

Maria Legionis



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The Voice of the Legion of Mary

No. 3 of 2007 €0.75



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The Dwelling of the Lord

“Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! See, I am coming to dwell among you, says the Lord. Many nations shall join themselves to the Lord on that day, and they shall be his people, and he will dwell among you, and you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you... Silence, all mankind, in the presence of the Lord! For he stirs forth from his holy dwelling”.

Zec 2:14-15, 17

Published in January, April, July and October by
Maria Legionis, Presentata House, 263 North Circular Road, Dublin 7, Ireland, Tel: + 353 1 8387770.
Magazine enquiries - e-mail: marialeionis@eircom.net
Annual Subscription, including postage, €7.00 per 4 copies.

Design: MacArt, Dublin, Ireland, Tel: + 353 1 2852508. Email: macart@indigo.ie
Print: Apollo Print Solutions, Dublin, Ireland, Tel: + 353 1 6205122. Email: sales@apollo.ie



SWEET BENEDICTION IN THE ETERNAL CURSE

MOST REV. DR. PHILIP BOYCE, OCD
BISHOP OF RAPHOE

There are important moments in the history of our salvation that change things forever. One such moment was the fall of our first parents when they disobeyed God. Tempted by the devil, and enticed by the wisdom and pleasure that seemed to be offered, Eve ate the forbidden fruit. Adam, her husband, did likewise. Their eyes were immediately opened on another world, one of disharmony with God where his friendship and grace were missing.

It would take many thousands of years before another similar changing point in our human history was reached. It took place in a small village called Nazareth. The Gospels tell us how it happened. God himself took the initiative in changing the helpless course of human events.

The coming of a Saviour was promised through a long line of prophets. At last, the fullness of time arrived. But God wished to have a living channel through whom his redeeming grace would come into the world. One author describes his

divine way of acting as follows. "I think the most moving fact in the whole history of mankind is that whenever the Holy Spirit has desired to renew the face of the earth, He has chosen to do so through communion with some humble little human creature. It is always a love story, a culmination of love between the Spirit of Light and the Bride of the Spirit" (Caryll Houselander).

This chosen creature was a young virgin, about fifteen years of age, called Mary. In faith and obedience she gave her Fiat, her consent to what God asked of her through the heavenly messenger. It was "the beginning of redemption" (Pope Paul VI). Things were never the same again. God was with us. He was one of us. Once again He walked with us in the garden, even though it be a garden of exile.





FULL OF GRACE

It is the angel Gabriel who brings God's request to the Virgin Mary and asks for her consent. In his initial greeting, he does not address her by her earthly name, but he gives her a divine or heavenly name. His greeting shows how God and his angels see Mary. They behold her as the only human person who was "full of grace". Grace means the unmerited favour or love which God freely bestows on a creature. As a result, some modern translation of this title translate it as "favoured one". In a similar manner, God spoke to Moses, "You have found favour (grace) in my sight" (Exod 33:12). The effect of this divine favour is that a person is made attractive and lovable. A certain beauty is conferred on the person and makes him or her the object of God's love.

All this we know is eminently applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Never for one moment of her existence did the stain of sin soil her soul. God made her spotless from the very moment of conception. Pope Pius IX solemnly declared that it is a truth revealed by God that "in the very instant of her Conception, the Blessed Virgin Mary was, by a special grace and privilege of Almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, preserved and exempted from every stain of Original Sin."

Therefore we call her Immaculate. This is what she called herself when Bernadette asked her in Lourdes who she was. This is how God, this is how the angels see her. And so, the angel Gabriel greeted her with the title "full of grace".

Scholars tell us that the Greek word used refers to the past and is in the passive. In other words, it means "filled with grace" or "filled with God's favour". That means, she was "loved by God". She above every other soul, was "the Beloved".

However, like every descendant from Adam, she needed to be redeemed. And she was redeemed, but in a unique fashion. She was redeemed by being preserved from sin. Every other human person when conceived suffers a deprivation of that supernatural and unmerited grace enjoyed by Adam and Eve before the Fall, and then has to be cleansed from sin. Mary was kept free from all sin and never knew the weakness and darkness and loss that are consequent on disobedience to God. She truly is a "sweet benediction in the eternal curse" (Shelley).

HER TRUE GREATNESS

Along tradition in the history of the Church loved to dwell on the parallelism between Eve and Mary. The Blessed Virgin, representing the whole human race, was placed like Eve in a position of having to choose between obedience and disobedience to God. They both stood at critical points in human history, at the crossroads of time. Their influence over the history of our salvation was enormous. Eve's proud and disobedient choice gave humanity a false start. It was a terrible tragedy, bringing with it the loss of God's friendship, weakness of the will, darkness of mind, attraction to sin. With Mary, the Second Eve, God made a new beginning.

Because she believed and obeyed, mankind had light on the horizon again, and the hope of a blessed immortality in God's fulfilling presence.

The mystery of the Incarnation reveals to us with greater clarity the personal greatness and holiness of the Virgin Mary. At the moment of her Conception, she was completely passive in God's creating hands. She did not even realise that she was created as a flawless human being.

However, at the moment of the Annunciation, when she becomes the Mother of God and of Divine Mercy, she is not simply a passive and physical instrument, but a living, free and intelligent cause of God taking flesh within her. Here she is supremely active. Here she places her full trust in God to bring about something humanly impossible, namely, to become a Virgin Mother, to give birth to God's Son in

human flesh. The faith and obedience of Mary in giving her consent: "Let it be to me according to your Word" (Lk 1:38), are unparalleled in the history of our race. This enhances our appreciation of her and shows us what a Mother we have in the order of grace.

ALERT IN FAITH AT EVERY MOMENT

The Blessed Virgin Mary is a constant inspiration and example for us. As she was, so are we asked to be alert and ready for God at all times. Every passing moment, every "now" of our existence can be filled with decisions, bringing either grace or loss. Her believing and obedient "Fiat,... Let it be done...", was decisive for the salvation of the world. Every moment, every "now" of our lives, if lived in openness to God's designs, leaves traces for good, reaching into eternal years. Every moment then can be of unsuspected importance. As one Foundress said very wisely:



"What a fragile vessel in our heedless hands is this "now"! Holy Mary, Mother of God and our Mother too, pray for this "now". We also pray for it. We should not unthinkingly leave every care for our salvation in your hands. Nevertheless, when you take our "now" in your safekeeping, it will lead us more surely to God than if we tried to reach our final destination by ourselves. Many moments of our life are dreadfully difficult. Help us, good Mother, in your kind love, so that they do not lead to our downfall"

(Mother Julia Verhaeghe)

Irish Experience of Sacred Heart Devotion

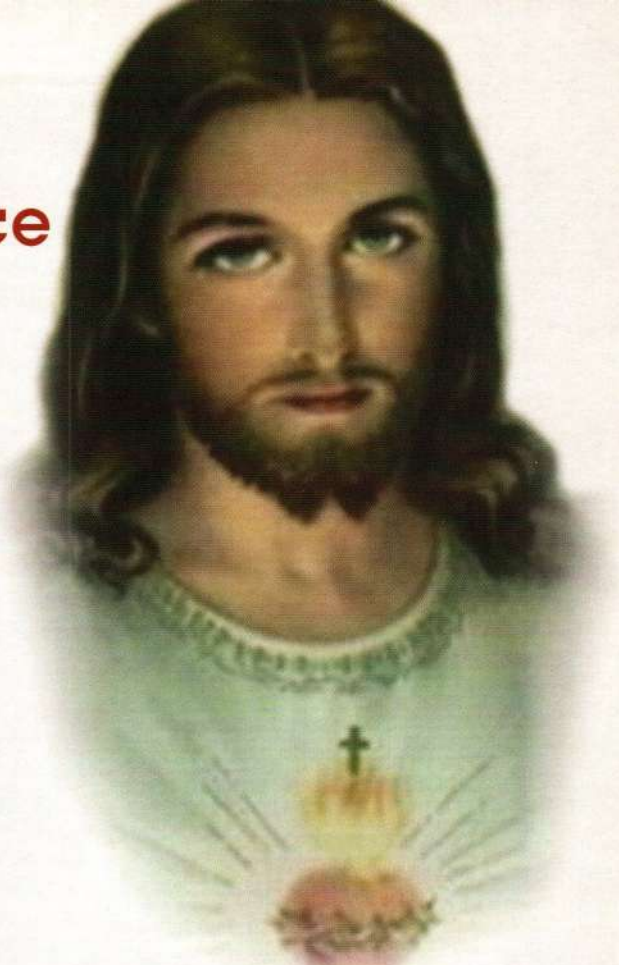
Bernard J. McGuckian S.J.



Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus still features prominently in Irish Catholic practice. This was strikingly evident as recently as the summer of 2006 during what Pope Benedict XVI called the "Pilgrimage of the Relics of Saint Claude de la Colombière" to Ireland. As the Spiritual Director of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, St. Claude was the first person to promote the devotion beyond the monastery where it was first revealed to the saintly Visitation nun. During the months of June and July the faithful in their thousands availed of the

opportunity in all the Irish dioceses to venerate the relics of this Jesuit Saint, canonised by Pope John Paul II in 1992. The usual venue was the cathedral where the relics remained for twenty-four hours with the Bishop presiding at a concelebrated Mass. In a number of places the veneration continued all through the night.

In the northeast of the country on June 29, about 12,000 visited the Cathedral in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. It is reliably estimated that at least 200,000 persons came to venerate at the different venues.



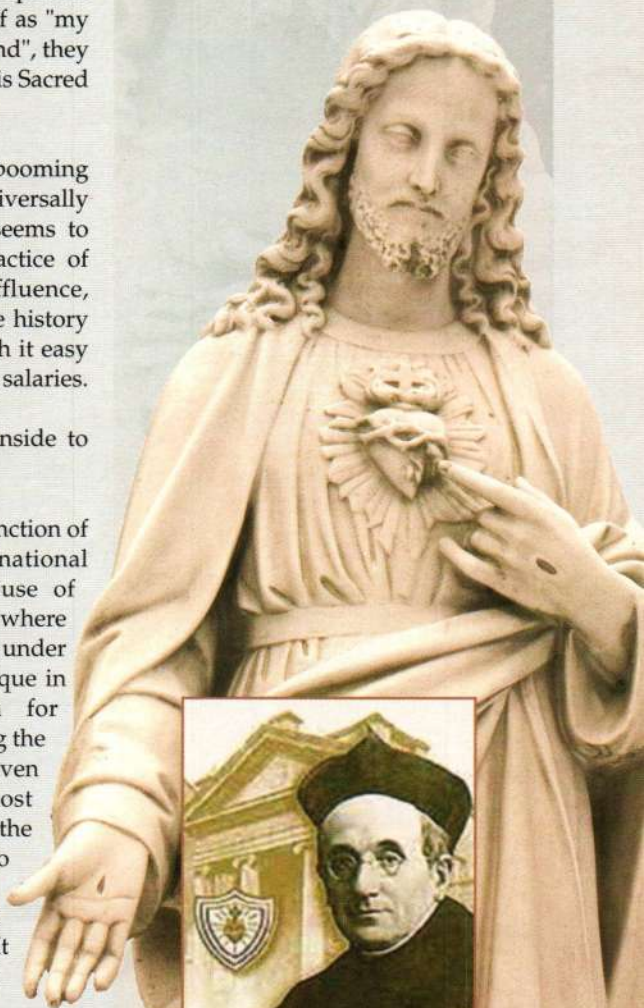
"my faithful servant and perfect friend"

One notable feature of the "pilgrimage" was the positive response of large numbers of young people. Most of them were aware of the existence of the great Devotion from the picture, if not in their family home, at least in that of their grand-parents. In honouring a person once described by Jesus himself as "my faithful servant and perfect friend", they were expressing their love for his Sacred Heart.

For many young Irish, the booming economy of their country, universally known as the "Celtic Tiger", seems to present a challenge to the practice of their faith. The current affluence, without precedent in the whole history of the country, has brought with it easy access to employment and high salaries.

There is, unfortunately, a downside to this.

Ireland has the unenviable distinction of heading many of the international league tables for teenage abuse of alcohol and drugs. In a country where over 50% of the population is under 25 years of age, something unique in Europe, finding a formula for successful evangelisation among the young is vitally important. Given this situation it was most encouraging to see so many of the young, especially those who have distanced themselves from religious practice, coming to venerate the relics of a saint. It is hoped to build on the foundation now laid.



IRISH EXPERIENCE OF SACRED HEART DEVOTION

On Passion Sunday, March 30th, 1873 an event occurred that has been described as of "decisive moment in the religious history of Ireland". In consecrating themselves that day to the Sacred Heart, the Irish people were the first nation ever to do so. Fourteen years later in 1887, Fr. James Cullen, like St. Claude also a Jesuit priest, was appointed director of the Apostleship of Prayer. A zealous man with rare organizing ability, he placed all his gifts at the service of promoting a prayerful love of the Sacred Heart.



Within a short time there was a picture of the Sacred Heart in practically every Irish Catholic home, people in every kitchen were reading the Messenger of the Sacred Heart that he founded, they were attending Mass on the First Friday of every month in their thousands.

By the time he died in 1921, about a quarter of a million men and women had taken a pledge to abstain for life from the use of alcoholic drink in honour of the Sacred Heart. Among these were such great legionaries as Venerable Edel Quinn and the Servants of God, Frank Duff and Alfie Lambe.



The Pilgrimage of the Relics was organised to mark the 150th anniversary of the extension of the Feast of the Sacred Heart to the Universal Church in 1856 by Blessed Pope Pius IX, the Pontiff who had declared the dogma of the Immaculate Conception two years earlier in 1854. The blessings that came from the pilgrimage, including some reported cures, is further evidence of the truth of the remark of St. Margaret Mary, made shortly after St. Claude's death in 1682.

"Father de la Colombière is all powerful in what has to do with devotion to the Sacred Heart".

Bernard J. McGuckian S.J. is the Central Spiritual Director, Pioneer Association and Organiser of the Pilgrim of the Relics



Praises of Mary

I believe... he [Jesus Christ] was born of the blessed Virgin, who, as well after as she brought him forth, continued a pure and unspotted virgin.

*John Wesley, Founder of the Methodist Church
Letter to a Roman Catholic*

How much we can learn from Our Lady! She was so humble because she was all for God. She was full of grace. Tell our Lady to tell Jesus, 'They have no wine,' the wine of humility and meekness, of kindness and sweetness. She is sure to tell us, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

As sailors are guided by star to the port, so are Christians guided to Heaven by Mary - St. Francis Cabrini

To be in prayer before God, to love Him with all her heart, to implore His grace on sinful people offering herself in reparation for His people and as a handmaiden of the Lord, being attentive to His every wish: this was her life. St. Edith Stein on Our Lady

Mary is no mere assistant. She is a co-operator and a partner. She shares in the Kingdom just the same as she shared in the Lord's sufferings for the human race.

St. Albert the Great.

VATICAN BULLETIN

Words from
Pope Benedict XVI



In the midst of the sometimes frenetic pace of daily events, the one support that never topples is God, the indestructible rock of faithfulness and love.

Reflection prior to Angelus

Learn to think as Christ thought, learn to think with him.

Address to the Bishops of Switzerland

Precisely these Muslims, who often observe their convictions and religious rites very seriously, have a right to receive our humble and sound testimony in favour of Jesus Christ ... this dialogue, however, presupposes in the first place a sound knowledge of our own Catholic Faith.

Discourse to the German Bishops

Faith presupposes reason and perfects it, and reason enlightened by faith, finds strength to rise to knowledge of God and spiritual realities.

Faith and reason in dialogue

Ecumenism is, of course, a slow process, sometimes even discouraging when people yield to the temptation to "hear" rather than to "listen", to speak half-heartedly instead of speaking out courageously.

General audience



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

The Venerable
Edel Quinn



1907 - 1944
Envoy of the Legion of Mary
in Africa 1936 -1944



EDEL QUINN



Edel at 4 years old

Edel Quinn was born on the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, September 14, 1907 at Greenane in the parish of Castlemagner near Kanturk, County Cork. Father Greene P.P. Castlemagner baptised Edel on the 18th. Her father, a bank employee, was transferred often. This meant many moves for Edel, her three sisters, and brother; the family finally settled in Monkstown, County Dublin in 1924.

Like the rest of her family, Edel adored sports. An avid rugby supporter, she played tennis and cricket. She loved to cycle, especially at high speeds - and to dance; many who

knew her, spoke of her exuberant nature and cheerful outlook.

On completing her education in Ireland, she went to boarding school in England for a brief spell. On her return she undertook a commercial course. At age twenty Edel was working as a secretary proving to be most efficient and conscientious. At this time the spiritual side of her life was becoming more dominant. She joined the Legion of Mary in Dublin.

Edel at boarding school, England



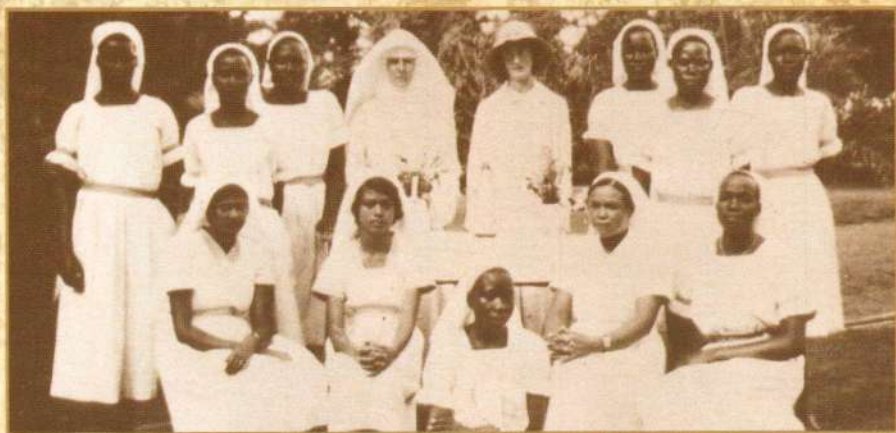
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Edel's destiny was to be linked to the Legion perhaps more than she knew. In 1932 when about to join the Poor Clare Convent in Belfast, a contemplative order, it was discovered she had advanced tuberculosis of the lungs. This would eventually end her life. An eighteen-month stay in a sanatorium followed. Towards the end of 1933 she went back to her office job and her beloved Legion.

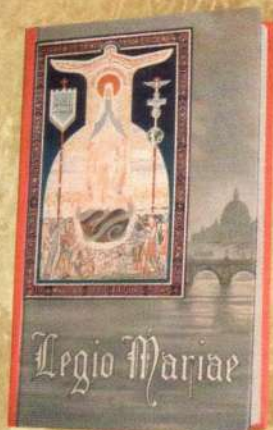
She spent time visiting the sick and the needy.

In 1936, with her health still failing, Edel responded to a call for legionaries to go as envoys to Africa. Understandably the central council of the Legion, was reluctant to agree. "How could this slight, waif-like creature possibly have the stamina required for extensive travel throughout Central Africa?" A determined Edel remarked that she was going in with her eyes open and didn't want "to go on a picnic".

In November 1936, she arrived in Mombasa, Kenya. Within 14 days she had set up the first praesidium, a Legion group, called "The Immaculate Conception".



Like everything else she had tackled previously, Edel threw herself into fulfilling her role, which was to bring Catholics of all ethnic backgrounds to work together through Our Lady.





The Car "her Rolls Royce"

Within five months, Edel had founded the first Curia, (a governing council of the Legion for guiding praesidia).

Sheer necessity brought about the purchase of a six year old Ford V8 coupe. When her newly acquired driver proved unreliable, in true Edel fashion she learned to drive.

Harrowing journeys, in her 'Rolls Royce' as she called it, were all part of the job - 'She was utterly undaunted' Frank Duff, the Legion's founder once said of her, 'Just laughed her way through obstacles that would have beaten almost anyone else.'

In the period 1937 - 1940 she introduced the Legion to Uganda, Tanganyika (Tanzania), Nyasaland (Malawi), and Mauritius in the Indian Ocean.

She organised the translations and printing of prayers in several different languages and dialects. During her many hospital spells she continued her work through correspondence.

By 1943, the tuberculosis was well advanced and even Edel had to admit she was slowing down considerably. Yet still she continued her travels.

By November 1943, her hard labour had paid off. Hundreds of Legion Groups were thriving on African soil thanks to this single-minded Irish woman.



Edel with Ruby Dennison and friends

The disease, fought for so long, finally defeated Edel on May 12, 1944. Receiving the last rites at the Convent of the Sisters of the Precious Blood in Nairobi, she spoke her last words: "What is happening to me? Is Jesus coming?"

She was 36 years old.

Edel Quinn had crammed so much into her short life. Her indomitable spirit together with her love of God and the Blessed Virgin were her

driving forces. Her amazing achievements, due in part to her special relationship with Our Lady was summed up when she was asked had she ever refused Mary anything? "No, I could never refuse her anything I thought she wanted."

In 1963 the process of her canonisation was opened in Nairobi and Dublin. On December 15, 1994 Pope John Paul II solemnly proclaimed her heroic sanctity, declaring her "Venerable".



President of Ireland Mary McAleese visiting Edel's Grave

EVER ON THE MARCH FOR THE CONQUEST OF SOULS

His Grace Archbishop Ndingi Mwana'a Nzeki of Nairobi (*On right of photo*) wishes to see Venerable Edel's prayer in every language and a greater effort made by all to promote her Cause. We all have a role to play in making her way of life known. A heroic life of prayer combined with action!

In May 1944 Edel Quinn was laid to rest in the Missionaries' Cemetery, Nairobi, Kenya. Sixty years later, Kenya will lead the world commemorating her 60th Anniversary, in the grounds of St Austin's Church, Nairobi.



What has happened in the last sixty years?

The Legion of Mary councils Edel helped establish, have grown and now mobilise millions into service of the Church. These councils are a fitting memorial to her.

Suffering ill health and encountering many obstacles, all joyfully borne, the cross was to play a major role in Edel's short life.

"She was so full of mirth and good humour that she was like a sunbeam, shining on everyone who encountered her. She kept the thorns of life for herself; the flower and its fragrance she gave to others." (Cardinal Leon Suenens)

She accepted God's will and gave her life to His service in Africa.

What about the Future?

Our hope and prayer is that one day soon Venerable Edel will be canonised. One miracle attributed to her intercession is still required for her Beatification.

Let us take up the challenge of making Edel known the world over and in so doing help continue Edel's *march for the conquest of souls for Christ through Mary*.

EDEL QUINN

Role Model

Edel was an idealist, a quality rare enough in people. We find lots of ambition, and materialism, but idealism not so much. Yet deep in every human heart is the desire to emulate those persons with lofty ideals. There is a quotation by John Oxenham (English Novelist and Religious Poet) in the handbook of the Legion of Mary which reads:

*"To every man there openeth
A way, and ways, and a way.
And the High Soul climbs the High
Way
And the Low Soul gropes the Low,
And, in between, on the misty flats,
The rest drift to and fro.
And to every man there openeth
A High Way and a Low,
And every man decideth
The Way his soul shall go."*

She choose the "High Way" and stated "an idealist who does not put his ideal into practice is not worth much." Edel's ideals were generated by her strong, unclouded Catholic Faith and her totally unselfish nature. Edel's ultimate goal was to attain an eternal loving relationship with God. Her life plan was to get to know Him, the Object of her Desire, to reciprocate His love for her.

Edel was called by God to lead a contemplative life in the midst of intense activity as a family member, a working girl, an active member of the Legion of Mary, as a patient in a sanatorium and finally as an envoy of the Legion of Mary in Africa. Her life plan remained constant. The Church in declaring her Venerable has confirmed that she achieved her ultimate goal.

What guidelines has she to offer to young people, so many of whom become discouraged and depressed with the prevailing attitude that materialistic success is the only thing worth having. Seeking to escape the pressures they resort to abuse of alcohol, drugs, sex and tragically some end it all by suicide. Let them "tune in" to the source of Edel's strength and joy.

Her strength came from the life of grace, nourished daily. Some spiritual notes found in her possessions give us an insight to this.

"We must prove our love by fidelity to prayer."

"Meditation each morning for one hour
if I have the strength for it."

"I could never refuse Our Blessed Lady
anything I thought she wanted."

"I could assist at Mass the whole day long."

"Without the Eucharist what a desolation
life would be."

Reflections on her character outlined by Frank Duff
in a booklet entitled "Edel Quinn"

The Mystery of Edel

Her sensitivity

She had a highly developed sensitive quality and her nature must have thrilled to every one of the natural signals. She loved her family intensely, especially her mother, but she never intended to go back to them again. She loved all her set of friends tremendously, but she walked away from them. I think everybody was in tears when her ship, the "Llangibby Castle", moved out from Tilbury Docks, except the young lady herself. What is the explanation of the mystery? The best explanation I am able to give is this one: that to an extent which is very seldom met with, spiritual motives were in possession of the centre of her being. I might put it more simply and say that The Lord and his Mother were living there in a way that they are not in most of us.

Her natural qualities

In her outward behaviour Edel was the most natural of people. She would eat what was put before her, within certain limits. The things which could be acts of self-denial were so guarded from public attention that only a close observer would be led to comment on them. In which case she would insist it was a matter of liking and not of deprivation.

She did not talk much. In a group it was not Edel's voice which was heard. When this is pointed out to those who knew her well, they are at first incredulous, so much did she make her presence felt in any company. She was not conspicuously silent. She seemed to play her part in conversation while at the same time it was others who were doing the major part of the talking.



*Edel and Frank Prior to departure
at Tilbury Docks, London*

And very definitely there was an atmosphere of grace and peace about her which softened people. The note of any group where she was would be that of good humour and harmony.

Her Unselfishness

I had the pleasure of listening in to the questioning of her family by Cardinal Leon Suenens. It was a stirring experience. At an early point he asked what was her dominant characteristic as a young child. Without taking even a moment to reflect, her mother answered: "Her unselfishness". And at once the others chimed in with their comment: "Yes, Edel was completely unselfish". Then the question came "At what age did that develop in her?" Her mother said: "It was always in her from the time she was a baby!" Which produced from us the objection: "But that could not be. Babies are at best selfish little articles and they have to learn the better things from the grown up people!" "No, No, No!" almost indignantly: they had never seen a sign of selfishness in her. And that incredible assertion was adhered to. The Carmelites and other Orders in Africa speak of her comings to them as being "angels' visits", leaving an overwhelming impression.

This means that eminently holy people regarded it as a spiritual favour to come in contact with her - an astounding valuation to make of



Frank speaking in Kanturk

anyone! Everybody who had such a visit from her talks about it.

Her Charm

Her charm of manner was supreme, but it went far deeper than the surface. There was nothing of the artificial in her. She attracted people very strongly. In trying to analyse this fact, one is thrown back on that suggestion which Chesterton makes about St. Francis of Assisi: that the secret of the Saint's power lay in the conviction which people gained that he was really interested in each one of them. I would say that anyone who spoke to Edel Quinn ended up with that same idea. As a consequence they loved her and wanted to do what she asked of them.

The Eucharist

Words of Life FROM *Edel Quinn*

I could assist at Mass the whole day long.

Mary loves Jesus in me, caresses and compassionates Him for all His wounds. But, above all, she speaks her gratitude for the Eucharist, and gives thanks to the Eternal Father for that Gift. Without the Eucharist, what a desolation life would be!

We can find Him, at every free moment, on the Altar.
Be with Him there. Better than all books!

Thank the Trinity over and over again for this Gift.

Rest in His presence, and my Guardian Angel will adore Him for me. Silence.

At Mass I united myself to the victim Christ, through Mary's hands, for the glory of the Trinity, in thanksgiving for everything, and on behalf of souls.

At Mass always to have special intention of offering and hearing it on behalf of those souls who cannot hear it themselves by reason of sickness, distance, work or war. Place this intention in Mary's hands.



A favourite prayer of Edel's so often repeated was well and truly answered:

Jesus make Thyself to me
A living bright reality
More present to faith's vision keen
Than any outward object seen
More dear, more intimately nigh
Than e'en the sweetest earthly tie.

Favours received through the Intercession of Venerable Edel Quinn

*Out of many favours received and recorded in the
International Centre of the Legion of Mary,
these are but a few...*



Cyst suddenly disappears

I wish to report a favour received through the Ven. Edel Quinn. A large cyst on my back was very badly infected. My doctor said he would not touch it and told me I would have to go to hospital. I had to wait a week before admission. I prayed to Edel Quinn that week so very hard. One morning when I woke up the cyst was gone. I thank Edel for all her help. *(N. Ireland).*

Throat Cancer disappears

I wish to inform you of a very interesting fact about Edel Quinn. A friend suffered from a cancer of the throat that was very advanced. In her first visit to the doctor, he said to her: "Madam you will never talk again as long as you live". On hearing this, a number of us prayed with great faith to Edel Quinn. Still unable to eat after three weeks, she went to receive Holy Communion saying to herself: "Jesus Christ will certainly open the way for food." Slowly the cancer began to diminish. Today she is perfectly well. She again visited her physician who with great surprise said: "Madam we see no trace of your disease, you are perfectly cured." Glory to God and to Edel Quinn! *(Canada).*

Double cure of Arthritis

Last October I was very worried about the use of my right hand which was badly afflicted with arthritis which I also have in my spine. I gave up going to doctors and using medication, as this was useless. At that time I was given a leaflet with the prayer for the Cause of Ven. Edel Quinn, and I started praying for a cure, if it was God's will. Now, not alone is my hand back to normal, but I notice that the arthritis, in general, does not worry me. To me this is nothing short of a miracle and I will continue to pray for her Cause. *(Ireland).*

Prayer for the Beatification of Venerable Edel Quinn

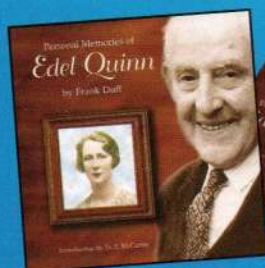


Eternal Father

I thank you for the grace you gave to your servant, Edel Quinn, of striving to live always in the joy of your presence, for the radiant charity infused into her heart by your Holy Spirit, and for the strength she drew from the Bread of Life to labour until death for the glory of Your name, in loving dependence on Mary, Mother of the Church.

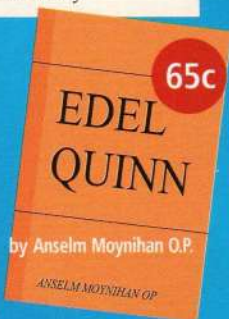
Confident, O Merciful Father, that her life was pleasing to you, I beg you to grant me, through her intercession, the special favour I now implore . . . and to make known by miracles the glory she enjoys in Heaven, so that she may be glorified also by your Church on earth, through Christ Our Lord Amen.

When favours are received or petitions granted please ensure they are reported in writing to: The International Centre Legion of Mary
De Montfort House, Morning Star Avenue, Brunswick Street, Dublin 7, Ireland.
Phone: (353 - 1) 872 3153 (353 - 1) 872 5093 Fax: (353 - 1) 872 6386
e-mail: concilium@legion-of-mary.ie



Personal Memories of
Edel Quinn
by Frank Duff
CD Disc with an introduction
by Fr. E. McCarthy

Prayer Leaflets -
Free on request
+ post &
packaging



All items are available from above address



from the Legionary world...



CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA

Costa Rica: Consecration of homes to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus is widely promoted. Rosary is recited in public parks and many passers-by join in. Instruction is given to children and adults in areas where the percentage of practice is low.

Belize: a junior praesidium of 10 members in the 8-12 age group do unpopular works at home and school, seeing the spiritual value.

Nicaragua: home visitation, direction of Junior praesidia, visitation of the Leprosy centre and the Penitentiary is done with very good results.

Guatemala: growth continues with new praesidia and the establishment of higher councils. The Rosary is widely promoted. One Junior Curia has 14 praesidia attached.

El Salvador: The country was consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on September 8. Much good work is done preparing people for the Sacraments, an example being that after 3 months visitation a person returned to practice after a lapse of 25 years.

Mexico: *Mexico City* - Legionaries are unravelling with considerable success the confusion and doubt caused by sects, winning back many families to their Catholic roots. Much good work is done in prisons which involves instruction of the inmates and visitation and prayer with their families. *Merida* - here too the legionaries are encountering families confused by sects. They discuss points of doctrine and in addition dialogue with members of the sects. Street contact is done among tourists. As a result of contact with parents of Juniors 400 persons returned to Confession having lapsed for 10 or more years. *Monterray* - legionaries promote widely the prayer leaflet for the Servant of God Frank Duff. There is good growth of the Legion.



EUROPE

Gibraltar: The Episcopal Vicar thanked the legionaries for their help in preparing for a Youth Festival at which the Legion of Mary stall attracted good interest.

Malta: 30 attended a day retreat, many good contacts were met in the course of a week of apostolic work, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is promoted and 35 took part in an extension drive.



Syria: the Aleppo Curia has 8 Junior and 12 Senior praesidia. A week of formation for Junior members had 80 attending and one for Seniors had 120 present. The theme was on the Papal Encyclical "Deus Caritas Est".

Spain: *Madrid* legionaries report an expansion of their 'Fishing for Youth' street apostolate at night with many excellent contacts made. The red light district work has also expanded to take in contact with the men as well as the women frequenting the area. *Barcelona* legionaries are following up on extension commenced by Bernardo De Nardo and at the request of the Carmelite nuns they are considering a youth apostolate.

Portugal: the national pilgrimage to Fatima had a very large attendance at the all night vigil, which was followed by a 2-day conference for Spiritual Directors. The Auxiliary Bishop of Lisbon and the Bishop of Coimbra graciously presided – the overall theme being the formation of legionaries and new evangelisation.

Italy: There are now 50 praesidia at work in *Sicily* and growth continues. There was discussion at the *Rome* Senatus meeting on the dearth of Junior members and what might be done to address this. *Milan* – as a result of bringing the pilgrim statues to the homes in two zones, legionaries were rewarded by an unexpected re-awakening of Faith.



AFRICA

Benin: The average membership of praesidia is 17. In the course of home visitation and crowd contact people of all religions and none are met. Much good work is done in catechetical instruction and days of recollection. The Junior Curia has 5 praesidia with 131 members.

Gabon: *Oyem* Comitium has 11 Curiae and 956 members – they report the Baptism of 85 adults and 305 children.

Burkina Faso: A programme of formation of officers is underway in various dioceses. A Congress in one diocese had 164 participants and the Bishop called for the Legion to open its ranks to men, women, youth and children.

Cameroon: Reports deal with the formation of new praesidia, organisation of Exploratio Dominicalis projects and the running of Patrician meetings.



Chad: The Spiritual Director of the Curia in Sarh has now been transferred to a distant area at *Mongo* which though well populated has just 500 Christians. He seeks advice on how to build up small praesidia.

Congo: The Brazzaville legionaries visit many families among whom they meet the sick and bereaved. On street contact people of many religious beliefs are met and invited to visit the local Church. The marriages of some couples have been regularised. 132 catechumens recruited by legionaries received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Senegal: The two Curiae at *Dakar* and *Pickane* have 13 and 14 praesidia respectively – both are doing well and had a fruitful day's discussion on the theme "With Mary, by Mary let us witness to Christ for a Senegal of love and peace".



ASIA

Thailand: 12 lapsed Catholics brought back to practice are now active members, 10 couples were married in the Church and people contacted at wakes and funerals are encouraged to go to Confession.

Pakistan: Neighbourhood Church Services have been run through the auspices of the Catechetical Centre for the past 15 years during Lent and Advent, have been found to be very effective in fostering good relations between neighbours. The praesidia reporting had 11 and 17 members.

India: *Kerala* report 33 conversions, 4 lapsed returned and 14 marriages were blessed by the Church including a couple who had been about to divorce but who are now reunited. Those of other faiths are happy to receive Rosary beads. 6 alcoholics were rehabilitated and many homes were consecrated to the Sacred Heart. *Mumbai* report a successful apostolate to house maids. Alcoholics are regularly followed up and 14 attended a retreat for non Christians.

Mongolia: The Legion has been established among the Korean community. Among the diplomatic personnel approximately 70% have become Catholics and half of them are now active members of the Legion, doing excellent work among their own community but good relations have also been built up with the people of the locality.

THE SERVANT OF GOD ALFIE LAMBE



Presentata House, Dublin, Ireland, January 20, 2007
Eamonn Devlin C.M.

Celebrating his 24th birthday on 24th June 1956 Alfie Lambe remarked in a letter to his mother:

"THIS YEAR WAS A SPECIAL EVENT: 24 YEARS OF AGE ON THE 24TH OF THE MONTH. AT 24 I CAN SAY THAT I HAVE LIVED A FULL LIFE, ALTHOUGH THAT MAY SEEM A STRANGE STATEMENT. IN 24 YEARS I HAVE HAD THE EXPERIENCES THAT MOST PEOPLE HAVE DURING 50 YEARS. I TRAVEL NOT AS A TOURIST, BUT AS ONE HAVING INTIMATE FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL, RICH AND POOR, SAINT AND SINNER."

It is, I think a statement that goes to the heart of the life of Alfie Lambe and all that he did and stood for. Certainly to read Hilde Firtel's account of his life is to be left dizzy at the energy and zeal that consumed Alfie, bringing him to cities, towns, villages and the vast expanses of so many countries: Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil, Bolivia, Uruguay and Argentina. "I feel at home under every sky", Alfie would later say to his friend Timothy Horan, the Irish Ambassador to Argentina and how true those words were for one whose zeal as envoy to extend the Legion knew no bounds.

It would be to underestimate Alfie to overlook the truth of that last part of his self description on his 24th birthday, as someone having intimate friendship with all, rich and poor, saint and sinner.

How true this was is reflected in the many different praesidia he helped establish not just among the majority cultures of those countries, but within the minorities and among those another might overlook:

In Colombia bringing together well-to-do girls to visit street girls.

In Ecuador seeing to it that the Legion prayers were translated into Quechua, the dialect of the Indians, so that praesidia could be established among them, in the city of Quito.

Among the lepers and in the state Penitentiary among the prisoners.

In Brazil among Polish and German immigrants.

In Argentina among the Russian Orthodox.

In Bolivia among communists.

in Our Lady's "Let it be done unto me according to God's word". What then was the secret of Alfie's success? How do we understand the effect of this young Irishman on Prelates, Priests, the powerful and the poor?

"Living the Legion" was a favourite phrase of Alfie's, by which he meant allowing the spirit of the Legion to touch and influence every aspect of his life. And the spirit of the Legion is the spirit of Mary – a spirituality rooted

A spirit like that of Our Lady, whose instinct is apostolic, so that the Annunciation prompts the Visitation. A spirit that moulds the mind and heart and body to be and do all for God and God alone. And yet a spirit that like Our Lady's own has an eye to detail to see and respond to the plight of those in trouble or overlooked, "They have no wine".

In Alfie Lambe converged the apostolic spirit of Our Lady that led to much being done with her spirit of discipleship that attends to minorities and those who are overlooked – quantity and quality born of the spirit of Mary that simply says "Be it done" and inspires others to do likewise, "do whatever he tells you".

Once when asked about living the Legion Alfie summed it up as follows, "I believe one has simply to go on doing what one is doing at the moment. Just do it". It is a sentiment very close to that of Our Lady who wanted what God wanted to be done at each moment and who asked others to do what her Son asks of us at each moment. To a legionary who regretted not receiving the Sacraments as often as she should Alfie simply counselled: "Begin now".

His faith enabled him to believe that nothing was impossible, that all could be achieved if only we do our best now in the situation and circumstances we find ourselves. His approach was not to see the problem, rather to bring to bear the solution.

And that hopeful outlook born of faith transformed people and places that were hitherto closed to the Legion. Of the situation in Ecuador Alfie commented:

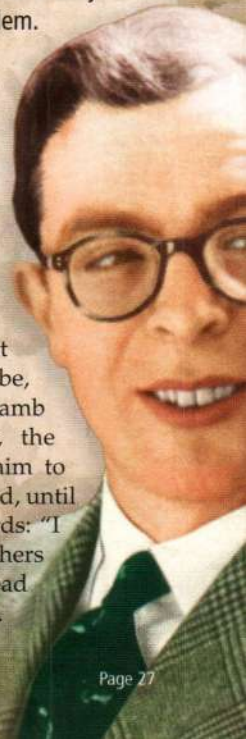
"In Ecuador there is no communist problem, there is only a Catholic problem"

In other words have faith, do your best and God will do the rest.

Alfie Lambe would have us believe the Legion of Mary is to become a legion of Marys; that living the Legion we too can begin to look at things through the eyes of Mary and respond to all situations with her spirit of trust and hope in simple discipleship. And so should we say of our country today:

In Ireland this is no problem of unbelief or apathy there is only a Catholic problem.

His life inspires us still to live by faith and the energy of faith that opens hearts and doors, that looks to each as to all, that goes in search of all and any to whom the spirit of Jesus and Mary would bring Good News through us in the spirit that captivated Alfie Lambe, el corderito, the little lamb whose legionary spirit, the spirit of Mary enabled him to live that spirit until the end, until he could say his last words: "I can do no more" and others could carry on and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.



VISIT TO THE CONGO



October 2006

Enda Dunleavy, Ciara Hayden write:

It all happened through a misunderstanding.

A letter to Kinshasa expressing the concern of the Concilium President over a sudden change in the top echelons was interpreted as a forerunner to a personal visit of inspection and an invitation to Tommy McCabe to visit quickly followed.

Gracious as ever. Tommy quickly nominated three Visitators in his place, two from Concilium and the third, Dieudonne Nduwayo; President of the Senatus of Burundi. Actually, as all realised, it was a providential moment. The Congo was emerging from years of fratricidal strife into an era promising peace and the chance to rebuild a shattered country. The Legion in the Congo, a contender for the greatest numerical strength in the world and certainly among the top ten, had managed to continue its work unabated but needed to restore its link with Concilium and the wider Legion world when planning for the future.

Travelling via Nairobi where we were joined by Dieudonne and arrived in Kinshasa on 1st October, a vast sweep of the mighty Congo river meeting our eyes as the plane descended. We were greeted at the Airport by Joseph Mbeka Bakwa, Senatus President flanked by other Senatus and Comitium Officers.



Bishop Edouard Kisonga Ndinga pictured left and Dieudonne Nduwayo, President of the Senatus of Burundi

Our next surprise was to find numerous legionaries among the handling staff so that our baggage was in safe hands. The President and Vice-President of Bukavu Senatus, Felix Mutula and Apoline Kashemwa were also there. They had travelled by steamer to Goma to catch a flight for the 1200 mile trip to Kinshasa to be with us. East and West Congo were coming together after the long night of isolation. They were later to be supplemented by François-Marie Mpumbu-Beya, President of Kananga Senatus, and Honore Kambale, President of the Senatus of Butembo and Emmanuel Moboko who had charge of the Junior Movement and the Velites in Butembo. Ferried into town in a stately Mercedes, we got a tumultuous reception from the assembled legionaries who sang hymns of thanks to Our Lady for our safe arrival, then danced and gave us hugs of welcome.

We were lodged in much comfort in the Marianist House in the Kalamu district in the fatherly care of Fr. Leo Panels and his community of aspirants, all of whom had been officers in the Junior Legion of their home districts. He placed the reception rooms at our disposal so that we were able to hold ad-hoc conferences with all-comers. Here we met:

A lady who had been an officer in Kindu, a place that had suffered much.

With a Reverend Sister who had worked with the Legion in the Ivory Coast.

With Emmanuel who told us how they used the Velites to divert young boys and girls from enlisting as child-soldiers in the brutal militias by becoming soldiers of Our Lady in the Velites (cf. Maria Legionis No 4 of 1961).

Here too came Br. Joseph M. Bekwa and his officers to discuss our programme and their problems. For a Council claiming legionary jurisdiction over 3 archdioceses; 22 dioceses and 160,000 active members, the problems were not overwhelming. In fact, the Legion it seemed to us was doing very well and greatly relied upon by the Church.



Joseph M. Bekwa - President of Kinshasa Senatus

In Kinshasa, the Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC) are the fundamental units of organisation within each parish since they were introduced by the late Cardinal Malula. They see to instruction, to choral music, to the care of the orphans, the sick and the aged.

The Legion of Mary is the animating force within the BECs. They are the first to know who is sick and in need of hospitalisation. They supply the volunteer catechists. They recruit for the choral groups. They counsel couples with marital difficulties, help girls who are tempted to have recourse to abortion. They approach those who have joined sects seeking their return to the fold. All this is done in the background. Legionaries do not normally assume the positions of responsibility in the BECs preferring to encourage others to fulfil these roles. In the course of an interview which Joseph M. Bekwa arranged for us with Fr. Francis Luntadila Kayinua who has oversight of all lay movement in the Archdiocese, he told us that the vast majority of his 5000 volunteer catechists were legionaries.



François Marie Mpumbu-Beya - President of Kasai Senatus

VISIT TO CONGO

We attended a praesidium meeting in the open yard of a housing complex and were impressed by the orderliness of the meeting and the participation of members through reports and comments.

We visited Curia and Comitium meetings which were totally impressive allowing for such items as an exuberant Spiritual Director who got all present, perhaps 150 officers, to join in a hymn in honour of the occasion. The Senatus meeting itself was a worthy culmination with a hint of military discipline as when, at roll-call, all four officers, seated one behind the other, would rise together in response to the name of their praesidium, Curia or Comitium.

The roll-call swept briskly round the hall until it came to a missing link when there was a short sharp focus on the absentee before moving on. We realised that they take the word "Legion" seriously. We were pleased with the fraternal atmosphere of the Senatus meeting where members rose easily to speak. It was clear also that the choice of Dieudonne from Burundi as one of our delegation was more than appropriate as he was a rock of sense and hugely popular with the Congolese.

Ciara Hayden's presence and words were a tonic and an encouragement to the younger legionaries who always sought her out after meetings.



Visitation to Officers of St. Mark's Parish, Kinshasa



Praesidium Meeting Kinshasa

An item on our programme which never came about was a visit to Cardinal Etsou. We did not know then of his illness nor that it was his to be his last because he died 12 weeks later. However, we were greatly honoured by a liturgical reception at a Mass presided over by Bishop Edouard Kisongo whose homily amounted to an endorsement of all the Legion stands for. A moment of high emotion for us came with the mention of the name of the heroic Legion Envoy to the Congo (1954-1964), Anne O'Connor, who had died on the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel July 16, 2003. She too had shown perseverance in the teeth of war as the Congolese legionaries have done ever since. A minute's silence in her memory was called for by Joseph M. Bakwa

At a reception afterwards attended by Bishops Kisongo and Mbulumatari, Bishop Kisongo said "in a parish where the Legion exists, everything works."

Next day, October 16, all Senatus Officers, east and west, met for a final farewell. One officer said "You know how things are with us in the Congo. Yet you were not afraid to come and we deeply appreciate that". Next morning we caught the plane to Nairobi where we parted from Dieudonne Nduwayo before resuming our homeward journey.



EXTRACTS FROM HOMILY OF HIS EXCELLENCY MONSIGNOR EDOUARD KISONGA AUXILIARY BISHOP OF KINSHASA

October 14, 2006 on the occasion of the 52nd Anniversary of the Legion of Mary in Kinshasa and of the visit from the Concilium in Dublin of Enda Dunleavy, Secretary of Concilium and Ciara Hayden President of Presentata Curia Dublin

Dearest brothers and sisters in Christ, the Legion of Mary whose 52 years existence in our country of RDC we are celebrating is an association of Catholics approved by the Church to enable all to serve the Church better in the combat which she never ceases to wage against the Demon and the powers of evil.

In order to attain this objective, the Legion of Mary is organised on the model of an army, specifically that of ancient Rome.

The arms that it uses are not of this world. The means that the Legion of Mary uses are prayer and active collaboration under the direction of the Hierarchy in the apostolate of Mary and of the Church.

The legionaries are the soldiers of the Church and they try to imitate the virtues of Mary, particularly her profound humility, her blind obedience, her continual prayer, her universal

mortification, her divine purity, her heroic patience, her angelic sweetness and, above all, her lively faith.

Legionaries should seek to understand well the mariology or teaching about Mary, and get to study the points of view expressed in the Church about Mary as they are presented in the Magisterium which explains and applies what the Bible has to say on the nature, the person and the role of Mary in the history of our salvation. This study should lead you to understand the place and role of Mary in the history of our faith.

Legionaries should imitate the good example given by the Virgin Mary and have recourse to her intercession so as to receive from God all the graces we need for our true conversion, for our faithful service of God but also for a peaceful and prosperous

+ Mgr. Edouard KISONGA
Auxiliary Bishop



Ciara Hayden & Enda Dunleavy with Officers of Butembo Senatus



Officers of Kinshasa Senatus with Ciara Hayden & Enda Dunleavy

UGANDA

Spiritual Directors Conference October 2006



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