



LEGION OF MARY
FOUNDED 7 SEPTEMBER 1921

Maria Legionis



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The Voice of the Legion of Mary

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*The picture on the front cover is the painting known as the **Sposalizio**, 'The Marriage (Betrothal) of the Virgin' by the Italian High-Renaissance artist **Raphael**.*



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ST. COLUMBANUS & PEREGRINATIO PRO CHRISTO

By Frank Holohan

Columbán - 'the White Dove'...

better known by the latinised version as Columbanus was one of the greatest missionaries of the Early-Irish Church who initiated a revival of spirituality on the European continent, particularly in the Land of the Franks and in the Land of the Lombards.

Quoting from the classic work of F. A. Gasquet, Count De Montelambert: 'The Monks of the West from St. Benedict to St. Bernard', The Legion Handbook states: 'that invisible multitude went forth from their own country and from their kindred and out of their Father's House (*Gen. 12.1*), and traversed Europe in the sixth and seventh centuries, rebuilding the Faith which the fall of the Roman Empire had brought down with it.' This is the same idealism which prompts teams of legionaries to go annually on Peregrinatio Pro Christo, commonly known as PPC, to bring the Good News that Christ is the Saviour of the World.

Born in 540 in the Kingdom of Royal Meath (now part of the province of Leinster in Ireland), Columbanus left home to study under Abbot Sinell of Cluaninish Monastery on an island in Lough Erne. He then moved to Bangor Abbey where St. Comgall was Abbot. He stayed at Bangor until his fortieth year, at which time Comgall gave him permission to travel to the continent on *Peregrinatio Pro Christo*-a Journey for Christ.

In the Land of the Franks -

Gathering twelve companions with him for the journey, they landed in Brittany in the land of the Franks, referred to by the Romans as Gaul, and now present-day France. At St. Malo in Brittany there is erected a granite cross bearing the saint's name, while the near-by village of Saint Colum also commemorates him in name. The advent of Columbanus in Gaul coincided with the election of Gregory as Pope. But unlike the Roman aristocrat who had become Pope Gregory 1, more commonly known as St. Gregory the Great, Columbanus had come from beyond the reaches of the Roman Empire; a man without status or pedigree; and yet by the sheer force of his charisma, would set the Catholic Church upon a new and momentous course. Schooled in the exacting monasticism of his native land, Columbanus appeared to the Franks a figure of awesome holiness. Unlike their-own Frankish monks, he consciously sought out places of wilderness in which to live.



Annegray - Columbanus and his companions were received with favour by King Gontram of Burgundy, and soon they made their way to Annegray where they founded their first monastery in an old Roman fort in the foothills of the Vosges Mountains. In the hills above Annegray, Columbanus found a cave, or cell, to where he would retire to spend time alone with God. "Let no one disparage the benefits of silence unless they grow lax; the secluded life is better than the social." Despite the remoteness of their retreat at Annegray, the place became an attractive pilgrimage site. It attracted so many monastic vocations that two new monasteries had to be formed to accommodate them.

Luxeuil - Columbanus obtained from the king the ancient-abandoned Franco-Roman fortress, some thirteen kilometers from Annegray. There he founded a monastery known as Luxovium in present-day Luxeuil-les-Baine. It was a wild region covered with pine forests and brushwood. Columbanus and his tiny band of followers cleared away trees, drained marshes and built an enclosure. When hungry they would gnaw on bark; when weary after a long day of labour they would devote themselves to study and prayer and penance. This exacting routine, far from scaring away would be recruits, was soon attracting them in droves. To enter the monastery enclosure and to submit to the rule of Columbanus was said to know oneself in the company of angels. The discipline imposed on novices was designed, not only to eradicate human pride and self conceit but, to offer them the hope of Paradise. "Let us, since we are travellers and pilgrims in this world, keep the end of the road always in our minds – for the road is our life and the end is our home."

Not to journey, not to live in exile from the world, was to spurn Heavenly rewards for earthly ones. This was the meaning of his Peregrinatio Pro Christo; and when Columbanus preached this message he did so as a man who had literally turned his back on his family and his native land. As a result he was able to serve his Frankish admirers as a living

example of the power of religio: of a life utterly committed to God. Soon Luxeuil monastery became the most important and flourishing monastery in Gaul; its example contributing enormously to the conversion of the inhabitants of Burgundy. Sadly, in 731, years after the death of Columbanus, this great monastery was raided by Islamic-Muslim horsemen, and those who could not escape were put to the sword. The Seed of martyrs is the Life of the Church!

Fontains Abbey - Columbanus erected a third monastery at present-day Fontaine-les-Luxeuil. These monastic communities remained under the authority of Columbanus and the rules of life within them were in keeping with the Irish monastic tradition in which he had been formed. Miraculous stories were told of Columanus: of how bears would obey his commands not to steal fruit; and squirrels sit on his shoulders; of how the touch of his saliva would heal wounds; of how his prayers would heal the sick and keep alive the dying.



Fontaine Abbey

Dispute - During his years in Gaul, Columbanus became involved in a dispute with the Frankish bishops who may have feared his growing influence. In keeping with the Irish monastic tradition, Columbanus and his monks calculated the date of Easter in a particular manner, whereas the Frankish bishops had adopted a different method of calculation. The bishops objected to this newcomer's continued observance of their own dating, which also caused the end of Lent to differ. In addition, the bishops complained about the distinct Irish tonsure in practice in his monasteries. In 602 the bishops assembled to judge Columbanus, but he declined to appear before them as requested. Instead, he wrote a letter to them which stated:

I am not the author of this divergence. I came as a poor stranger into these parts for the cause of Christ our Saviour. One thing alone I ask of you, Holy Fathers, permit me to live in silence in these forests near the bones of the seventeen of my brethren now dead.

Columbanus was favoured by kings who recognised authority when they saw it; yet he did not succumb to their requests. When he was asked by the local king to give his blessing to four prince sons who had four different mothers, he refused to do so. The King was incensed and confronted Columbanus at Luxeuil. He ordered Columbanus to conform to the



country's conventions in relation to the date of Easter. He also objected to the practice of the Irish tonsure. When Columbanus refused, he was taken prisoner to Besancon. However, he managed to escape his captors and returned to his monastery at Luxeuil. But when the king became aware of this, he sent soldiers to send him back to Ireland by force. In addition, in order to separate Columbanus from his monks, the king stipulated that only those monks who had accompanied him from Ireland should accompany him into exile.

Columbanus was taken to Nevers, then by boat down the Loire River to the coast. At Tours he visited the tomb of St. Martin. When he arrived at Nantes, and before embarkation, he wrote a letter to his community at Luxeuil. He urged the monks to obey Attala who had stayed behind as Abbott.



The letter concludes:

They tell me the ship is ready. The end of my parchment compels me to finish my letter. Love is not orderly; it is this which has made it confused. Farewell, dear hearts of mine. Pray for me that I may live in God.

Soon after the ship had set sail, violent winds on three occasions blew back the ship on to the mudflats. As a result, Columbanus and his little band of monks were freed by his guards, who had come to fear him more that they did their king. Columbanus and his little company took to the roads again. He felt himself called to serve just as Paul had once served: an agent of change in a dark world. He believed he had a duty to God to save the souls of pagans and to bring the light of Christ to all living in darkness.

From Nantes, Columbanus and his companions then travelled down the Rivers Moselle, Vosges, Rhine and Limmat, until they reached Lake Zurich. They went on to Bregens where Columbanus separated from the most famous of his companions: St. Gaul. He then crossed the Alps and descended into Italy. As he travelled on, he continually sought out wild places inhabited by wolves and pagans. Wherever he stopped, there he would plant a new monastery. Meanwhile, St. Gaul had founded a monastery at Galen. Subsequently, a city grew up around the monastery and is known today as St. Galen in Switzerland.

Bobbio - In 610 Columbanus, with his little band of monks, arrived in Milan and was welcomed by King Agiluef and Queen Theodilenda. He immediately began preaching against the Arian heresy which had gained a certain degree of acceptance amongst the Lombards. The king gave Columbanus a tract of land called Bobbio, situated between Milan and Genoa. Bobbio was close to the Trebia River situated in a narrow pass in the foothills of the Appenine Mountains. Columbanus wanted this secluded place for himself and his monks, and it was here he erected a monastery. From its foundation, Bobbio Abbey followed the strict rule of St. Columbanus based on the monastic practices of Early-Irish Christianity.



MIRACLE AT KNOCK SHRINE

IN SEPTEMBER 2019 THE FIRST MIRACLE OF PHYSICAL HEALING WAS RECOGNISED AT THE FAMOUS IRISH SHRINE

By Neil Xavier O'Donoghue

KNOCK is a small village in County Mayo in the West of Ireland. Towards the end of the 19th Century, in the wake of the Great Irish Famine, Knock was a fairly typical Irish village, formed by a group of thatched cottages built around the parish church. The Famine had been a massively traumatic experience in Ireland, and four decades later much of the nation was still suffering.



Poverty was endemic and huge numbers of people were forced to leave Ireland and emigrate all over the globe in search of survival. There was very little hope in Ireland at that time with poverty, emigration and injustice being daily features of most people's lives.

Yet on Thursday evening 21 August 1879 Knock was blessed with an Apparition of Our Lady. Despite being in the middle of the summer, it

was raining heavily. A girl, Mary Beirne, saw something very unusual on the gable wall of the parish Church. Our Lady was visible there, together with St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist. The Blessed Mother was dressed in white robes and a cloak. Her hands and eyes were raised in prayer and she wore a large crown with a single golden rose in its centre. At the centre of the Apparition was a plain altar where the Lamb of God was visible, with angels hovering around it. The Lamb was brighter than any other part of the Apparition.



When Mary Beirne spread the news of what she had seen, many of the villagers gathered there. They all clearly saw the vision and prayed there in the pouring rain for over two hours, contemplating these heavenly figures. During the whole time of the Apparition, neither Our Lady nor any of the other figures addressed any words or message to those gathered there. The silent witness of Our Lady's love and maternal care was more eloquent than anything words could have conveyed.

PAPAL VISITS

Over the following years two official commissions of inquiry and other investigations of the Apparition took place. These confirmed the authenticity of the phenomenon and the parish church soon became a Marian Shrine of national and then international significance. Pope Pius XII and Pope St. John XXIII both approved of the devotions to Our Lady centered at the Shrine. In 1979 the newly-elected Pope St. John Paul II came to Ireland to mark the 100th anniversary of the Shrine. On this first visit of a pope to Ireland he explained how: "At this Shrine at Knock ... I want to express the immense joy and gratitude that fills my heart today in this place. I could not have wanted it any differently. ... Today I come here because I want all of you to know that my devotion to Mary unites me, in a very special way, with the people of Ireland."

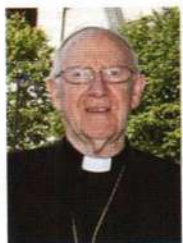
In August 2018 Pope Francis also visited the Shrine at Knock during his apostolic visit to Dublin for the World Meeting of Families. When he arrived to pray the Angelus with the assembled crowd, he asked for total silence from all those who were present and waiting for him, as he prayed alone in the Apparition Chapel.

Afterwards, Pope Francis shared with those gathered how: "In my prayer before her statue, I presented to her in particular all the survivors of abuse committed by members of the Church in Ireland. I ask our Blessed Mother to intercede for all the survivors of abuse of any kind and to confirm every member of our Christian family in the resolve never again to permit these situations to occur and to intercede for all of us, so that we can proceed always with justice and remedy, to the extent it depends on us."

TODAY the Shrine continues as a spiritual oasis in a new Irish religious landscape, providing a place of hope in a nation where hope is still so elusive for many of its inhabitants. Over the past 140 years, the mission of the Shrine has been one of healing: spiritual healing for many individuals and in particular for the healing of a nation that was so scarred by the Great Irish Famine. However, until now the Shrine had not been associated with the healing of physical ailments. Knock is not similar to Lourdes with its spring and ministry to the sick. But last September the first miracle of physical healing was officially recognised at Knock.



IN SEPTEMBER 1989 Marion Carroll attended the annual diocesan pilgrimage to Knock Shrine of her home diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise. She was very sick at the time and was suffering from complications from multiple sclerosis from which the 38-year-old woman had been suffering for a number of years. She recently recalled in an interview with Catholic News Service how she was “completely paralysed” by her various ailments. “I was doubly incontinent,” she recalled; “I was blind in one eye and had very little sight in the other eye. I couldn’t talk right, and I had epilepsy.” She had to be carried into the shrine on a stretcher. At the end of the Mass and at the blessing of



the sick, Bishop Colm O’Reilly, the bishop of her diocese, blessed her with a monstrance. “When he blessed me, I got this beautiful feeling,” Marion said; “it was a magnificent feeling, and then the whispering breeze telling me that if the stretcher was opened I could get up and walk.”

COMPLETE CHANGE

After the Mass and the blessing, Marion was carried on her stretcher back to St. John’s Rest and Care Centre in the Shrine complex. She surprised the medical staff by asking for her stretcher to be opened; they opened it simply to keep her quiet. As soon as the stretcher was opened, and to their great surprise, she stood up. “I stood up straight and didn’t even feel stiff” she said. Having endured years of paralysis, she was now able to walk again and regained the use of her arms and voice.

Her life has been completely changed since the miracle. But she returned to a very normal life as a wife and mother.

Today at 68 years of age she serves in her local parish as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, and also ministers to the sick and dying. She returns often to Knock and takes special care of the sick whom she meets there. “My healing in Knock does not belong to me,” Marian recently said; “this is a special gift to let people know that Jesus and Mary are there.”



Marion Carroll

WHO ARE THE SICK?

However, Christian Faith is not simply a search for miracles. Marion is well aware of this, in particular given that her own daughter has been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (although the medical treatment of the condition has greatly improved over the last thirty years). "I didn't go to Knock that day for a cure," Marion said in a recent interview with the Irish Independent. "There were people walking around in

perfect health, but full of anger and jealousy and resentment: they were the sick ones. I had a wonderful husband, two beautiful children and lots of love. I had everything that everybody would want. The only thing missing was good health. Physical miracles are a call to conversion for each of us, so that by turning more fervently to Christ we may all avail of his grace to overcome the evil that oppresses our lives and the world."

*At a special ceremony at knock Shrine on Sunday 1 September 2019
Marion's miracle cure was officially recognised.*



Archbishop Michael Neary of Tuam told the congregation:

Thirty years ago on the occasion of this annual pilgrimage, Marion was healed here at Our Lady's Shrine. So today, the Church formally acknowledge that this healing does not admit of any medical explanation and focuses on prayer, praise and thanksgiving to God.



Bishop Francis Duffy of the Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise said:

I recognise that Marion was healed from her long-standing illness while on pilgrimage to this sacred place...Marion was liberated from sickness and its impact on her and on her family. It is also a healing for which there is no medical explanation at present; it is definite and yet defies medical explanation.

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75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGION OF MARY IN GERMANY



By Dr. Jorge Pfeifer

On Sunday 12 January 2020 the Stuttgart Comitium celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Legion of Mary in Germany.

Together with Sr. Anne Carney, the Concilium Correspondent from Dublin, we made our way to the Pilgrimage Church of St. Barbara in Stuttgart Hofen. The Eucharistic Adoration led by P. Ludwig Mattes, the Parish Priest and Spiritual Director of Stuttgart Comitium, had just commenced. After the sacramental blessing, we prayed the Legion prayers in the Pilgrimage Church, which was by this time full to the brim. Our young legionaries were already in the sacristy where they joined the altar servers from the parish to add their own contribution to the Holy Mass.

At the solemn entry procession to the Pontifical Mass, the numerous Legion banners were the first items which caught the eye.

The spiritual directors who had arrived included P. Hermann Differenz, a parish priest and Spiritual Director of the Senatus; P. Ludwig Mattes, another parish priest and spiritual director of Stuttgart Comitium; P. Dietrich von

Stockhausen, spiritual director of Nürnberg-Fürth Curia, and P. Dr. Elias Wehr OFM who had been a legionary for many years before his ordination. Several priests from the Stuttgart area, who are also involved with the Legion, concelebrated the Pontifical Office with these spiritual directors. The main celebrant of the Solemn High Mass was Bishop Thomas Mary Rentz, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Rottenburg-Stuttgart diocese.



In his sermon, the auxiliary bishop explained the Gospel of the day: the Baptism of Our Lord. He vividly demonstrated to us that baptism is an absolutely fundamental sacrament for us. In baptism the Lord chooses us to be his sons and daughters, and he confers on each person a unique position. Strengthened by the sacrament of confirmation, he exhorted us to bear witness to the good news. How important this sacrament was to a man like Joachim Josef Kardinal Meissner, the late Archbishop of Cologne, is confirmed by a story which Auxiliary Bishop Rentz, narrated to us. The Bishop had also been consecrated by Cardinal Meissner in Rome. The Cardinal arranged that his baptismal certificate should be put in his coffin because it shows his dignity as a Child of God when he goes to Heaven

At the conclusion of his sermon, the Auxiliary Bishop thanked the legionaries for their faithful prayer and their commitment in the apostolate. Addressing the spiritual directors, he thanked them for accompanying the legionaries, especially at a time when many clergymen seem to be overwhelmed by the abundance of work.



After Holy Mass, which ended with the Legion hymn by Hilde Firtel, some 150 legionaries and spiritual directors

met for a cozy get-together in the adjoining rectory. Here the legionaries

of the Stuttgart Comitium had created a wonderful framework for their feast. Sr. Rita Calabrese, President of Stuttgart Comitium, warmly welcomed the legionaries who came from many parts of Germany and Switzerland. Special thanks were expressed to Sr. Anne Carney, who represented the Concilium Legionis Mariae in Dublin. Sr. Carney conveyed to us the warmest congratulations from Sr. Mary Murphy, President of Concilium, and also endorsed them on her own behalf. She emphasised that the Irish legionaries could learn very much from the Germans in preparing the anniversary celebrations, especially regarding the Legion's Centenary, which we all will celebrate in the coming year. She had already cordially invited the German legionaries to Dublin for this celebration.



At the moment, the Concilium officers are eagerly preparing for the centenary. Their focus is on the renewal of the Legion, especially in Ireland. Sr. Carney emphasised our need for this renewal.

“In Ireland, we have been through a very difficult time. The anniversary opens up a great opportunity for us to give our contribution to the necessary renewal of the Church and among the younger generation. Your celebrations have inspired us with many ideas for the preparation of the worldwide anniversary.”

At the end of her address, she expressed her gratitude for the experience of such a wonderful day. Her special thanks went to all the legionaries who had prepared and organised this unforgettable day. From the bottom of her heart, she expressed her own personal thanks, together with those of the Concilium. Her statement that she felt “so at home here”, confirmed her true appreciation.



Afterwards, Sr. Helene Stein, Vice-President of Stuttgart Comitium, read out some of the Allocutiones taken from the minutes book of the first German Praesidium founded on 8th December, 1944 in Ravensburg. These short lines reproduced below shed light on the difficult situation of the legionaries, and of all Christians in Nazi Germany at the end of World War II.

“We have to cultivate properly a spirit of prayer; it is our only weapon at the moment. We are threatened by the serpent whose head we should crush. The most active means is to practice constant devotion to Mary and to work in union with her. First, we must see to our own duties and then, wherever possible, to those of the Legion. We are committed to that. Mary gives us time-and-again signs of her power, both publically and to each and every one of us individually.”

“We are the soldiers of the Queen of Heaven and we are assigned to both the home and foreign fronts. We are united with her and we are working with her in the first place for our own sanctification. We have to be patient and friendly when dealing with our relatives at home. Mary has also to be loved and honored by our relatives. For most of our time, we are not at home as we are too busy with our commitments. Our duties require us to be spiritually concentrated so that



we do not forget about our mission. This week is the Epiphany of Our Lord - a feast day of the Church. We highlight the importance of this feast for the attention of the Catholics with whom we meet and we should invite them to partake in the holy sacrifice of the Mass. To people who constantly complain about their own suffering, we refer them to the example of Christ. We can help strangers we meet through our advice and through our deeds and show them the way. Any lukewarm Christian whom we happen to meet can be included in our prayers and sacrifices every day, and at times we will find that we have made a small attack on their defences. Moreover, we must try to be without reproach as far as the world is concerned so that we do not cause offence."

I myself was asked by the Legionaries in charge to extend a short word of hope to the assembled legionaries. Sometimes actions speak louder than words. For this reason I asked

the young legionaries of our Curia to stand up briefly. They are our real sign of hope. Even if you hear nothing but complaints, here you can see that the Legion still means something to young people in our time. And these young legionaries also reflect the face of our Church in Germany: there are young people who are eager to work for the Faith. Even if we find it difficult in some places to recruit new legionaries among our own German speakers, we often succeed among Catholics of other languages. We are all Catholics, and we are all members of the One Church. This example shows us again what Edel Mary Quinn has already proven to us. The Legion has the ability to unite people of all nations in its ranks. We take advantage of the opportunities that we have. So, the Legion still has hope even in our time to serve in the Lord's vineyard.

The day ended much too quickly. Our thanks go to the Stuttgart legionaries who had given us an unforgettable day.

LEGION PRAESIDIUM IN A CONCENTRATION CAMP

By Dr. G. de Gier M.S. C.

On 23 May 1944 the praesidium 'Mary Refuge of Sinners' was founded in Camp Amersfoort where at that time Chaplain Jacques Frijns from South Limburg was kept in captivity. I was amazed to read that title in an issue of our Austrian magazine: 'Regina Legionis.' But my amazement increased when I noticed that this was a concentration camp in the Netherlands, namely Amersfoort, and that the priest, who managed to commence the Legion there, was an old acquaintance of mine, namely Father Jacques Frijns, chaplain in Stein (Limburg) for many years, and then pastor in Meezenbroek (Heerlen). Father Jacques Frijns was one of the first pioneers of The Legion of Mary in the Netherlands. We now let Father Frijns tell his story. I believe it will interest us all very much.

On Good Friday, 7th April, 1944, I came with a group of prisoners from the prison of Maastricht to the infamous concentration camp at Amersfoort. There were about 4,500 people there, of which between 600 and 1,000 were shipped to Germany every week. All religious gathering or activity was strictly prohibited. It was very dangerous to get involved because there were many spies among the prisoners. These were committed to betray as many prisoners as possible in order to be in 'good standing' with the camp commanders.

ADVENTUROUS CARE FOR SOULS

At first we were in the camp with four priests, but three of them were soon transferred to another camp, so that I was left alone. In the beginning we,

counselors, made some rules for our work: we usually heard confessions while we walked around the camp. Many times we would smoke a pipe or cigarette from smuggled tobacco. We could not trust anyone and so we had to be very careful. However, we had been given permission to give Holy Communion at any hour of the day or night. All that was needed in those circumstances was to make sure no one noticed. Holy Communion was also given while walking, and the same for hearing confessions. A few days after my arrival, the priest who had spent the longest time in the camp, gave us a box of consecrated hosts. Now we were rich and felt strong. Our Lord was with us all the time; it was extremely difficult to hide the Blessed Sacrament anywhere and that is why we always



Father Jacques Frijns on the right

carried it with us. Confession and Holy Communion were always in great demand. Every morning at ten minutes past five, we went in the dark through the camp where many people were already waiting for us.

MASS IN THE CAMP

On 18 May 1944 I was very lucky to be able to say Mass for the first time in the camp. Lying on a bed with a small piece of white corporate paper, with a wafer no bigger than an aspirin tablet, and a mustard glass with a few drops of wine, I celebrated the Holy Eucharist. If there was no danger of being caught, I would pray all the prayers of Mass, but if the situation was dangerous, we would have to say only the words of the consecration. In this way, I celebrated Holy Mass on 69 occasions in 1944 and 66 occasions in 1945. Usually, only a few people were present because a larger number would have immediately aroused suspicion.

ORIGIN OF THE PRAESIDIUM

I had informed the praesidium in Oirsbeek by a secret way that I needed a number of tesserae. They came soon

and I started working on it. I chose and taught several reliable men as legionaries, and they did some truly wonderful work. After the evening meal they visited me in the dark and we, lying on the bed, discussed our work and our plans in the dark at night. They were all inspired. They prayed the legion prayers daily and completed their assignments daily. I most regretted that we could never arrange a meeting, as required in the Legion Handbook. But through their actions, they brought many people into contact with the priest. Their love of God was infectious and most inventive in finding new methods. And never were they caught doing so. In this way, the legionaries started the apostolate with me step-by-step. On a regular basis, one of our catechism classes would be held in the barrack for ‘infectious diseases.’ We had noticed that our guards were afraid to go there because they feared infection. That turned out to be a wonderful opportunity which we used to the end.

LEGIONARIES AS MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Before the last priest left the camp, I asked him to obtain permission from the Archbishop (Cardinal De Jong) that some laymen would also be allowed to carry and distribute Holy Communion. I had my hands full with hearing confessions and it was becoming increasingly difficult to avoid being “caught.” If I alone distributed Holy Communion, it would certainly be discovered.

The Archbishop immediately gave me permission and so I chose five legionaries for that purpose. Because of their zeal, these 'laymen in the catacombs' set a very good example for us priests. Fathers of large families wept when we were lying in bed at night discussing the situation in whispers. After the liberation, I spoke with several of them. They had always kept the boxes in which they carried the hosts as a precious souvenir of those wonderful moments of intimate fellowship with the Lord.

DAILY WORK OF THE LEGION (IN THE CAMP).

Other legionaries helped me to contact people who had turned away from the faith, to teach them the basic principles of faith, and to teach them how to pray. I also prepared several non-Catholics for entering into the church and was assisted by the legionaries in that enterprise. In addition, I had to give many sermons (without preparation), because I was constantly called upon unexpectedly: "Venerable, please come, because we have a group together in a safe place." I would go straight there and give a sermon. The most perilous situations came when the people began to cry in emotion. That was a real danger and it happened quite often. I also had a small group of legionaries who made rosary beads. When you entered the camp, you had to hand over all religious items. Fortunately, we discovered some beads in the camp, which had been left over by a former factory. Those beads were strong

and we were able to give people new rosary beads. But I had to deal not only with the people who still worked in the camp, but also had to take care of the sick in the barrack. The prisoners had much time to think so I had to visit and encourage them all. Two legionaries performed their duties in this department. One of them had the slogan: "I want to give my whole life." After the war, he entered a Trappist Monastery. His helper and friend, a gifted young man, wanted to join the Salesian Order, but unfortunately, that did not happen. He was transferred to another camp and did not get out alive. Included in the legionaries, I would like to mention a lord mayor, a father of a family with nine children, an old, pious and simple farmer, and a lawyer. Thankfully, this period did not last too long. All my legionaries were transferred or released. I was therefore happy when another priest came to help me. Meanwhile, I had been transferred from field work to work in the sawmill. This was an advantage as I was now constantly in the camp where I could be visited by anyone who wanted to see and speak to me.



May 1945 Liberation of the Camp

The Way to Heaven

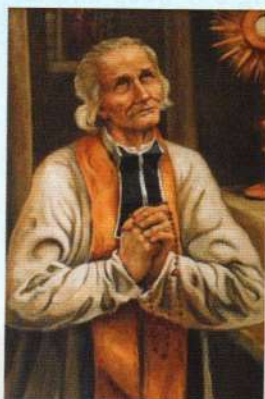
By Frank Holohan

In the year 1818 St. John Vianney, the Curé d'Ars, was appointed by his Bishop to be the Parish Priest of the small town of Ars in France.

On his way there, he found himself lost in the hills. However, he encountered a young shepherd boy who pointed him in the correct direction. In addition, the young shepherd boy walked alongside his new priest friend to the small town of some 200 inhabitants.

St. John Vianney said to the shepherd boy:

*"Thank you for showing me the way to Ars,
now I will show you the way to heaven!"*



This sculpture records that encounter between the shepherd boy and St. John Vianney. The shepherd boy is depicted with his shepherd's crook while St. John Vianney is depicted pointing towards Heaven.

THE SECRET OF THE ROSARY

By St. Louis Marie De Montfort

Origin

Since the Holy Rosary is composed, principally and in substance, of the prayer of Christ and of the angelic salutation, that is, the Our Father and the Hail Mary, it was without doubt the first prayer and the first devotion of the faithful, and has been in use all through the centuries from the time of the Apostles and the disciples down to the present.

But it was only in the year 1114, however, that Holy Mother Church received the rosary in its present form



and according to the method we use today. It was given to the Church by Saint Dominic who had received it from the

Blessed Virgin as a powerful means of converting the Albigensians and other sinners.

I will tell you the story of how he received it, which is found in the well-known book *De Dignitate Psalterii* by Blessed Alan de la Roche. Saint Dominic, seeing that the gravity of people's sins was preventing the conversion of the Albigensians, withdrew into a forest near Toulouse where he prayed unceasingly for three



THE SECRET OF THE ROSARY
ST. LOUIS DE MONTFORT

days and three nights. During this time he did nothing but weep and do harsh penances in order to appease the anger of Almighty God. He used his discipline so much that his body was lacerated and finally he fell into a coma.

At this point Our Lady appeared to him, accompanied by three angels, and said:

“Dear Dominic. Do you know which weapon the Blessed Trinity wants to use to reform the world?” “Oh My Lady” answered Dominic, “you know far better than I do because next to your Son Jesus Christ you have always been the chief instrument of our salvation.”

Then Our Lady replied

“I want you to know that, in this kind of warfare, the battering ram has always been the Angelic Psalter which is the foundation stone of the New Testament. Therefore, if you want to reach those hardened souls and win them over to God, preach my Psalter.”

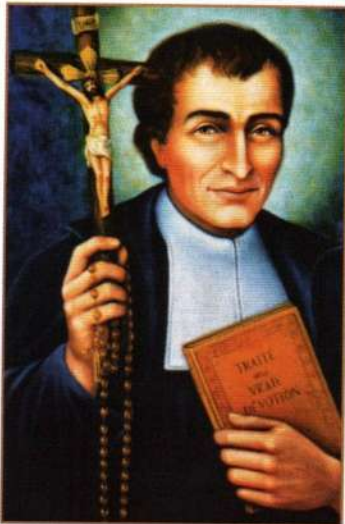
So he arose, comforted and burning with zeal for the conversion of the people in that district he made straight for the Cathedral. At once, unseen Angels rung the bells to gather the people together and Dominic began to preach.

At the very beginning of the sermon an appalling storm broke out; the earth shook, the sun was darkened and there was so much thunder and lightning that all were very much afraid. Even

greater was their fear when, looking at a picture of Our Lady exposed in a prominent place, they saw her raise her arms to Heaven three times to call down God's vengeance upon them if they failed to be converted, to amend their lives, and to seek the protection of the Holy Mother of God.

God wished, by means of these supernatural phenomena, to spread the new devotion to the Holy Rosary and to make it more widely known.

At last, at the prayer of Saint Dominic, the storm came to an end and he went on preaching. So fervently and compelling did he explain the importance and value of the Holy Rosary that almost all of the people of Toulouse embraced it and renounced their false beliefs. In a very short time a great improvement was seen in the town; people began leading Christian lives and gave up their former bad habits.



EXPLANATION OF FRONT AND BACK COVERS

The Editor

Today, Art and Christianity no longer resonate as an inherent and beautiful pairing. Sadly, most contemporary Christians do not see Art being important, much less essential, as a relevant way of promoting the Christian Faith. Yet, throughout the centuries the Christian Message has inspired very many of the most magnificent and timeless works of Art that has enriched the story of mankind. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI strongly advocates the contemplation of Art as an aid to prayer; he does so essentially because of Art's indefinable sense of perfection which prompts us to reach upwards towards the One who is Beauty, Truth and Goodness itself.

Front Cover *The picture on the front cover is the painting known as the **Spotalizio, 'The Marriage (Betrothal) of the Virgin'** by the Italian High-Renaissance artist Raphael.*

It is an oil-on-panel painting completed in 1504 and measures 170 cm x 118 cm. It was commissioned for the Franciscan Church of San Francesco at Citta di Castello in Italy and was placed in the St. Joseph Chapel within the Church. Today, this masterpiece is on display in the Pinacoteca di Brera Art Gallery in Milan.

Art historians consider this work magnificent in its use of imagery, bright colour and sheer scope.

Dominating the background, we can see the Italian Temple round and imposing, while many people, in typical Renaissance clothes, are walking about seemingly oblivious to the significance of the betrothal of the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph.

The foreground is dominated by the wedding party. The Virgin is dressed in a red dress and a vibrant blue cloak, while her hair is covered with a thin veil.



Joseph is depicted wearing a plain-green cassock with an elaborate cloak draped around his shoulders. He is solemnly placing a ring on the Virgin's finger. In his left hand he carries a rod which has blossomed, signifying that he is the chosen one to marry the Virgin. Between The Virgin and Joseph, a Jewish priest, in ceremonial priestly dress, officiates at the ceremony.

Back Cover The picture on the back cover is the painting '*The Immaculate Conception*' by the most celebrated Italian artist of the seventeenth century: Guido Reni. It is an oil-on-canvas painting, completed in 1627, and measuring 268 cm x 185.4 cm.

The painting was commissioned by the Spanish ambassador in Rome for the Infanta of Spain. It was later on display for many years in the Cathedral de Santa Maria de la Sede, better known as Seville Cathedral, and is now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

The painting is successful in capturing the purity and innocence of the Virgin Mary and her faith in God's choice to have her give birth to the Son of God.

The artist draws our attention to the Immaculate Virgin Mary by placing her in the centre of the painting. She is clothed in pastel pink with a blue cloak to symbolise her purity and femininity; she is crowned with twelve stars as recorded in the Book of Revelation (12:1). The Virgin is looking upwards towards Heaven, towards God, while the angels in golden light appear to look up and admire her.

The faces of children adorn the surrounding clouds to frame the Virgin. The entire composition evokes a deep sense of peace and holiness.

The Dogma of the Immaculate Conception was confirmed in a Papal Bulla by Pope Pius IX in 1854.

We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a Doctrine revealed by God and therefore is to be believed firmly and constantly by all of the Faithful.



The Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception is on 8th December.

LEGION MEMBERSHIP IN THE PANDEMIC



By Killian McMorrow

The advent of the pandemic was a huge practical challenge for the Legion of Mary worldwide and a great personal challenge for many individual members.

Public health measures mandated by national governments, in response to the spread of the virus, were accepted by the Catholic Church as applying to its activities and indeed it has set a standard in this respect.

The Legion, (at least certainly in Ireland and the United Kingdom), taking its lead from the Church authorities, moved to cancel all meetings and work, while the 'lockdowns' continued. All levels were affected: from Concilium to Praesidium; while many annual Acies could not take place.

This blow, to the very heart of the Legion member's commitment, to the central tenets of their active membership, mirrored, to some extent, the loss that the members and all the faithful endured in not being able to attend Mass, receive the Eucharist or go to confession.

The daily recitation of the Legion prayers became a more invaluable than ever means of communication with

Our Lady and with the great body of her army in heaven and on the earth.

Personal challenges, to health or otherwise, faced by members during the pandemic, may also have changed their own relationship to Our Lord and our Mother Mary in Heaven. Many may have come to know better Our Blessed Mother's love and care for us, in any trial, and have reflected how she can always channel grace to us when we need it.

For many the experience of the lockdown was relatively uneventful, and indeed the benefit of relative peace and quiet in the world may have been very welcome. It may also have given members space and time to develop a deeper understanding of their consecration and vocation in the Legion.

An invaluable lifeline for Catholics, with the facilities to receive them, was 'streamed' live masses, where one could make an act of spiritual communion with Our Lord. Other services and even Adoration were also broadcast on the internet. This came from all over the world and at every time of day.

It was a wonderful and generous sharing. It was possible to 'visit' many lovely churches, monasteries and convents. It included the broadcasting of the annual Edel Quinn Mass from Dublin on the 16th of May. The signs are that many churches will continue with some level of 'live streaming', even as attendance at church resumes.



A yearning for the tried and tested Legion system remained strong for many members during the health crisis. Some sought and were fortunate enough to be able to organise 'virtual' praesidium and Curia meetings. This could be done courtesy of the internet or, for smaller groups, by the use of the mobile phone 'Whats App' service. By these methods, at least the Legion prayers with the rosary could be recited, the Handbook studied and an Allocutio given.

Some legionaries organised to pray together on screen every evening and this was publicised to as many members as possible. This was facilitated by the Zoom service, which allows group live-visual and audio connection.

Zoom also facilitated a virtual conference, in the 'Call to Arms' series, and two more under the title of 'A New World of Mary', organised by 'Deus et Patria' in Dublin. Full capacity of members and visitors linked up for prayer and for an inspiring series of talks from excellent speakers. The speakers, including Reverend Fathers, shared inspirations, reflections and testimonies.



It has been speculated that the Servant of God Frank Duff, with his gift and appetite for communication, would have revelled in the potential of the internet. One considers that he would have taken the challenges of the pandemic straight on, confident, as he said, that "The Church is a miracle-working institution-that is, its forte is to face the impossible and to overcome it."

What - one wonders - could Envoys Edel Quinn and Alfie Lambe have done with its assistance!

Not as straight-forward a question as it might appear though when one considers the magnitude of what they did and continue to achieve!

Edel Quinn's words also seem appropriate during this time: "Mary, Mother of the life of our souls. Turn to her in all circumstances so that she may teach us to love Jesus, to serve the Father, to become like a child in our attitude - trusting utterly, never doubting, and showing loving tenderness in little things."



A THOUGHT A DAY WITH FRANK DUFF

Compiled by Tommy McCabe

Mary tends and loves each one of us as if we were her own Son Jesus, which in truth we are through the wonder of the Mystical Body.

Frank Duff

We must make Mary better understood: the church places these words on the lips of the Blessed Virgin: "Those who explain me shall shine for all eternity."

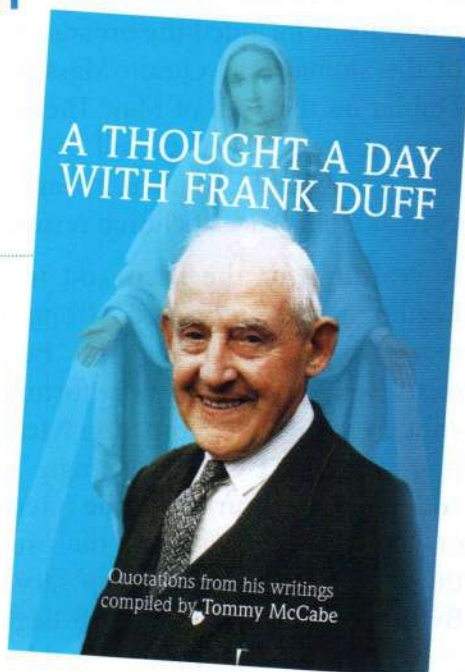
Frank Duff

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

Frank Duff

All graces are open to us if we lay ourselves open to them in the proper way. The first step is to ask for them.

Frank Duff



Christianity is not merely belief. It is the practice of that belief by active charity.

Frank Duff

The legionary must always be on duty!

Frank Duff

Even the impossible must yield to grace; and grace is for the asking.

Frank Duff

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

Praises of Mary

God has established Mary as a bridge that leads to salvation. By making use of this bridge, we pass safely over the stormy sea of this world and reach the happy harbour of heaven.

St. James of Nisibis

Nothing assures our perseverance in faith except assiduous prayer to Mary.

But can we pray all the time? I say yes, if we love Mary very much.

St. Alphonsus Liguori

Live in Mary's heart, love what she loves, and desire what she desires. Then you are sure to have peace, joy and holiness.

St. John Eudes

When Jesus said the words: "Behold your Mother," he meant this: "My wounds are sources of graces that flow only through Mary."

St. Andrew of Crete

Noah's ark was a type of Mary. As, by its means, human beings were preserved from the Flood, so are we all saved by Mary from the shipwreck of sin.

There is this difference, however: In the ark few were saved; but through Mary the whole human race was rescued from death.

St. Bernard

Our Lord had preserved the soul together with the body of the Blessed Virgin in that purity which became her who was to receive a God into her womb.

For, as God is holy, He reposes only in holy places.

St. John Damascene



Legion world news



AFRICA

Burundi: The main aim of the Gitega Senatus for the Centenary is to see their Legionaries live the consecration to Jesus through Mary, to extend the Legion everywhere and to all sections of society. All the council reports to Senatus emphasise the apostolate of good counsel such as encouraging people to return to the sacraments, promoting family prayer, and encouraging people to give up witchcraft, etc.

Republic of Congo: Reports to **Brazzaville Senatus** show works undertaken by legionaries include home visitation, teaching catechism, visiting the sick, prisoners, widows and the poor. Outreach is made to many people of different faiths to share the Catholic faith with them. There are 460 probationary members. Over 100 young legionaries from eight parishes attended a Retreat on the theme: 'Young legionaries in the School of Mary.' Visitation of councils takes place regularly. Formation days were held to instruct legionaries on their duties.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Butembo Senatus reported that the sick, prisoners, orphans, refugees, widows, and elderly were helped spiritually. Displaced people were welcomed into homes of legionaries. Ecumenical visits were made to other sects. Couples in irregular situations got married; vows were renewed in marriages in process of divorce, after counselling. Children were taught their prayers; adolescents who had joined armed military groups returned to their studies. Reminders to visit the sick, to repent and convert were given by spiritual director on feast of our Lady of Lourdes in February. Legionaries were asked to pray that the continual killings would cease in their country. In **Bukavu Senatus** many young addicts were counselled against alcohol and drug abuse. Direct evangelisation resulted in

many conversions to the Catholic faith. Visitation of the lapsed brought about many returns to the sacraments. Outreach was made to sick and incapacitated legionaries. Even before the Covid-19 Virus struck, the **Kananga Senatus** was going through a difficult period, owing to the war which left many dead, including legionaries. Schools and churches were closed and it was impossible to hold meetings. Much prayer is needed. A report received shows growth of the Legion membership in the **Senatus of Kinshasa** as a result of active apostleship during the last year. At the close of 2019, active members numbered 225,765. The **Senatus of Lubumbashi** reported fourteen members of other faiths had become Catholics.

Kenya: All councils in the **Senatus of Kenya** arranged Mass for Frank Duff's Anniversary. The monthly prayers at Venerable Edel Quinn's grave in Nairobi are always well attended. Kisumu Regia reported 5,753 people were recruited for instruction classes, while 1,587 adults and 1,442 infants were baptised. Over 100 street girls were contacted and 33 have changed their way of life. Prison visitation was also done. In Machakos Comitium 571 lapsed Catholics returned to the practice of their faith, while 658 Protestants were invited to become Catholics, and 14 did so.

Lesotho: A praesidium reported visiting 59 prisoners, four people addicted to drugs and alcohol and attending Mass with them. Many praesidia report home visitation being done and also the teaching of catechism.

Malawi: A praesidium attached to **Blantyre Senatus** of sixteen members with a junior praesidium of ten members reported visiting homes and hospitals where lapsed Catholics and non-Christians were met. Five children were baptised. One Comitium reported thatching two houses for the elderly. **Maula Senatus** is making

great efforts to recruit more young members for the Legion. **Zomba Comitium** reported setting up a new praesidium in the University of Malawi. In one Curia, praesidia which teach Sunday-School classes reported 181 persons have been baptised.

Mauritius: A three-day Retreat for adult members and auxiliaries was held with the theme: 'Let us be Mary's Missionaries.' A youth Retreat was also held.

Nigeria: Results of various Exploratio Dominicalis projects by members of one Comitium attached to **Enugu Senatus** show seventeen Church marriages, 25 lapsed returned to the Sacraments, six infants baptised, 113 legionaries recruited and eleven recruited for other Catholic societies. A Curia attached to **Onitsha Regia** has twenty praesidia, including three Seminary praesidia and an attached junior Curia of eleven praesidia, which has three praesidia in a Minor Seminary. They prepared 31 for Baptism, had 51 Church marriages, and prepared 622 for first Holy Communion, 1,191 for Confirmation and four lapsed Catholics returned to the Sacraments. In **Kaduna Regia** the legionaries are working in very difficult circumstances and are heroic for their dedication. They carry out many projects to distant areas with great success, and promote the *Patricians*. Three new Comitia were set up. The Hausa handbook has been reprinted. **Sabo Comitium** reported regular home visitation where people of many faiths are met. There are very many junior legionaries. Reports to **Jos Regia** show works undertaken include: home and hospital visitation, catechism instruction, care of children at Mass, care of junior praesidia, crowd contact, book barrow, prison visitation and marriage counselling. A Comitium reports two legionaries entered the junior seminary and 15 legionaries entered the senior seminary. **Lafia Comitium**, attached to **Abuja Senatus**, formed eight new praesidia and one Curia. **Otukpo Regia** reported 205 conversions and 27 new praesidia. **Ikeja Comitium**, attached to **Lagos Regia** reported 14 lapsed Catholics returned and 14 Church marriages. A praesidium reported

74 Church marriages. **Ibadan Senatus** reported 18 praesidia organised *Patricians* meetings.

Rwanda: In the **Senatus of Kigali** during a period of a year and a half, the number of active legionaries increased by over 1,000, while the auxiliary membership increased by 5,300. There are a great many junior legionaries, with many praesidia in schools. Works among street children and street girls are very successful. Some children have gone back to their families and many girls have returned to a proper life. Several prisoners joined the Legion. Many Curiae exist in the prisons: for example the main prison in Kigali has some 250 legionaries, while similar situations are being reported in Rilima and Mpanga prisons. Some of the other works mentioned in the reports include prison, home, and auxiliary visitation as well as organising auxiliary rallies.

Senegal: In **Dakar and Pikine Comitia:** Home, prison and hospital visitation are undertaken as well as giving catechesis resulting in conversions, First Holy Communion and Confirmations. One prisoner was baptised and 42 catechists were recruited. A new praesidium was established and extension is planned for each parish.

South Africa: A number of new praesidia have been established in **Cape Town Senatus**. A shelter seeking program was organised for refugees in December. A book barrow was staffed at the parish annual Christmas Market and a meeting for auxiliaries was held. A praesidium of five active members do home visitation and visit a home for adults suffering from cerebral palsy. Legionaries in **Johannesburg Senatus** are involved in home, hospital and hospice visitation. Efforts are being made to establish the Legion in parishes without the Legion. There is much contact with non-Catholics. A praesidium in **Matatiele Comitium** of fourteen active and forty auxiliary members reported two adults and thirteen children baptised, and 36 children prepared for First Holy Communion. Two new junior praesidia were established.

South Sudan: The Senatus of Uganda invited four legionaries from Juba, South Sudan, to Kampala for two weeks. The four legionaries from Juba visited Kampala from the 25th November to 9th December. They attended meetings, visited shrines, attended the Reunion, and while they face many challenges they hope to implement what they learned - especially regarding the youth.

Tanzania: **Dar-es-Salaam Regia** reported establishing one new Curia and one praesidium. **Tanga Comitium** has 835 members. Included in their work is home and hospital visitation. Works undertaken in **Hai Moshi Comitium** include home and hospital visitation, contact with drug addicts, encouraging couples to marry in Church and preparing adults and children for the sacraments. **Mtwara Comitium** is making great efforts to extend the Legion in the Diocese. The publication of the Swahili Handbook is a great help to the various Curiae and praesidia in understanding the correct Legion system.

Togo: The **Senatus of Lome** reported that several congresses were held. One Curia has a praesidium in a police barracks. Works undertaken in the Senatus area include home, prison and hospital visitation, street contact, contact on university campuses, staffing a book barrow and giving catechesis with many being received into the Catholic Church. Nearly all councils report on having juniors attached. One report from a junior Curia mentions that they are promoting Confession, doing street contact and asking people to become catechists. One Curia mentions the commencement of a praesidium in a prison as well as setting up a new Curia. A new Curia for the English-speaking praesidia is being established in Lomé.

Uganda: In the **Senatus of Uganda**, in the course of visitation many people are contacted in shops, markets, offices, police posts and bars resulting in many people receiving the sacraments, conversions and some satanic shrines being

destroyed. Reports were received from one Regia, eight Comitia, seven Curiae of which three are in seminaries and two are in tertiary institutions. Four praesidia reported, including one whose members are seminarians in different religious orders. In July the Senatus celebrated the Anniversary of Edell Quinn's arrival in Uganda. In August a Spiritual Director's Conference in Kampala Archdiocese had 72 priests and some Religious present. The image of Our Lady of Kibeho was present for the celebrations to mark the 98th Anniversary of the Legion and Our Lady's birthday on 7th and 8th September. There was very positive reaction from the spiritual directors and legionaries to the inclusion of the section on St. Raphael in the Handbook. Many congresses were held, including one for prisoners with an attendance of 180. *Patricians* are greatly encouraged and recently a group was established in a university. Anniversary Masses for Frank Duff and Alfie Lambe were held around the country. Good planning has gone into preparing for the Centenary Year of the Legion. The theme for the year is: 'Remember, Renew, Recruit and Rejoice;' they plan to commence on 7th September 2020. Four legionaries from Juba, South Sudan, visited Kampala from the 25th November to 9th December.

Zambia: The **Lusaka Regia** is working hard translating the Handbook into seven major languages in Zambia. It has been translated into Chinyanja language. In one diocese where the legionaries are mainly farmers they find it difficult to attend meetings during the busy harvesting season. Great efforts are being made to encourage young people to join the Legion.

OCEANIA

Australia: Fourteen legionaries from **Melbourne Senatus** took part in a ten-day Peregrinatio Pro Christo project to Tugroona in the Albury and

Wodonga Comitium area. A very successful Summer School was held from 15-17th February. Perth Comitium had 80 on a Retreat. Flemington Vietnamese Comitium has sixteen praesidia, three Curiae, and a new praesidium of nine members was established. Darwin Curia, which has three praesidia, was visited. Other reports included bringing Holy Communion to nursing homes: the Parish Priest is very grateful for this service as some of these homes are in remote areas. Noumea Comitium in **New Caledonia** has eight Curiae on the mainland and one in **Wallis Island**. The Comitium's Annual Retreat held from 15 to 18 January had an attendance of 160, young and old. After last year's Retreat a new praesidium was established. Work performed includes teaching catechism among the tribes and in villages. The Comitium has seven Islands with the Legion. Nineteen marriages took place last December after the legionaries worked with couples in irregular relationships. A number of baptisms took place. Reports from **Sydney Senatus** included transporting elderly people to Mass, visiting nursing homes, teaching catechism in state schools, home visitation, involvement in the RCIA, and promoting weekly adoration. Seven Pilgrim Statues are in circulation. A Detention Centre is visited and juniors visit the nursing homes with senior members. Illawarra Curia do door-to-door visitation, visit bereaved and have seven statues in circulation. **Brisbane Comitium** reported 840 visits were made to sick and elderly in homes and care homes. Syrian refugees were helped settle in to the parish. Religious education was given to autistic and cerebral palsy residents in a care home.

New Zealand: **Auckland Senatus** held a very successful Marian Day with an attendance of 300. A praesidium visits libraries to encourage them to stock Catholic books. Some 50 Miraculous Medals were accepted in the University during Freshers' Week. A family was helped to return to Church after many years, another to join the RCIA class.

Juniors help with children's liturgy and recruit for catechism class. A maximum-security prison is visited every-second month where the inmates read scripture, sing hymns and recite prayers of intercession. Christchurch Korean Curia has eight senior praesidia with 62 members. South Auckland Curia has twelve senior praesidia and one junior Curia. Visits are made to homes, nursing homes and hospitals. A praesidium reported an Anglican resident in a nursing home was received into the Catholic Church and some months later died at peace. The Senatus visited **Tonga** where there are seven praesidia with thirty members.

Papua New Guinea: A report received from **Rabaul Regia**, shows the Regia has seventeen Comitium, seventeen senior Curiae and five directly attached praesidia with an active membership of over 8,000. The Legion is established in 73 of the 80 parishes in the Archdiocese.

EUROPE

Albania: A new praesidium has been founded in Tirana and visitation of a female prison is done, while 25 praesidia are attached to the Comitium.

Cyprus: The Legion celebrated 28 years in Cyprus in October with a Mass followed by a meeting of all six praesidia in the republic of Cyprus. It is hoped to found a new praesidium in Larnica, the only parish in Cyprus with no Legion at present.

Italy: In regard to increasing membership in **Milan Regia** the correspondent suggests a Novena to St. Charles Borromeo who as Cardinal Archbishop of Milan saved the city from the influences of the Reformation. In **Padua Comitium**, to help the German-speaking praesidium in Lana, the correspondent suggested that they recruit Italian nationals. The African Curia in Verona is doing well. **Rome Senatus:** A new praesidium

brings the number attached to Senatus to ten. A college praesidium has fourteen members. A Ugandan seminarian has been helped in establishing of a new praesidium.

Malta: The **Regia** celebrated fifty years of being raised to Regia status. Peregrinatio Pro Christo was carried out to Birmingham, Syracuse and Israel. A praesidium visits auxiliaries twice yearly and organises Retreats for them. A Curia organised a one-week apostolate in the only parish in their area without the Legion. Legionaries in the Curia encouraged a man to return to the Sacraments after an absence of 25 years; they are preparing a Hindu lady and her two children for Baptism and Confirmation. An attached Curia reported the Rosary was recited eight times in two wine shops in May and October. Prison visitation is also done. **Gozo Comitium** also celebrated fifty years of being raised to Comitium status. Much contact work is done with tourists and foreigners. Two young men are being prepared for Baptism and two children of an unmarried couple are also being prepared for Baptism. Legionaries helped at a Radio Station where three programmes on Frank Duff were broadcast. *Patricians* meetings had an attendance of fifteen and twenty. Juniors join with seniors during works and activities.

Portugal: Legionaries in the **Açores Comitium**, attached to **Lisbon Senatus** assist families of broken marriages. In Damaia, Pilgrim Statue visitation resulted in three couples being reconciled. The same council prepared ten children for Holy Communion and Confirmation. A Curia provides basic care to the sick coupled with Eucharistic visits.

Spain: In **Madrid Senatus** dedicated older legionaries concentrate on street apostolate to young people. Recruits to the Legion who do not persevere are invited to participate in 'Frank Duff' prayer groups. A comprehensive bulletin incorporating the Concilium correspondent's letter is published monthly by the Senatus. A praesidium in **Barcelona Senatus** has five groups of

Nuns as adjutorians. In **Bilbao** A praesidium visits bereaved families at the request of the Parish Priest.

ASIA

Holy Land: Works undertaken include visiting sick and elderly, and reciting rosaries at grottos. Two family members were reconciled after eight years. Two junior praesidia reported, both in schools, with 21 members.

Hong Kong: Since the Covid-19 lockdown the Comitium officers report having Zoom meetings, to support each other with prayer.

India: **Karnataka Senatus** made a visit to Bellary Diocese. Two praesidia were visited and a new praesidium of 25 was established. Due to Covid-19 restrictions the Senatus has not held meetings since February. A Comitium attached to **Kerala Senatus** has seven Curiae and six senior praesidia with 6,892 senior, 43 junior and 696 auxiliary members. Home visitation is the chief work. A large part of the state of Kerala was subject to flooding. The legionaries of Ernakulam Comitium worked with those who lost their homes. Another Comitium reporting in December set out its plans for the coming year. Each month had a particular theme or emphasis e.g. June: month of the Sacred Heart, etc. Centenary Planning was to have commenced with a number of seminars in different parts of their territory. Their main celebrations are planned for 7 - 9 May 2021 as schools are on holidays for April and May. In **Mumbai Senatus** much home visitation is done to people of other faiths. Alcoholics are counselled. Prison authorities welcome the visiting legionaries. This Senatus also cares for the Legion in **Nepal**. Praesidia reporting to **Pondicherry Senatus** had between seven and 23 members. Catholics and non-Catholics are met in the course of home and hospital visitation. In **Kottar Regia** six Comitiums, four Curiae and eight praesidia reported. Orphanages, homes of mentally and physically

impaired are visited. Sunday catechesis tuition is provided. Six Legion Congresses had between 60 and 220 attending, while 145 legionaries attended a day Retreat, 350 attended an annual day function and 245 attended a Retreat organised by an attached Comitium.

Myanmar: The Legion is at work in all sixteen Dioceses. Preparation takes place for the Sacraments of the Sick, Marriage, Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. Visiting the irreligious and enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes are also done.

Nepal: There are praesidia in four of the eleven parishes. Two representatives from Mumbai Senatus visit annually to help with training, visitation and extension.

Philippines: Reports to **Bicolandia Senatus** show enthronement of the Sacred Heart took place in homes, Church marriages were arranged, orphanages were visited and catechism taught in the High School. 100 Rosary beads were accepted by inmates in Tigaon Jail, and in another jail a praesidium was established. Juniors contact classmates and friends and invite them to visit the Blessed Sacrament. The attached Legazpi Regia reported hospital and nursing home visitation, 329 baptisms of children and 44 adults organised. Legionaries in Holy Rosary Major Seminary Curia work in orphanages, have a Radio apostolate, teach catechism in three elementary schools and a high school. The Jail is also visited. Dumaguete Regia, attached to **Cebu Senatus**, has over 4,000 active senior legionaries, 1,737 juniors and over 7,000 auxiliaries. Reports covered visits to the sick, Church marriages arranged, 382 prison inmates visited, catechism taught in schools and backyards, block Rosaries, enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes, many returns to the sacraments and conversions.

Senatus of Northern Philippines (Manila): In Cainta Comitium 75 juniors and 17 seniors attended a Marian Youth Conference. Manila Comitium held its First Marian Youth Camp. 25 female bar

employees and their relatives are being prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and said their continuous Bible study increased their faith. Catechism was taught to 2,497 children, 152 of whom were prepared for the sacraments. A stage play on the 'Life and Mission of Venerable Edel Quinn' was held on 12th May on the occasion of Edel's 75th Anniversary. The parents of junior members were invited to a Seminar to encourage them to take part in motivating their children to attend their meetings regularly and become promoters of the Legion themselves. Pasig Comitium has divided to make two Comitias and the inaugural Mass was presided over by the Bishop. Davao Regia, attached to **Mindanao Senatus**, reported that a lady scheduled for an operation prayed to Frank Duff for a cure and the doctors subsequently found there was no need for the operation. Details are to be forwarded to Concilium. The Senatus is to investigate this further. Several reports were received of Church marriages arranged, a non-Catholic family was instructed in the faith and received into the Church. Sara Comitium, attached to **Western Visayas Senatus** reported that a Peregrinatio Pro Christo was carried out to the Island of Bayas. Legionaries from the Regia of Negros Occidental visited the prison with a priest who celebrated Mass and administered the Sacrament of Reconciliation to some of the prisoners.

Taiwan: The Senatus will be celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the foundation of the Legion in Taiwan this year. To coincide with this, legionaries are striving to establish a praesidium in every parish in the Senatus area. Five new praesidia have been established over recent months. The Senatus is also making concerted efforts to extend the Legion in the more remote and mountainous areas in the north.

Thailand: The Sacred Heart was enthroned in 73 homes. Much work is done among the sick, the lapsed and underprivileged children.



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