 active legionaries work on the mainland while a further 6,500 keep the Legion flag flying on the islands. Truly an emphatic statement of Legion life in Oceania.



from the Legionary world...



AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND and PHILIPPINES

New Zealand Auckland - Chinese teach catechism and conduct bible study for new converts. A high security prison was visited and many non-Catholics were prayed with.

Australia Makin Island - established 4 new praesidia and projects were held in all the villages. Extension worker required in *Kiribati Island*. In *New Caledonia Island* legionaries visited cohabiting couples and encouraged them to marry. A PPC project was undertaken by *Melbourne* - legionaries to *Pennington*. 1836 homes were visited and family members of non-Catholic backgrounds were met. Membership has grown by 120 in 2 years. *Sydney* - a praesidium for the Sudanese community has been established.

Papua New Guinea - in the *Madang* area 360 people were prepared for Baptism and regular visits are made to those suffering with HIV/Aids. In the *Rabual* area wonderful work is being carried out but for literacy reasons not much detail is provided.

Philippines Cebu - extension is taking place and the Cause of Frank Duff is being widely promoted. Projects were undertaken to the islands of *Camatoes* and *Limasawa*. Conversion from the sects is widely reported as are preparation for the sacraments of Marriage and Baptism and the recovery of the lapsed. *Bicolandia* - legionaries visit the prisons with a priest and this has proved to be very successful. The Doctrines of the Faith and the Rosary are the topics discussed. Many tears of joy are shed on reunion with the Church. *Cagayan de Oro* - striking in reports are the numbers of people who have lived hidden lives never baptised, never married etc. but opening up to legionaries and returning to the Church. *Manila* - many returns to the Church as well as Muslims and people of other faiths entering the Church. The Rosary is promoted even among non-Catholics with good results. Legionaries who are lawyers and doctors are offering their services free to the needy.

EUROPE

France Paris - a praesidium has been started for natives of the Ivory Coast. The praesidium for the Haitian community has now increased to 15 members. In the *Valence* area legionaries teach children catechism with 40 to 50 attending.

Belgium Wavre - a new praesidium of 11 African legionaries attributes their membership to Frank Duff.

Germany Kofri - 2 new praesidia are working well. Good contacts are made with medical staff at an abortion clinic.



from the Legionary world...



Munich - a number of Bishops have expressed interest in having the Legion introduced in their dioceses.

Hungary - The Legion continues to grow. A curia was set up with 15 praesidia, 9 of which were new ones. Works include promotion of Eucharistic Adoration, pre-marriage courses, an apostolate to prisoners and the homeless. The work of one comitium concentrates on the youth who choose the Church instead of a confused way of life.

Poland - in the Lublin area home visitation, street apostolate, visitation of prisoners, the spiritually negligent, alcoholics and drug addicts are among the works reported on.

Latvia - many met on street contact have been influenced by Jehovah's and are invited back to the Church.

Lithuania - among the reports of work done were a lady back to Confession after 30 years, a man belonging to a religious group returned to the Church along with his wife and their four children are being prepared for Baptism. An Orthodox priest was brought to 10 Orthodox met on hospital visitation. 845 patients received the Sacrament of Confession.

Moldova - the number of praesidia is now 7 with others in development. The Bishop, 6 Spiritual Directors and 50 legionaries attended the Acies.

Austria - the Croatian praesidium has 9 members and the Filipino praesidium has 6 members. One curia has 4 Patrician meetings. A day's Adoration was arranged for Youth. In the *Hollabrunn* area over 70 attended a retreat and a junior curia now has 9 praesidia attached.



AFRICA

Cabo Verde - The Comitium has 12 praesidia and a senior and junior curia with a total of 380 active and 160 auxiliary members. The Legion is growing in many of the islands.

Kenya - a Youth Seminar was organised to discuss the subject of substance abuse - 86 students were present.

Uganda - the new Regia in *Kabale* has over 12,000 senior and over 7,000 junior members. Home, hospital and prison visitation is done. In *Kampala* there is a large Lugandan speaking membership. The Schools curia has 20 praesidia, 7 praesidia in a prison have been formed into a curia. The Refugee camps are being visited with a view to starting the Legion.



Malawi - there are over 25,000 legionaries in the Lilongwe Diocese and near *Blantyre* 3,000 attended the annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady Queen of Peace.

Nigeria Lagos - a mass Search for Souls was organised in which 900 legionaries took part. As a result 9 senior and 2 junior praesidia were established. In the *Abuja* area very remote villages have been visited. **Benin** - marriages were regularised, non practising returned and non Christians were received into the Church. **Jos** - senior praesidia without juniors are being encouraged to start praesidia.

Zambia - much evangelisation is under way and an outreach to Youth. Many non-Christians met on home visitation are taking instruction. In the *Kasama* area education in HIV/Aids is being organised in conjunction with the Archdiocese.

Tanzania - in the *Bukoba* area the Legion has been set up in all 29 parishes. A number of areas which had been out of touch with the Concilium have re-established contact and the reports show excellent apostolic work being carried out.

ASIA

Hong Kong - Evangelisation: catechism classes and instruction are organised as well as a bi-monthly gathering with non-Catholics. Pastoral: contact with people at train stations, book fairs and gatherings for the newly Baptised Classes for lukewarm Catholics, Bible Study and Sunday schools featured in reports.

Taiwan - active membership has increased to 1,923 active and 1,815 auxiliary members.

Malaysia - Kuala Lumpur - works reported on include visitation of dying persons, bereaved, home visitation to Catholics, lapsed and non-Catholics. The Rosary is promoted.

Japan - visitation of the elderly has seen one woman brought to Holy Communion and helped during her final hours, a man asked for Baptism and died two days afterwards, and a Protestant man had conversations with legionaries and developed his knowledge of Our Blessed Lady, was received into the Church and died soon after.

Korea Seoul - organised a training session for presidents of youth praesidia and had 159 in attendance. Good evangelisation is done in the Universities. All of the attached Regia report an increase in membership. Legionaries help with the aftercare of newly Baptised Catholics as well as those who have lapsed. *Gwangju* - conversion work is the priority of legionaries. 800 members in one area report 400 new Catholics.

GHANA

Inauguration of Regia Sunyani



In the morning of 26th February, 2005 the new Regia was inaugurated by Most Rev. Dr. Matthew Gyamfi, Bishop of Sunyani through the celebration of Holy Mass.

The Homilist was Most Rev. Peter Atuahene, Bishop of Goaso. He congratulated the new officers for their good work and urged the officers and all legionaries not to rest on their oars but to work even harder. The Bishop said he was happy to see the students in their numbers at the ceremony.



Later 800 legionaries undertook a candle light procession through the streets in the town with the help of the Regional Police Commander and Police Personnel to guide the legionaries and controlled the traffic during the procession.

The celebration concluded with Mass on Sunday and it was led by Very Rev. Fr. Richard Kyeremah, the Cathedral Administrator.



Handbook Launch - India



Archbishop Lucas Sirkar S.B.D. of Kolkata launching the Bengali Handbook with Adolf Gonsalves, Comitium President



Bengali Curia Members

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