

gleams amid eternal snows His tears fall from the skies I see His face in every

flower The thunder and the singing of the birds are but His voice And carved by His

power Rocks as His written word All paths ways by His feet are

word His strong heart stirs the ever beating sea, His crown of thorns is twisted with

every thorn His cross is every tree

esp. 7 sempre dim senza rit.

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# Let us put our priorities right

By Rev. Francis J. Ripley

“RENEWAL” is in the air. It must be because that was the purpose of the Second Vatican Council. But “renewal” should at all times be in the minds of apostolic Catholics. Their outlook must possess a quality which, Pope Paul says, should ever be visible in the Church, “perpetual youthfulness”. This means zeal, enthusiasm, ardour, enterprise, a spirit of pioneering and adventure, faith, courage and heroism—qualities which are required of every active member of the Legion of Mary. The call of Catholic publicists today is for the Church to be active, to be involved in every department of social life, to show concern in such matters as race prejudice, industrial strife and so forth. There is a danger in this that a basic essential principle may be overlooked: namely, that the activity of the Church must flow from the true life of the Church: and the life of the Church is essentially supernatural because it is a sharing in God’s life.

That is why the Council calls the Eucharist the source and apex of all the activity of the Church, the heartbeat of the People of God and the whole wealth of the Church and says that all apostolic activity must flow from the Eucharist and lead back to the Eucharist. It is here that renewal must begin. The Church must thrust upwards towards God before thrusting outwards towards man.

We must never reverse the order of the two great commandments: the first is to love God and the second, which is like to it, is to love our neighbour. Love of neighbour is simply the overflowing of the

supernatural love of God. Or, in the words of the Sermon on the Mount, “Make it your first care to find the Kingdom of God, and all these things shall be yours without the asking”. Here is the essential meaning of renewal. Many who speak and write about it give the impression that they have not studied the Documents of Vatican II.

The mind, life, dispositions and spirituality of the apostle of today should be on the same wave length as the Council. Unfortunately the popularisers, especially as reported in the press, have caused ideas well out of line with the explicit teaching of the Council to become regarded as the mind of the Council. They concern, for example, renewal, ecumenism, liturgical changes, obedience and collegiality.

As for the Legion, our spirit is wonderfully expressed in the words of St. Peter to the cripple at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple: “I have neither silver nor gold, but I will give you what I have”, and what we have is the spirit of Christ. We can say to all those we encounter in our apostolate what Pope Paul told the United Nations: “I have come to bring you the ancient and the ever new: Christ”. Through us the Church enters modern society not to lose her wealth but to give her wealth. Just as the Paschal Candle suffers no loss when the other lights are taken from it so our Christ-likeness gives itself to the world without suffering any loss in the process. One has heard it said that if people are too Christ-like the world will not listen to them, therefore they must be less Christ-like.

*(Continued on next page)*



**Ethiopia.** Members of the Praesidium Teameratawit Mariam, in the mission of S. Antonio, Godaif, Asmarai with their Spiritual Director, Abba Teclamarium Haile. The praesidium was founded in September 1967 and is engaged in catechetical work and in the visitation of the Hospital. One of its members is helping in the translation of the Handbook into the local language: Tigrinia.

## DEATH OF P.P.C. CHAIRMAN

SR. Winnie Maher, who died on 21st July 1969, was appointed Chairman of the Peregrinatio Committee in October 1964. She quickly showed a rare spirit of Faith in Our Lady and capacity for organising and leading.

She travelled the length and breadth of Ireland, speaking at recruiting conferences and often went to England, either to conferences or as a simple volunteer.

She saw the movement advance in vision, initiative and in the idea of presenting the faith to those outside the Fold, and that in difficult times. She witnessed the development of the country Missions with the Catholic Missionary Society in England and Wales, and the ushering in of a new era in the effort to win back "Mary's Dowry."

She saw the movement take wings to the U.S.A., and to Kenya. At last year's Hallowe'en Conference she threw out the suggestion "Why not Russia next year"? Of her it could be said that what she sowed, others are reaping, and will continue to reap.

Her untimely death is a grievous loss to the Legion.

May she rest in peace.



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### LET US PUT OUR PRIORITIES RIGHT—*contd.*

To follow that principle would be disastrous. We do not judge success by the way the world accepts us. The world did not accept Christ even when he worked wonderful miracles for the people. Renewal means more genuine Christ-likeness and therefore more prayer, more penance, more spiritual reading, more insistence on the supernatural and therefore as a matter of course, more devotion to the Eucharist, not less. This is emphasized in our Handbook. We are told that all the graces we need as Legionaries "flow one and all from the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary... The Eucharist is the centre and source of grace: therefore it must be the very keystone of the Legionary scheme. The most ardent activity will accomplish nothing of value if it forgets for a moment that its main object is to establish the reign of the Eucharist in all hearts."

The spirit of the Legion is the spirit of Mary; the spirit of Mary is the spirit of Jesus. All the virtues of Jesus are reflected in the life of the true Legionary. He is filled with zeal, trying to be "all things to all men." He is humble and meek, trying to learn from Him who was meek and humble of heart. He is obedient because he knows that the reason for Christ's exaltation was obedience unto death and that Mary's whole life is expressed in two sentences: "Let it be to me according to your word" and "Do whatever He tells you." It would

be far from the spirit of the Legion to try to substitute ecumenism for conversion work, mere change for genuine renewal, dialogue for obedience or to try to discover some opposition between the collegiality of the bishops and the supremacy of the Pope.

Our ideal can be expressed in three steps: first, we must go to Jesus in union with His Mother and from them draw our true spirit; second, we go from Jesus and Mary, in and with them, to the world to radiate their spirit there as the leaven in the mass; third, we go back from the world to take its problems to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Our Lady must always be our example of the spirit of her Son. It was her *spiritual* life which made her visit Elizabeth. We must be led to go out to the world carrying Jesus spiritually within us as Mary did both spiritually and physically, with ever youthful zeal and ever fresh enthusiasm.

We can never do that unless our point of departure is Christ in the Eucharist. We must show that we have our priorities right and that we believe that all the activity of the Church must spring from its inner supernatural life. In a word, while we do not reject all that is good in our traditional apostolate, we must be discovering new ways of doing what Mary was created to do—that is to bring to men the Christ who is ever present and is the food of our souls in the Blessed Eucharist.

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## IRELAND



From around the country come those flashes of activity which show that beneath the faithful and sometimes humdrum work lies all the latent vigour of the Legion.

A Belfast praesidium, Mater Dolorosa, contacts men in areas of the city frequented by street girls. Of 620 spoken to, 159 accepted Miraculous Medals and several arranged to see a priest. The success of the Legionaries' efforts might be explained by the volume of prayer that is there to support them—they have 4 Praetorians, 35 Adjutorians and 120 Auxiliaries. Another praesidium in that area conducts a Sunday School in Ballykinlar Army Camp. One child was prepared for First Holy Communion, six for Confirmation, one soldier's wife was received into the Church and two are under instruction.

From Mullingar comes the report that 3 itinerant children were confirmed after a long period of instruction, while a Claremorris praesidium holds classes twice a week for teenage itinerant girls. These girls are learning to make dresses for themselves, six have secured employment and are doing well.

A South Elphin Junior praesidium has 5 itinerant children among the 22 members on roll, and undertakes a variety of work from looking after the church and grounds to visiting old people.

Thurles Comitium reports the formation of 3 Junior praesidia and permission to establish the Legion in 5 parishes in the diocese.

In Dublin, Mater Ecclesiae Curia has set up a Junior Curia with 10 praesidia attached. Cana Junior Curia closed 1 praesidium and started 5 new ones in the past year. South Dublin Juniors call on doctors and dentists to arrange for Catholic magazines to be left in their waiting rooms. Bethlehem

Junior Curia arranged for Fr. Michael Cleary to give a talk on drugs to teenagers—200 attended.

On the less spectacular side, we find Joy of Israel praesidium, Benedicta Curia, pursuing its quiet work among the Jews, while Regina Coeli praesidium presenting its 38th annual report to Presentata Curia mentions that it has 39 members on roll. The work of the praesidium for the past 38 years has been the running of Regina Coeli Hostel which at present caters for some 90 destitute women, 26 mothers and 58 children. The dedication of the members and the devoted services of the "indoor" legionaries are amply rewarded by the many graces showered on the occupants including the baptism of a family of 7. A praesidium in Immaculata Curia has set an example worthy of imitation by organising, through Home Visitation, an Adoration group of over 100 members. A meeting at which the Spiritual Director explained the meaning of Eucharistic Adoration to a group of 16 was arranged to initiate this worthy undertaking.

And to avert any danger of slipshod work or any flagging of zeal come words spoken by Most Rev. Dr. Birch, Bishop of Ossory, to his legionaries. He said that all members must examine their position in the Legion. Noting that artificial flowers were being used on some Legion altars, he asked did this mean that anything was good enough today! If the Legion were to fail, it would be because devotion to Our Lady is failing. Social Service work is not sufficient for members on its own; it has been the tradition of the Legion to do the works that no one else will do. Perhaps we are not asking legionaries to be heroic enough. Examine what you are doing and the spirit in which you are doing it. The Legion must not fail. All our service to the poor is a failure if the Legion fails. What a triumph for Satan if even one praesidium closes down.

Most Rev. Dr. O'Callaghan, before his retirement

## Good Example of Community Service



This picture of the members of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Ladies' Club, Cabra West, Dublin, was taken on the occasion of the Annual Christmas Dinner, December 1968. The club was started by the Legion five years ago and has a membership of twenty-five. A very jolly, enthusiastic group of women, they are all Auxiliary members and take a great interest in the Legion. A former member of the Club is the Vice-President of the local praesidium. They organise Sales of Work to send invalids to Lourdes. They have a choir, do sewing, knitting, etc., and they have started physical culture classes. A piano has been acquired and they are taking piano lessons during the Club night.

as Bishop of Clogher, thanked his legionaries for their devoted work. He spoke of his great interest in the Legion since its early days. The gratitude of the Legion goes to him in his retirement. He was always kind and helpful.

Benedicta, Cana, and Consolata Junior Curiae, Dublin, held very successful Congresses recently. A very helpful Conference of the three Curiae in the Kildare and Leighlin Diocese was held, with His Lordship the Bishop in attendance.

## ENGLAND

### Birmingham



At the April meeting of the Senatus, His Grace Archbishop Dwyer was present and he referred to the handbook as the soul of the apostolate. He said there was a lack of confidence in many forms of Catholic Action today. We should not be surprised if there is some falling back at the present time, because progression moves in peaks and the Legion has had a very rapid growth in the past. We must seek to serve and not to be served. His final message was the importance of devotion to Our Lady. She is the best example of this, we must measure our work against hers, and if we put it into her hands it will be sound.

### London

Cardinal Heenan attended the Acies ceremony and in his address stressed that recruiting and extension and the taking on of new works must be an urgent consideration. "I command you to go out, extend and undertake new works. Pope Paul says much the same in the quotation I read for you, 'the principle of the commitment which urges each and every Christian to the apostolate until there is not a single member of the Church who is inert, lazy or passive'."

Street contact is done at Euston Square and Hyde

Park. Those contacted range from destitute alcoholics to young prostitutes. Legionaries also go into the "Drug Dives" in Soho; work starts at midnight and goes on to the early hours in the morning. Contact work is done all night at the Rink Club where contacts are mainly youngsters who have opted out of normal society. The Legion is co-operating with the Salvation Army in the running of a club for drug addicts, which has an ecumenical aspect.

Newcastle Comitium reports marked increase in Unity and Inter-Church activities. The Sunderland Juniors are particularly successful among their contemporaries and their success is due to the great interest taken by the senior members. East Liverpool Curia is getting 35-40 non-Catholics regularly to talks on the Faith.

A Dublin legionary on Peregrinatio in London was present at the baptism of a grandchild of her contact whose mother is still a Danish non-Catholic. This grandmother is a very active legionary attached to Brompton Oratory. This praesidium has a varied membership including a Hippy who is accepted among the Soho night clubs, an authoress, a bright young artist, and other distinctive personalities. They do tremendous work contacting at Trafalgar Square and on house-to-house visitation in Kensington area which is a far tougher proposition than the poorer areas.

## SCOTLAND



A report from St. Joseph's College, Dumfries, covered the work of 63 active members in 6 praesidia of Grammar school boys. Two praesidia do home visitation in the town; other works include the visitation of the Borstal, the Cheshire Home, and the Crichton Mental Hospital. The old people are regularly visited. There are 4 Patrician groups in the College.

## Juniors in Action

Pupils from St. Joseph's College in Dumfries exchanged the pen for the paint brush during the closing days of the term, and worked hard to renovate an 83-year-old Dumfries pensioner's house. The boys, all aged between 14 and 15 and members of the Legion of Mary, have renovated and decorated the kitchen and hall of Miss S. Cunnon's home at 74 Millburn Avenue, Dumfries.

Working in relays, the boys hope to have the work completed by this week-end, and the college authorities have given them time off to finish the job. Helping them in the work are the ladies from the Marian Association of St. Andrew's Parish, who did much of the preparatory washing and cleaning of walls and ceilings. A local decorator gave the pupils materials and equipment to do the job at cost price. Our picture shows some of the young decorators who are obviously happy in their very useful work . . . and in a hurry to get on with it.



A Junior report from South Uist (Hebrides) told of hospital visitation, visitation of sick and infirm, running a Wayside Club, and works of service in the homes of the people. During Easter, 3 teams were at work in the Hebridean islands of Islay, Jura, and Skye. Viatores would be most welcome on the island of Skye, on which there are two permanent Scottish legionaries and for most of the time a resident priest.

A Peregrinatio project to Finland is being organised by the Senatus.

Following a Columban Drive, 25 new members were recruited in one parish. Patrician Groups in Coatbridge and South Ayrshire are attracting attendances of 20 and over.

The Senatus sent a telegram of congratulation to His Eminence Cardinal Gray of Edinburgh on his elevation to the Cardinalate.

At the Senatus meeting, Bishop Ward, the Spiritual Director, gave his blessing to Dr. Raphael Owor and Mrs. Owor who were returning to their native land of Uganda after three and a half years of special medical studies in Glasgow. Dr. Owor is the head of the great regional hospital in Kampala to which he now returns loaded with technical distinctions. He was formerly the president of the Kampala Senatus. During their stay in Glasgow, his wife and he maintained a busy Legion membership, doing all sorts of work and taking part in the Peregrinatio. All the legionaries expressed their best wishes to this devoted pair.

## PORTUGAL



The Envoy, Sr. Maria Senra, writes: "I have spent about two months in the Guarda diocese. I left there 10 praesidia and 20 are to be formed next month. The priests received the Legion with enthusiasm as one of the best movements of our time. The

Bishop of Guarda shows great confidence in the Legion. He strongly insisted that I visit every Presbytery and the greatest possible number of parishes so as to talk to the priests.

Now I am working in the diocese of Beja. I went to see the Bishop who spoke with me for an hour and a half. He confirmed his great hope in the Legion. His wish is to see it in every parish.

He said: 'You are building the Church. With your faithfulness to the Bishop and to the Pope you are really working within the line of the Vatican Council.' He asked to be kept informed about all legionary activities and that all praesidia should send him every month a brief report, as he wishes to write the history of the Legion in his diocese.

We have 8 praesidia in this diocese; I have three praesidia in preparation and I am thinking about forming a Curia. Everybody is watching the Legion and placing in it their best hope." She did her first drive in her new Volks car for five hours to Covilpao. The Coimbra Curia secretary will do extension with her for three weeks.

## ITALY



A Peregrinatio Pro Christo project, organised by the Genoa legionaries at Zeri, near Patigno, is described by Giuseppe Alberto Carlini. He belongs to a praesidium attached to the Curia of Acqui-Terme, a diocese in Turin.

"After a few months in the Legion, I felt that I was already prepared for the activity it proposes. I therefore wanted to experience the Peregrinatio.

During the journey to Zeri General Headquarters, I felt apprehensive because it was my first venture, but I soon got to know the other members who were so familiar and cheerful that fear vanished: it was as though we were old friends.

The activities were varied but all were in the true Legion spirit. A countryside where the people had lost sight of religion appeared a difficult assignment. A great effort would have to be made to revive a long dormant faith. It was agreed that the most suitable approach would be the Rosary and every day our groups offered up the Rosary fervently in the different parts of the countryside.

The big dose of human respect which I had quickly conquered and I found myself praying and reciting that prayer with people whom I had never seen before. It was a common language which united us to God whose help we sought in our necessities. However, it was only the old people who participated and we tried to discover why.

Unfortunately many young people had left these very arable lands for the cities where life was more exciting and comfortable. There were also a number of people who had come to the country, among whom were many students. In order to make contact with these, we organised a discussion on 'The search for religion in modern music'. We discovered that generally the best songs had a religious slant, however remote, and we encouraged them not to listen superficially but rather reflectively so as to discover the true meaning.

What surprised and delighted me was to discover that not only persons whom we had spoken to but also many whom we had merely saluted out of politeness, were present at the Stations of the Cross which we organised at the request of the parish priest. It took place along a stretch of three kilometres in the valley. A regular tide of people, with lighted lamps, followed the route in imitation of the Lord's own Via Crucis of two thousand years ago. That unfamiliar experience must have produced profound emotions in those country people. Certainly I felt a surpassing joy in the thought that for a while I had served Mary wholeheartedly.

Time only permitted me to spend eight days in Zeri, but in that time I was able to understand just

how much good can be done when one is determined. I hope that will be a lesson to me for the remainder of my life."

### Trento

The Archbishop received all legionaries at a special audience and expressed his debt to them. He particularly commended them for their submission of regular reports. He wished that all Catholic organisations would follow this example.

### Milan

Milan Comitium has now 21 senior praesidia and a Junior Curia. Continued effort is made to extend both within and without the city area.

Genoa legionaries visit ships, arrange for Mass to be said for the crews and organise shore entertainment.

### Rome

Fr. John Taylor writes: "You will be pleased to know that my Rector here, a Tyrolese, is very keen on the Legion and is Spiritual Director of 7 praesidia. He is anxious that I spend much time learning Italian as he knows he will be able to use me in his praesidia soon. The legionaries discovered in a parish where I say Mass occasionally that there were a number of English-speaking people who were lapsed, so we can help them. Protestants were also visited. I went with the legionaries on this work." The Senatus of Central Italy sent Sr. Grotoff to represent it at the setting up of a Curia at Catanzaro in Southern Italy.

In the work of the praesidia among the gypsies they succeeded in having 14 irregular unions set right.

The Bishop sent his blessing to the new body.

## FRANCE

At his request a full report was recently made to His Excellency the Bishop of Strasbourg setting out the position of the Legion in the Senatus area. In the reports received at the meeting much contact was reported with Jews and Moslems throughout the area. Home and Hospital visitation is well covered, and the organisation of ecumenical groups and teaching of Christian Doctrine and promoting the Rosary is also undertaken. Work for many Italian immigrants is being organised.

## U.S.A.

### New York



Visitation of Morris County Jail by a men's praesidium has resulted in 300 inmates returning to the sacraments after absences ranging from 1 to 35 years. Six busloads of people attended a Rosary Rally in the Bronx area. Peregrinatio projects for this year in-

Fr. Aedan McGrath "roving envoy" of the Legion of Mary in the U.S.A. seems in happy mood when this photograph was taken. The occasion was his visit to the West Coast of Florida in January of this year to organise the start of the Legion in St. Petersburg, one of the dioceses of the Metropolitan Province of Miami. Seen with him are Fr. M. Brendan Lawlor, Pastor of the Holy Family Church of St. Petersburg and diocesan director of the Legion (standing) and Miss Mary Mooney. Since then, the new praesidia in the area have been doing very well and a curia has recently been established.



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clude Dorchester (a suburb of Boston), The Pas, Canada, and 3 sections of North Carolina. Morris County praesidium also does good work amongst the patients of a State Mental Hospital; the officers of this praesidium have a 100 per cent attendance at the Curia meetings.

*Albuquerque* praesidium gained 3 converts to the Church of whom 2 are now active members.

*Alaska*: One praesidium assists at the military lounge at the Airport, has Patrician meetings and runs a library.

*Cleveland Comitium* reports valuable work being done in the City Jail and Flop Houses. Nashville, Tennessee has been commended by the local Government and the office of Mayor for the work done by the legionaries in the Metro General Hospital. From the same centre comes commendations from the Staff of the Psychiatric Hospital for Legion work in that Institution.

*New Mexico*: Gallup Comitium reports that the praesidium in the Acoma Indian Reservation held a day of recollection which was attended by over 100 of the tribe. The same praesidium had a number of baptisms among the Indian people. A praesidium in Gallup visits the local Detention Centre and has organised C.C.D. classes for over 200 children.

*Detroit*: Fr. Ward the Spiritual Director of the Comitium said that the Legion is the most up-to-date organisation in the world, and that no organisation is so well equipped to do the job.

*Cincinnati*: There are 125 active Junior legionaries attached to the 9 Junior praesidia. They are mostly 5th grade to High school and are full of enthusiasm for all works; these are house to house

visitation, promoting the Rosary, Enthronement of the Sacred Heart, enrolling Auxiliary members, tutoring students, helping the Dominican Sisters with the sick, taking wheel-chair patients to Mass, visiting Nursing Homes, and entertaining with musical programmes and bingo games. A nursing home for 133 indigents contains 16 Catholics; the Juniors pray the Rosary and quite a few non-Catholics join in. These old folks say "our Juniors are like medicine to us as we see very few young people".

## MEXICO



With the warm approbation of the Archbishop who was present at the meeting, Sr. Edelen founded a new Curia at Hermosillo, Sonora. She remained there for some time to help to build up the Legion in the area.

Sr. Jean Gillespie devoted some time recently to the preparing of the Cathedral Curia in Monterrey for the duties of a Comitium and then proceeded to the foundation of a new Curia at Reynosa at which Bishop Matamoras attended and gave the Allocutio. She went to Texas to recruit extension workers and gave talks illustrated with slides in Brownsville, Beeville, McAllen, Houston, San Antonio and Corpus Christi. She is now back in Mexico.

Oregon Comitium held a very successful Congress at which the Prelate and all the Spiritual Directors attended. When the president of Navajoa Curia was in La Paz at a Congress, she noticed that her taxi-man was studying the Handbook. A praesidium in Guadalajara claims to have effected a transformation in the spiritual health of the district





His Excellency, Archbishop Carlos Quintero Arce of Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico.

in which it operates. In conjunction with Cursillistas it was responsible for having 70 marriages regularised, many of the parties receiving Holy Communion for the first time. In Acapulco a praesidium of married legionaries engages in extension work at the week-ends.

*Our comment:* The claim of the praesidium to have transformed religious standards is probably not exaggerated. A bulb is relatively small but it can illuminate a whole room. A little injection can drive out a disease. Why not still greater in the moral order? Some years ago a praesidium in a large town said that it was satisfied that in five years it had unquestionably raised the tone of the place, even though it had direct contact with only a mere fraction of the population. Indirect streams of influence had been set moving and were touching many. Idealistic movements not previously dreamt of had begun. This provides material for reflection..

## VENEZUELA

A new Comitium has been formed in the Archdiocese of Merida. Affiliated to it are the Junior Curia of this same city, and the two adult Curiae of Tovar and Guaraque. This latter Curia is a rural

one, and one of the finest in the country. The Comitium organised a Congress and the legionaries from Guaraque, many of them having to travel for hours on foot and horseback before getting the bus, were united to their brothers in Merida and participated with great confidence.

The living presence of the Holy Spirit was evident throughout the day. Professional people, university students, workingmen, simple country folk all worked together and discussed the many aspects of the Legion's programme for the development of the community, true devotion to the nation. Several groups of legionaries are working on the programme of adult education, teaching many to read and write who did not have that privilege. Good efforts are also being made to promote sports among the young, home formation for the young mothers, and visits and works of service for those who have been deprived of their liberty.

In other parts of the country there has likewise been good progress. Another Comitium was formed in the Archdiocese of Barquisimeto, with six Curiae affiliated. Working in this city are two Viatores from Dublin, Irene Bailey and Marie Kenny, both first-class legionaries. This important industrial city has seen a notable progress in the Legion in recent years. and many of the legionaries are doing excellent work. The Archbishop, Mons. Crispulo Benitez Fonturvel, has been a great supporter always. He attended a recent Congress and spoke with gratitude for the Legion apostolate in his Archdiocese.

## BRAZIL



The Envoy, Lina Vaccaro, reports on a Peregrinatio project in the parish of Batalla, N.E. Brazil. A total of 25 legionaries took part, helped by three priests, Padre Tobias, Padre Barbosaneto, and the parish priest of Fernao Velho. On the day prior to departure all attended a day's Retreat. They worked in four groups, began at 5 a.m. Mass and retired at 10 p.m. Every person was visited and where no priest was present the legionaries organised a Gospel service.

Four praesidia and one junior one were founded in Batalha; one praesidium in Jacaré; two praesidia in Belomonte, with a host of Auxiliary members recruited. The Bishop of the diocese of Palmeira asked them to speak at a meeting of priests; as a result two parish priests asked for praesidia. The parish priest of Pao De Acucar asked for a Peregrinatio team for next year. The projects closed with concerts organised by the legionaries for the people, and the effect on those taking part was one of gratitude and joy.

## PHILIPPINES

Rev. Sr. Mary McPolin writes: "In the huge National Penitentiary in Mantinglupa, near Manila, there are between 8,000 and 9,000 prisoners and there are 14 praesidia of the Legion among the prisoners themselves, from whom a corps of catechists is recruited from those with a good record. In addition to the legionaries visiting, there are Nuns and de la Salle Brothers, and a Chaplain residing there. Bible services and Scripture readings are given in different island dialects, and interspersed with religious songs.

José, aged 20, a student from a big Catholic college, in a row stabbed a classmate to death. He may be imprisoned for 30 years, he was withdrawn, said no prayers, was embittered and full of self pity, eventually he went to Confession.

Death Row is visited eagerly; all the men there have already been sentenced by a lower court and await confirmation of the death penalty by the Supreme Court. The sentence is carried out within 30 days by electric chair. I got permission to visit Edmundo who is said to have killed seven people on the occasion of a robbery. Two guards accompanied me; he was amazed to hear that many people were praying for him during the four years he had been there. He went to Confession and said that he was very much at peace now and ready for whatever comes to him."

At the Senatus of Manila, the San Fernando, La Union Curia was raised to a Comitium and all praesidia are pioneering in T.D.N. projects. In the Senatus of Bicolandia much emphasis is being placed on "The Priestless Mass". This is a bible service following on the pattern of the Mass which may be conducted in barrios by a layman in the absence of a priest.

Lapulapu Curia of the Southern Philippines has 25 praesidia attached. In an island parish there are five praesidia which brought 10,000 children to Mass and the Sacraments. Ginatilan Curia has worked T.D.N. in the form of food production, demonstrations of ways of cooking, use of fertilisers, and

methods of health and sanitation. People are now self-sufficient. In one parish there are 12 senior and 4 junior praesidia; the Spiritual Director has pinned his faith to the Legion.

## KOREA

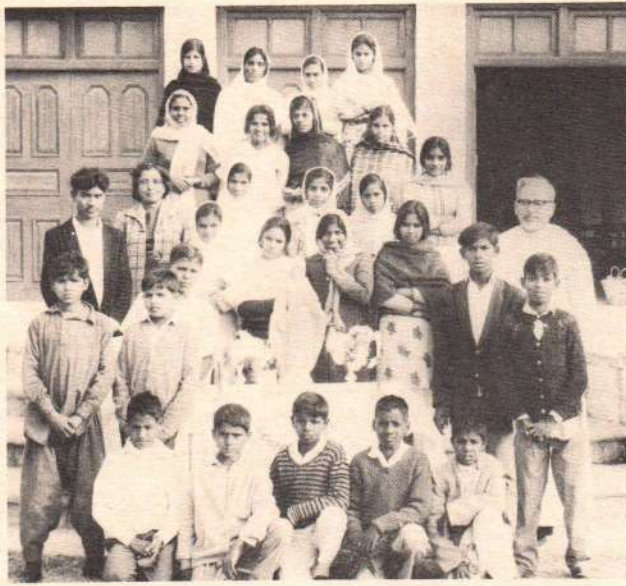
The highlight of this report is the visit of Father Aedan McGrath, the hero of a hundred Legion battlefields. He declared himself deeply impressed by the fine spirit, efficiency, and ready participation by all the members in the business of the Senatus meeting. The Auxiliary Bishop, many Spiritual Directors and close on 100 legionaries were present. Later in the evening Fr. McGrath spent two hours discussing Legion principles and answering the queries of the legionaries. He had the great pleasure of meeting H.E. Cardinal Kim (Seoul Archdiocese) and other guests at Archbishop's House. He was delighted to find that a military colonel present was a legionary in an Army praesidium.

The Cardinal, who was conducting a Retreat for Korean priests, kindly arranged for Fr. McGrath to have two sessions for discussion of the Legion with the Fathers. Fr. McGrath also spoke at the Seminary, at the House of the Caritas Sisters, and at many schools. He was particularly interested to learn that about 60 per cent of the Seminarians and 70 per cent of the Nuns had been active legionaries. At the St. John of God Clinic he met two Irish Brothers who had been legionaries in Dublin, and Dr. B. Colgan, another Dublin legionary. In the Diocese of Jonju, where Bishop Had had translated the Handbook into Korean, Fr. McGrath attended the Comitium meeting and afterwards had a long discussion with Spiritual Directors and legionaries. His Lordship attended the Comitium to compliment two outgoing officers on their zealous work.

His Grace Archbishop Henry was warmly welcomed to a subsequent Senatus meeting and gave the Allocutio. Seoul Comitium, with eight attached Curiae, reported that 18 new praesidia and 140 Active and 197 Auxiliary members had been added



Members of Praesidium Regina Archangelorum of St. Gabriel Archangel Parish, Caloocan City, Philippines, during one of their praesidium meetings are from left Rufino F. Arriola, Steve Maligson, Ma. Salome Mable, Ma. Elenita Arienda, Josefina Cruz, Eleazar Maligson, Melandro Mediana and Francisca Alcazar. Their spiritual director is Fr. Pacifico Ma. Mendoza.



Members of three junior praesidia at Wah, Rawalpindi diocese, with their Spiritual Director Fr. Bartholomew Kaptein photographed at their annual reunion.

to the ranks during the past six months. During visitation of the jail, legionaries instructed three prisoners who were baptised before their death. Sun Chon Curia had instructed 147 Catechumens for Baptism and 173 others are now attending the Doctrine Classes.

## INDIA

### Bombay



Sad news comes from Malad, 25 miles from Bombay, where seven members were drowned, three men and four girls. This was on the Legion outing which numbered 61 from St. Ignatius Church, on 20th April, 1969. The juniors were wading knee deep in the water when a huge wave engulfed them; out of eleven, five perished. Two of the seniors, Bro. Mendonca aged 30, and Bro. Rozario aged 20, plunged into the sea and managed to save five children but were themselves carried out into the deep sea.

Bro. Mendonca was the correspondent for the Mount Abu Junior Curia. He was an ex-seminarian of the Society of Jesus but was obliged to leave because of ill-health. He was vice-president of Our Lady of the Wayside praesidium. Bro. Rozario was recently appointed as correspondent of the Sion Curia. Artificial respiration was given and the five rushed to hospital were treated and allowed to go home.

Hundreds of legionaries attended the funeral the following day and a Concelebrated Mass was said

by the parish priest and his assistants. Bishop Longinus Pereira, Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay, officiated at the funeral service held in the cemetery.

Rev. Fr. Alvara Nazareth, Spiritual Director of the Senatus, recited the Legion prayers at the graveside; hundreds of people attended. This was followed by visits by the Senatus officers and other legionaries to the homes of the deceased legionaries.

The leading newspapers, *The Times of India* and *The Indian Express*, gave a full report of the tragedy. Bro. Custodio Rebello, secretary of the Senatus, ends his letter: "The hearts of the bereaved parents and guardians were full of gratitude to the hundreds of legionaries who had come to pray for their brothers and sisters whom death had snatched away so suddenly. This showed that the Legion was one big family and this family spirit is shown not only in joy, but even more strongly in sorrow."

*Our comment:* The pang of losing two such good legionaries is counterbalanced by the joy of seeing how they died. Instinctively they rushed to the rescue of their young charges, saving five of them. But then they were overpowered themselves. They have exhibited that greatest of loves, commanded by Our Lord, whereby they laid down their own lives for their brethren. Such deaths must be to the Legion as the blood of the martyrs is to the Church.

## PAKISTAN



The first reunion of three praesidia directed by Father Kaptein was held in two places. Mass was celebrated in the Church of Wah in the diocese of Pindi, and the Magnificat was recited after the sermon because First Holy Communion was being given to two adults who had been instructed by the legionaries. One of these converts, a working girl, the other a student, are now active legionaries.

Then in a small room near the church the social began with refreshments followed by singing and the Legion prayers around the Legion altar. The Concilium representative, Sr. Gladys John, was also present and spoke to everybody. More adults are being instructed and the Spiritual Director said that he looks forward to having more adult first Communions. He prays that the Legion will expand and flourish in his mission.

*Our comment:* If the same sort of effort was made in all places—and definitely it could be—then the Church's percentage of the world's population would be rising instead of falling.

## BURMA

Brother Aung Gyi went to Thonze by rail and cycled to Magyeek village where he gave a talk on the Legion to 50 villagers. He gave them another on

the following day. As a result the praesidium of Our Lady Queen of Peace with 16 members was formed. He remained two days with them instructing them on work and methods.

The president of the Junior Curia, Rangoon, reported that in the past two years her praesidium hired a bus and gathered their non-Catholic friends to a Unity function. The Gospel on "One Shepherd and One Fold" was read and a talk on Christian Unity was given by the Spiritual Directress. "Go preach the Gospel to every creature" was read by the Curia secretary, Bro. Roberts. The Cathedral praesidium in Rangoon contacted 251 patients in the hospitals including non-Catholics; 3 children were baptised and 1 catechumen.

In the Kanazogone area Rev. Fr. Henry with two Legion brothers undertook extension and set up six praesidia. It took three to four hours to travel from village to village by sampan. This being by the sea, fresh water had to be carried for drinking. The rivers and creeks were complicated; the party lost its way and landed on the shores of the Bay of Bengal for a whole day, living on water melon and coconut. They also visited Amagyi, Magalay, Hat-thet and Kwinya villages and opened up nine praesidia in Myaungmya for Father Narbaitz, in each of his nine villages. The Handbook in Burmese is about to be printed and orders were requested to be sent to the Senatus.

*Our comment:* The name "Peregrinatio" is not used in the foregoing account. But certainly that venture qualifies as a high example of what should

characterise the Peregrinatio. That title is drawn from the epic of the monks of the west who traversed the Europe of the sixth and seventh centuries rebuilding the shattered faith. The special notes of that Peregrinatio were: the leaving of one's own country to seek for souls in heroic faith; the submitting to hardship and danger as a matter of course. Those ingredients should figure in our Peregrinatio; they do in the Burmese one. Normal extension work to a nearby place is not true Peregrinatio; it is only in the category of common Curia duty.

According to Pius XI, the ancient Peregrinatio rebuilt the lost faith of that epoch. If we can mobilise qualities as great, surely there will be as rich a harvest. Grace always responds to the call of heroic faith. Those Burmese legionaries are manifesting a virile spirit. If it can be communicated to the remainder of the legionaries of their country, it would be an irresistible call on God and man. Many of these new Governments are showing a hostility to the Church. But this may be due chiefly to their dislike for the missionary from outside. Moreover, those Governments will find that nationhood is not the path of roses they thought it to be. They will soon be looking for dedicated citizens as the only firm building material for a nation. But without proper motives, there will be no dedication. In the end those countries will be forced to turn to Catholicism for the sort of devotion which is necessary to their very life. In the meantime the Legion in each place must labour towards the production of that right sort of spirit among the Catholics. First

**Kerala Senatus:** His Eminence, Cardinal Joseph Parekkattil, Archbishop of Ernakulam, the first Cardinal from Kerala, is seen addressing Legionaries, 500 of whom gathered to greet him following his appointment. Very Rev. Fr. Jacob Miliyekal, Senatus Spiritual Director garlanded the Cardinal and Br. C. K. Thomas offered congratulations on behalf of the Legion.

In his address His Eminence said that the Legion, working under the banner of Our Blessed Mother, was the most important religious organisation in Kerala.




they must set an example of it. The Peregrinatio is a splendid way of starting that process.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Natal

Bro. Thompson writes:



"I am a convert for 26 years and 20 of these have been in the Legion. My late brother, a cripple, was an auxiliary. My mother, a convert when she was 70 years old, died two years later at a Legion meeting. We have had the Legion Envoy, Sr. Landers, staying with us. I am the correspondent for the Diocese of Eshowe and the Prefecture of Ingwavuna which embraces Zululand. I also had the privilege of having Bro. Stenson, another Envoy, staying in my home years ago.

Sr. Landers and I travelled many hundreds of miles through Zululand. The present parish priest at Stanger dislikes the Legion; he cut off contact with the Curia and praesidia in the parishes and they died. However the Curia refused to die and continued its work. Last year when Sr. Landers went to visit the Prefecture of Ingwavuna, the Monsignor and the clergy were not keen on the Legion. But then the Monsignor found out that nearly all the vocations were connected with the Legion and he is now keen on having it. At Hlabisa where there are six praesidia, the Monsignor and parish priest gathered the legionaries and told them that either the Legion be run properly or be closed down. The legionaries were enthusiastic that the work be done properly. We hope for a Curia here soon. During the visit of Sr. Landers, my sister and her husband decided to become Catholics."

*Our comment:* It was a happy day for the Church when Bro. Thompson entered it. Ever since he has shown great fidelity, and it seems evident that he has been helping his own relatives into Catholicism. Outside the Church are many who would render similar priceless service if they could be induced to enter in. We thank him for his hospitality to successive Envoys.

## RHODESIA

Sr. Maurilyn Landers writes: "Here I am in Umtali in a Mission Station called St. Killian's, the name given long ago by a German priest who was grateful to St. Killian for bringing the faith to his part of Germany. I worked here for two weeks and am now about to set up the Comitium with permission of the Bishop. I have already set up two Curiae and a praesidium among the Government teachers training students. All the priests are

delighted. The Bishop drove 300 miles to be present at the meeting and gave the Allocutio on the function of a Comitium. Most of the officers were men, and 56 attended a training session the next day.

There are Legion councils in all of the 29 dioceses in the Republic of South Africa and Lesotho; the statistics are: 3 Senatus, 12 Comitua, 117 Curiae, 1,400 Praesidia. To date I have given 400 talks in public and I have now erected my 100th praesidium.

I spent last week at Mangula, which is in the Archdiocese. There is a good Curia there operated by Sr. Emmanuel, a wonderful little nun and truly dedicated. Newly appointed to the joy of all of us is Father Reuter, S.J., a very devoted legionary priest who served his time in the Legion in Dublin as Spiritual Director to a praesidium in Dominick Street and spending his holidays scrubbing the floors of the Morning Star Hostel. It is a tremendous idea to bring in the young Jesuits like that and make them so keen on the Legion as Father Reuter is."

She has received an encouraging letter from the Archbishop of Salisbury, the Most Rev. Francis Chichester, S.J.

*Our comment:* On another page we have regretted the fact that an envoy has had to come home. We have to express the same sorrow in respect of Sr. Landers who has been on loan to us from the Civil Service and is now due back. She will be home before these words meet the eyes of our readers. Her envoyship has been a career of triumph. We thank the Bishops and all those others who received her so kindly and made her work fruitful. It will be granted that as the result of her envoyship an extra degree of grace broods over the vast area through which she has worked so indefatigably.

## TANZANIA

Bro. Brendan Shortall was in Dar es Salaam and describes the President of the Comitium, Bro. Peter Macha as a legionary of high calibre. He was formerly a member of a praesidium at Makerere University College in Uganda. He has an administrative position in the government. His wife is the president of a junior praesidium and has two children. He has a perfect grasp of the legionary spirit.

The Legion is going through a difficult time, being told that it is "out-moded", and numerous updating suggestions have been made by the priests. But the Comitium has managed to hold its own and Bro. Shortall says that he has been immensely heartened by the faithfulness of so many legionaries. The attacks have only strengthened

their resolve to work the Legion along correct lines. The Curia of Zanzibar is affiliated to this Comitium.

Particular attention is to be directed towards the largely Moslem hinterland of Dar es Salaam. Bro. Macha had a most satisfactory interview with Archbishop Maranta who gave him every encouragement and told him that he was wholeheartedly behind the Legion. It was evident that His Grace had an expert grasp of the Legion system and spirit.

## ZAMBIA



Brother Gerry McLarnon, Envoy to Malawi and Zambia, writes: "My last few months in Malawi were taken up with my second visit to the Archdiocese. One big breakthrough was the formation of a praesidium for educated people. For two years I had tried to get such persons interested in the Legion. Just six weeks before leaving we had our first meeting and so far it is doing well. The membership is made up of a resident magistrate, senior Government officials and some teachers. This is a start; if this praesidium keeps going, others will follow.

I am quite confident that the pruning carried out in Malawi has now ensured firm foundations for the future. With the proper supervision and spiritual direction the Legion in that country has a bright future.

The Episcopal Conference had their Plenary meeting during which they discussed my report. I was thanked for my services, not only to the Legion but to the Church as a whole in Malawi. The Bishops asked would I not consider staying on in Malawi.

I continued to collect memoirs of Edel during my last months in Malawi.

At the beginning of the year I received letters from all the Zambian Bishops welcoming me to Zambia and inviting me to work in their dioceses, nine in all.

I had almost an hour with His Excellency, the Apostolic Pro Nuncio. He was interested in a final report of my work in Malawi. We also discussed the strong and weak areas of the Legion here in Zambia. His Excellency said he cannot understand how some Bishops and priests show such little interest in the Legion and do so little for it, more especially when the Holy Father has given such wholehearted approval for the Legion and its work for the Church.

I was asked by Radio Zambia to make a broadcast to the nation about my work and the work of the Legion. I was very pleased to have the opportunity during the broadcast to explain about



Envoy to Zambia, Br. Gerry McLarnon.

T.D.N. and the role of the Legion in community development. I learned afterwards that recently President Kaunda expressed his disappointment that missionaries should help so little in this work. So now perhaps I will be able to convince more priests of the use of the Legion in their parishes. I had another request for a similar programme, this time on T.V."

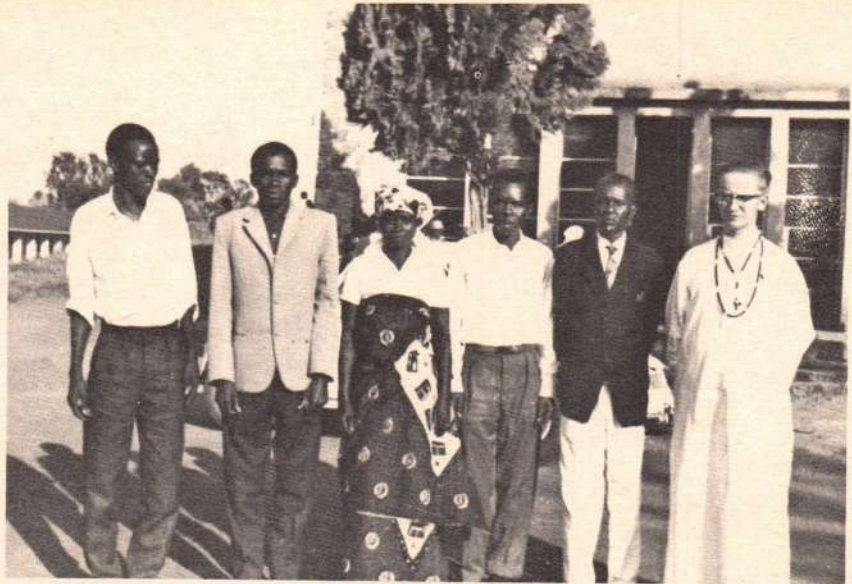
*Our comment:* From the above it can be inferred that Bro. McLarnon's term of envoyship is drawing to a close. We join with the Bishops in their expression of appreciation for the work he has done. We would wish, as their Excellencies have wished, that it could be prolonged.

## UGANDA

The Bishop of Masaka, who is in charge of the lay apostolate in Uganda, was warmly welcomed to the Senatus meeting. His Lordship stressed the vital importance of personal sanctification and of active participation in the apostolate as two important principles of the Legion system. He was pleased to note that membership embraced both the ordinary simple folk and those who had the benefit of higher education. The hierarchy of Uganda was well aware of the solid work being done and it thanked the Legion for its earnest apostolate. Interesting reports submitted to the meeting stimulated constructive discussion. Extension news shows that some new praesidia are likely to start shortly.

The new Spiritual Director of Masaka Comitium told the Senatus that he has been a legionary since

**Officers of Bukavu Senatus.** Left to right are: Henri Buchiliro (Secretary), Medard Kalumuna (President), Anastasia (Vice-president recently replaced after 6 years). She has 12 children. Barthélemy Karachima (Treasurer), Boniface Kaolola (Assistant Secretary), Father P. Lauwers (Spiritual Director).



he was 14 years old. The secretary of Kwapa Curia travelled 140 miles by bus and 10 further miles by foot to attend the Senatus meeting. His report showed that illiterate legionaries are taught the Legion prayers; remarkable conversion work had been accomplished, e.g., 30 Protestants received into the Church and 1,600 pagans baptised.

## CONGO

Bishop Joseph Mulolwa of Baudouinville attended a meeting of the officers of the Kapulo Comitium and the Kapulo Junior Curiae and gave them some advice. His Excellency said that the Legion of Mary, approved by the Church, by himself and his valiant predecessors, is the official form of Catholic Action for the diocese. "It holds an eminent place in the midst of the other apostolic movements. Its methods strongly support the apostolate of the priest and create quickly a bond with the priest of frank and fraternal love. Being under the authority of the priest, we have no fear of deviations from its principles. Very many lukewarm Christians have been brought back to the practice of religion, and a great number of pagans have been brought to the catechumenate and to baptism.

We would ask the parish priests and superiors to establish and maintain the Legion in their missions. The Legion will be helpful to them in their difficult work, but the Legion rules must be observed in order to obtain a fruitful apostolate. One must be in its regard as a father, or a shepherd, or a brother. The father or the shepherd far from criticising or frustrating, must rather encourage these men and women who have dedicated themselves without asking for anything in return."

The Senatus of Bukavu reports that the outstanding feature is the number of Protestants

brought into the Church. A praesidium in Uvira recruited eight active members in one month, brought 34 pagans for instruction and had two conversions from Protestantism. One of the legionaries has translated the Legion booklet on "True Devotion to the Nation" into Kiswahili. A former vice-president of the Senatus is now a Trappistine nun. The Spiritual Director and two of the Senatus officers gave a talk on the Legion in the Grand Seminaire of Murhesa.

## ANGOLA

Sr. Cronin sent a full report on her work in Angola in 1968 to Most Rev. Dr. Sensi, Apostolic Nuncio in Lisbon, and His Excellency expressed to her his gratitude and pleasure. Rev. Fr. Harry Verdijk's Superiors are willing to leave him free for Legion extension in all the dioceses of Angola.

## BIAFRA

*Letter from the president, Orlu Comitium, Brother L. J. Ekeocha:*

"Orlu Comitium is the only Comitium now alive in Biafra, Eastern Nigeria. Our country has been at war for the past two years. This has brought untold hardships, hunger and death. Thousands of our children have died in the war front and the civilians die of hunger and air raids. The nation, both Christians and pagans, prays unceasingly for the mercy of the Almighty God and for the restoration of peace. We have had a bitter experience. But the will of God be done.

Against all odds the Legion holds its ground. This is something to be proud of. In some of our Curiae areas, e.g. Ulli, fear of air raids makes the meetings very uneasy and perilous, and the Curiae meetings are transferred from place to place."

## CEYLON

The report of the Jaffna Comitium shows that the new Spiritual Director, Rev. Fr. S. J. Emmanuel, is stimulating the body; attendance at meetings has been steadily rising. One praesidium with a membership of 24 has 15 Praetorian members. Common to all praesidia is the attention paid to catechetical instruction. In one instance legionaries travelled five miles out on 18 occasions within four months to conduct Catechism classes with an average attendance of 19 per visit. In another village, a dispute between two warring factions was settled by the legionaries, thus averting a calamity which would have involved the entire village. True devotion to the nation works included thatching roofs for the needy, chopping firewood, washing and mending clothes, campaigns to clean streets, and helping burdened poor in their domestic work. Six senior and one junior praesidia have been set up during the three months.

Prayers were requested for the happy repose of the soul of His Lordship Right Rev. Dr. Laudadio, S.J., late Bishop of Galle.

A Sinhala-speaking Curia was inaugurated at Katana in April.

At Pettah the praesidium of Our Lady Most Chaste has a membership of 14, with 41 Adjutorians and 62 Auxiliary members. Visitation of houses of ill-fame and the following up of children given for adoption, and of those ladies who work in night clubs is the work of this praesidium.

Talks have been arranged in the parish hall at Kotahena on the Legion devotion to Mary, followed by discussion.

Mgr. Manik Muttukumar is Spiritual Director of Our Lady Virgin of Virgins praesidium.

## CANARY ISLANDS

Sr. Joan Cronin visited the Canary Islands and was very impressed by the variety and excellence of the work undertaken by the legionaries and by their loyalty to the Concilium. The Bishop of Tenerife told her that what he liked about the Legion best is its obedience to the Bishops.

She went to Equatorial Guinea just in time for a violent *coup d'état*. Although conditions deteriorated into virtual anarchy before she left, she was able to carry out her envoyship there and feels that the Legion will play a very important role in the crisis. The Spanish-speaking Comitium at Bala is very good.

## THAILAND

On Saturday, April 12, 1969, the Senatus of Bangkok held its Third Seminar for legionaries of Thailand in Bangkok. Over 200 members from all



Thailand: Bishop Duhart photographed with Father Chamunian, Senatus Spiritual Director and Father Rocco. The young ladies' names were not stated but they are two well known legionaries from the Ubon Mission.

over the country participated in this 3-day seminar. His Lordship Bishop Langer, the Spiritual Director of Lay Apostolate Mission, presided over the opening session. Bishop Duhart from Udonrdani Mission, and over 20 Spiritual Directors from various curiae and praesidia also attended the various discussions and participated in workshops.

On the previous afternoon, Bishop Langer also held a special meeting for Spiritual Directors only, wherein over 30 Spiritual Directors took part in discussing Legion of Mary activities.

The Seminar's agenda included varied topics for discussion. These range from pure Legion of Mary topics to the Vatican II Council's Decree on the Lay Apostolate. Priority projects for Legion of Mary in Thailand were also included. These projects call for more activated Legion works amongst Thai people whose souls represent a fertile land for the sowing of "words of God". Each Seminar topic provided a workshop discussion which proved very successful.

Recreation period was arranged for each evening, with the concluding celebration on the last evening. A party dinner was given for all participants including the honoured guests His Grace Archbishop Jean Jardot, the Apostolic Delegate to Thailand and His Grace Archbishop Joseph Nittayo, of Bangkok who, himself, lighted the "Farewell Camp Fire" which signified the happy ending of the successful Third Seminar for Legion of Mary in Thailand.

### SHORT NOTICE.

"I knew Edell Quinn" is the title of a new booklet about the Legion Envoy to East and Central Africa. Written by a friend, a contemplative nun, it is published by the Catholic Truth Society of Ireland Inc. at 7 & 8 Lower Abbey st., Dublin 1. Price per copy 1/-. A discount of 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  per cent is allowed on orders of 250 or over; 25 per cent discount on smaller bulk orders.

A review of this booklet will appear in our next issue.



Rev. Sister M. Campion, (Missionary of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary), Killeshandra, who died recently when working in Makurdi Diocese, N. Nigeria, as the result of an accident.

A former English legionary, Sr. Campion became one of the most ardent spiritual directors in Nigeria. In Makurdi she attended weekly the meetings of 14 praesidia, all of them founded by her. She had trained their officers personally.

Later as Superior of the Holy Rosary Convent, Idah, she set the Legion on a firm basis and again trained the new members to carry out their valuable apostolate on the missions.

We ask legionaries to remember to pray for the repose of the soul of this truly devoted apostolic worker.



Legionaries in Owerri, Biafra with His Lordship Bishop Whelan, C.S.Sp., on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the foundation of the Owerri Comitium.

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*Nihil Obstat* : MICHAEL DEMPSEY, S.T.D., *Censor Deputatis*.  
*Imprimi Potest* : ✠ JOANNES CAROLUS, *Archiepiscopus Dublinensis, Hiberniae Primas*.  
Dublini die 3 Nov. 1969.

*“Legion . . .  
anticipated  
the  
Council . . .”  
Bishop  
Fulton Sheen*



Bishop Fulton Sheen warmly greets Frank Duff on arriving at the meeting of the Concilium in Dublin.

**T**HE Concilium extended a most enthusiastic welcome to His Excellency, Bishop Fulton Sheen, Rochester, New York, when he paid a special visit to the July Meeting in Dublin. In the course of an inspiring address His Excellency stressed the importance of the Rosary and referred to its advantage in being a physical, vocal and mental prayer.

His Excellency went on to speak of the Motherhood of Our Blessed Lady and said “The Blessed Mother is not just our Mother; she is the mother of humanity and the mother of the Church. St. Thomas Aquinas says that in the Annunciation when our Blessed Mother answered ‘Be it done unto me according to Thy Word’, she said this in the name of the whole human race”.

Referring to the Legion His Excellency said that it is the only lay organisation that fits both the spirit of the pre-Vatican Council and the spirit of the post-Vatican Council. In bringing the laity into the Apostolate the Legion anticipated the Council. Paying a tribute to Brother Frank Duff, Bishop Sheen said “Mr. Duff has been the greatest apostolic influence in the Church among the laity in our times. He has founded a lay organisation and made it radiate around our Blessed Mother”

“The Legion of Mary is like Gideon’s Army—it

is a minority and its Power comes from the Blessed Mother”. Continuing, the Bishop said that the mission of the Church is to go out into the world and the Legion does this with a true consciousness of its Spiritual Mission. There is much social work being done in the world but there is an insufficiency of the Spiritual Apostleship. He considered that the structure of the Legion was admirably designed and suited to this important purpose.

Finally Bishop Sheen referred to the Legion in his own diocese which is daily extending. He exhorted all to be loyal to the Legion, to recruit for it and to continue in the great tradition of loyalty to the Church and to the Holy Father.

Concluding his address the Bishop declared:—

“These are glorious times in which to live because we have to stand up and be counted. It is costing us something and we can persevere by fortifying our spirituality, realising that Christ is within us and will grow in the proportion that we become more united with Him.”

Bro. Duff, Concilium Vice-President, expressed thanks to His Excellency for the honour of his visit and for his great appreciation of the Legion—an appreciation which represented a commendation of the highest order.