

MARIA LEGIONIS



Maria Legionis

The Voice of the Legion of Mary

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PEACE ON EARTH

Rev. C. W. Downey

(Spiritual Director of Our Lady of Mount Carmel praesidium, Oliver, B.C.)

*Christ Jesus, Prince of Peace,
Into our world You came to save humanity
For its Creator;
You took our nature to raise it to Divinity
Uniting it, in you, with Him its Source.
Into a world corrupt in savage clouds of hate,
Of strife,
You came to make men brothers,
Not by race, or caste, or creed divided,
But, One in YOU, UNITED,
Bringing them hope of freedom from despair,
And strife;
A mankind unified
In universal fellowship allied.
Teach us to see our brotherhood in You,
Our fatherhood in God.
Guide us to show more love for one another
And thus ensure
A world where LOVE will rule,
And PEACE endure.*

OUR COVER PICTURE

The magnificent picture of the Vatican Council in session reminds us that it began ten years ago. In imagination we must see the Holy Spirit presiding over that stately assembly which was a renewal of the first pentecostal meeting of the Church.

The atmosphere of the Council was one of complete freedom of speech which helped to broaden minds and solve problems. Inevitably this also let loose a tidal wave of destructive criticism and heretical utterances in the midst of which we still labour and suffer. But soon enough this winter of the Church will pass and a new spring will come. Fresh wholesome growths will appear and lead on to a vast reaping in the next century when all the religions of the world will be fully exposed to the corrosive influence of able materialistic thought and will wither under it, the Church alone surviving.

The Council will be seen in its true light as a pruner of what was spent and as a planter of vital new seeds. In a sense all its legislation aimed at the mobilising of the People of God. Perhaps the most important item was the proclamation that every Catholic must fulfil our apostolate. Akin to this, the Council taught that the Blessed Virgin is the mother of every soul and is therefore concerned with the salvation of each one. It is on those primary principles that the Legion of Mary is built. Note the statement in our first article that the Council in full session acclaimed the Legion; and that more than any other organisation it was pointed to by the Council legislation.

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FIDDLING WHILE ROME BURNS BY FRANK DUFF



AMERICA has been staging one of its displays of Revivalism. It must be something extra-special for it has induced the magazine *Time* to devote twelve pages to it. Reading about it, the first thought that comes to one's mind is one of sorrow that the Church has done so little towards approaching the people in America. The Revival forms additional evidence of that craving for God which is a basic ingredient of human nature. Like the inner fires of the earth, it seems to avail of every sort of outlet that offers itself and it appears in every guise from truth to basest superstition. This latest manifestation parades itself at least as partial truth for it glorifies the Holy Name; it styles itself the "Jesus People".

Catholicism cannot soothe itself with the thought that it either stimulated the movement or moved in to capitalise on it. Yet unless something is done to direct those impulses towards Catholicism, it is certain that the movement will go the way of all kindred ones of the past. Instead of being turned into channels which will serve truth and order, all that prodigious fervour will behave like flood water. Most of it will just tend to spread itself out and finally disappear. The remainder of the movement will plunge on into excess. A lot of this will take the form of actual misconduct and immorality by reason of that kink in human nature which causes us to oscillate violently between extremes.

This is where Catholicism could have utilised the situation profitably. It could have attracted to itself much of that effervescing interest and led it into regulation. It could harness the wilder enthusiasm so that it could be turned into motive power instead of exploding harmfully. I fear that the Jesus People will represent another great opportunity missed by us.

Perhaps the excuse may be offered that the Church is suffering from acute indigestion at the moment and therefore is not in good form for enterprise. But I would point out that such moments of trial are likewise times of special grace; and that the kindred crises of the past were always productive of saints and great forward impulses. Why should this not hold for the present time?

The Jesus People are not the only eruption of

religious fire which is taking place. What are we to think of the movement which is currently sweeping over the U.S.A. and Canada and which calls itself the Catholic Pentecostals? This is a peculiar title to choose because the Pentecostals have been one of the well-established Protestant sects, possessed of much energy and plenty of money. They have been particularly active in South America and have made many converts. Therefore it is strange that Catholics should take the same title.

At first sight one would be inclined towards this manifestation. It comes at a time when the Church is on its defence, its doctrines attacked, and serious falling away taking place. Therefore, it might be urged that a Catholic movement is to be welcomed which appears to be enthusiastic and which is going ahead. But one would want to look with caution on it. The American hierarchy is regarding it with perplexity. Anything religious which is outside Church authority is of doubtful vintage, and this would apply particularly to a movement which keeps on talking about the Holy Spirit without reference to other Catholic doctrines. At this point may I say that whenever I hear anyone talking abundantly about the Holy Spirit, I always listen anxiously for some mention of the Blessed Virgin who is His inseparable co-operator. If she is absent, it is most likely that He is too.

We must not treat the Third Person of the mighty Trinity as a sort of toy which will dance according to our whims. He has His times and rules which are, so to speak, posted up in the Catholic Church but not elsewhere. If these are observed, we are safe in making familiar approach to Him and hoping for His aid. Otherwise we are not sure. The history of error in the world is proof of the manner in which human fallibility and diabolical intervention can operate where people keep crying out "Lord, Lord" and believe that the Holy Spirit has come upon them. Every false sect, including the most fantastic ones, have claimed that the Holy Spirit built it. They believe themselves to be directly inspired and proceed to publish the revelations which they are receiving. They indulge in healing, and the



"It described young girls . . . as laying their hands upon people to confer the Holy Spirit. . . ."

speaking of divers languages is a special feature. This is of course a parody of what took place at Pentecost. But the difference is that then the disciples spoke real languages to people of other nations whereas these parodies are no more than meaningless mutterings as has been proved by tape-recording them. The miracle of Babel is renewed, not that of Pentecost.

But it will be objected: Why anticipate that sort of folly from the Catholic Pentecostals? Will grace not save them from such strayings? Nothing will save people if they disregard the ordinary rules, whether these be the rules of Catholicism or of ordinary safety. If people think they are in special relation with the Holy Spirit, they would tend to regard their own ideas as having been supplied to them by the Holy Spirit, whereas they may be very much their own thoughts and perhaps worse than that.

The Church is the great safeguard here. It sifts out the wheat from the chaff, the false from the true. Actually a recent edition of *Time* contained evidence of that danger. It described young girls belonging to the Catholic Pentecostals as laying their hands upon people to confer the Holy Spirit just in the fashion that a Bishop does in Confirmation. Now a Bishop, by the right and office of the Catholic Church, does bring down the Holy Spirit by the imposition of hands. That privilege does not belong to the ordinary believer. You will see that persons who ape that privilege are presumptuous and it is certain that they will go astray. Perhaps it forms a first step that they are now holding joint meetings with the Protestant Pentecostals—you can guess on whose terms!

In the foregoing, one is confronted by an awkward problem. On the one hand the official Church is not mounting anything in the way of a conversion drive, and on the other hand the Catholic Pentecostals are pressing forward with enthusiasm but along dubious paths; they are certain to peter out at some compara-

tively early stage. Is there no chance of achieving the desirable medium course where the people will be mobilised towards a conversion movement under the authority of the Church?

I would say that in the Legion lies the potential for such an effort to present the Catholic Church to every individual in the U.S.A.—apart from likewise presenting it to every individual everywhere else. But in the main the Legion is being used for purposes other than conversion. Some of those purposes so little concern the real life of the Church that they could be done without. Is it not a pity that such a vital Church principle as conversion is being thus subordinated to what might be called kitchen chores?

This consideration brings to my mind the visit to us many years ago of the then Superior General of the Society for African Missions (S.M.A.), Father Simon Harrington. In one way it was a complimentary visit. It contained a great praise of the Legion. He said it was a gift from heaven to the missionary; it gave him the real opportunity of reaching out to those to whom he had been sent. Left to his own unaided resources, he would be powerless to cover the missionfield. The Legion offered the missionary that possibility.

But his complaint was that the Legion was being far too much used for domestic ends and insufficiently for conversion. He had a proposal to make which he wished to have regarded seriously. It was that those domestic purposes should be altogether ruled out and the entire pressure of the Legion put into conversion. He argued that even the search for the lapsed should be sacrificed to the main objective; that the Catholics had already got their chance and probably would get more, and that those who had not got their chance should be served.

I must say that his proposition had its appeal. But our argument to him was that we would find it impossible to induce the Catholic authorities to subscribe to such a drastic reordering of things. But he still contended that our programme should aim at the ideal and that no praesidium should be set up except on the stipulation that it would do conversion work and nothing else. And to that line he held.

You will agree that a rule to that effect would turn the Legion upside down. Would it leave us in existence at all?

However, was not Father Harrington right in principle? If we were really at a parting of the ways where we must choose between attending to the domestic chores and the seeking of conversions surely we are bound to choose the latter? The Church was not created to be a mere chaplaincy to its own.

Of course the answer will always be the compromise one which we ourselves gave to Father Harrington: that you must do the one without neglecting the other. But is that a real answer bear-

ing on the problem? It is to be feared that it is not; that it only does lip service to the problem of conversion and that we will continue in practice to concentrate on the domestic needs or, worse still, on petty tasks that are not needs at all.

It used to be suggested that legionaries would require a special type of preparation before they would be fit for such a mass approach to those outside the Church. Nowadays the operations of the *Peregrinatio pro Christo* have deprived that argument of force. The ordinary legionaries without any such special preparation have been sent to every type of people with a uniform result.

They have proved themselves sufficiently equipped for the work. They are well received. They find a great deal of goodwill and an enormous ignorance about religion. The only people encountered who seem to have a positive belief in their own religions are the members of the lunatic fringes.

The legionaries are able to deliver the Catholic message, to interest people, to elicit promises, and definitely to get a certain number of conversions. Truly, as the Gospel says, the fields of the world are white for harvesting.

Take your own eminent adventure described in a recent issue of *MARIA LEGIONIS* under the title "A Foray for Souls". It was to a region where there was no Catholicism and where bigotry might have been expected to be found. Yet see the extraordinary success of the project and therefore the prime need for the same in all places.

Would it be possible to proceed to a radical re-organising of the Legion throughout America—and elsewhere—on those lines of putting aside for a while the chaplaincy work in favour of going to those outside the Church? Such a manoeuvre might not prove to be as drastic as it sounds for the following reasons. Firstly, a proportion of the Catholics who fall away or are negligent do so because they do not see the Church as a worthwhile proposition. A campaign sparkling with faith and adventure would strike their imagination usefully. Secondly, that campaign would stir up the ordinary Catholics who are good, who practise, but do nothing more. They might lay aside their inertia and join in.

In other words such a campaign would be psychologically astringent as well as being in the first order of necessity. It would be a harkening to that final commandment of Our Lord: "Go out into the whole world and give my Gospel to every man. Those who believe and are baptised shall be saved". That peremptory motive is supplemented by the realisation that Mary is the mother of every soul, as proclaimed by the Council. The very name "Legion of Mary" would be unreal if the legionaries do not strive to introduce Mary to every one of her children.

So I ask again: if such a suggestion as to concen-

trating on conversion, at least for a period, were to be issued, how would it be received by the Legion over the world?

I believe that a large proportion of the legionaries would be either anxious to do it or could be pushed on to it by those over them. But I fear that it would be more difficult to convince the Priests. I think that many of them would respond in the time-honoured formula already quoted: Do the one without neglecting the other. And I have previously urged that in practice this means the doing of the easier work and the continued neglecting of the paramount work of conversion.

In all this it will of course be understood that I am only speculating. I am not challenging the existing position whereby the Legion is strictly under ecclesiastical authority. I believe that it should be and that such is part of its very character. No, I am only seeking to analyse the vital situation. And now I go on to give that situation a wider scope than that of "convert or not". I want to relate it to the very existence of the Legion.

The Legion has been insisting on the headship of the Priest in its apostolate. Our slogan has been: The Priest must have members. As a corollary those members must give obedience and deference to the Priest. Another of our watchwords has been that the Mystical Body must work as a whole. In it there must be due subordination and mutual regard. It is on these principles that the Legion is built and it promises a vast harvest if those principles are acted up to. Abundant examples are at hand to justify that promise.

Perhaps it can be said that the legionaries are universally ready to fulfil their part of the co-operation. For the Legion is initially presented to them as that sort of organisation. In entering it they naturally accommodate themselves to its principles. Nor do they fail in actual practice, which is a wonderful feature because normal human nature is unruly and exhibits alarming instances of religious insubordination.

A very high authority, seeking an explanation of that easy obedience of the members ascribes it to the legionary devotion to Mary. In return she imparts to them that absolutely essential element of proper religious obedience. Definitely the Legion is not failing in that department.

But sometimes those above the Legion are found wanting in regard to their part of the idea. What is offered is not reciprocated. There is a disregard of the Biblical injunction that the head must not say to its members: "I need you not" (1 Cor. XII, XXI). A Bishop will not accept the Legion even though it is recommended by the Pope. Parish Priests refuse the Legion though their Bishops want it. Priests disregard the wishes of their Parish Priests in the same way.

Thereby the solemn instructions of Sections XXI and XXII of the Decree on the Lay Apostolate are derided, and the Legion is kept out of great areas of the vineyard with consequent denial to souls of what the Legion automatically gives. Furthermore, it means that communism, atheism and all the other deadly "isms" are effectively at work in those places while the force which would oppose them is excluded. This stages an odious situation. Reduced to rational bedrock, it means that the evil organisations are actually being supported.

That would be a bad case. Ordinarily things will be better than that. The Legion may be let in and then given casual treatment which cripples it. This happens on a wide scale. It is so manifestly contrary to the express wish of the Church as voiced by Vatican Two as to make one wonder as to what extent those non-compliant ones regard themselves as bound by Catholic authority.

Can it be that it was this reluctant attitude on the part of a section of the Catholic authorities which caused the Council to give greater freedom to lay associations? Section XX of the Decree on the Lay Apostolate seems to link that apostolate to the hierarchy directly and uses a phrase which is peculiar and possibly open to misinterpretation. It speaks of the laity co-operating with the hierarchy in its own way. I have to say that this appears to me quite mysterious because surely the apostolate of the faithful should come fully under the control of the Bishops.

This aspect, however, is academic so far as the Legion of Mary is concerned, for it does not seek to free itself from episcopal or priestly supervision. The Legion remains satisfied with the position established by its own rules. Here the Legion has in mind two things which may in practice be only shadings of each other: Firstly, the keeping of the Legion firmly united to the body of the Church and to the ordinary channels of that body's authority. Secondly, the Legion principle that the Priest is the "local Christ", "Christ on the spot", the immediate representative of the Head of the Mystical Body. In its definitions of its outlook, the Legion has laid great emphasis on that principle which it regards as relating to its very essence.

But in this connection an acute problem presents itself. It is where a Priest is averse to the Legion or where he cannot help it. This can mean in ordinary circumstances that the Legion is not permitted to exist and that it will not be adequately substituted by other apostolic machinery. Indeed some of the organisations which would be set up instead of the Legion would have very little spirituality in them and would only concern themselves with material aims. In any case that place is cut off from what the legionary work could do for it.

I am sure that most people will be surprised to

learn that such is the position in regard to fifty per cent of the parishes of Ireland. The Legion is not permitted to exist in them, the reason ordinarily given being that there is no need for it.

To what extent would that Irish proportion be typical of the whole Church? I comment that on the Continent of Europe the position is very much worse. It is hard to find a Priest who will interest himself in the Legion. Will things improve in that respect in the future? It is not easy to say. I give you the following as an indication to the contrary.

Douglas Hyde told me that he gave a course to 140 seminarians in London. Every one of them was antagonistic to the Legion. Reason: that it is not relevant to the times. But this suggestion as to non-relevancy is a naïve judgment to pass on one of the most active organisations in the Church which actually afforded a pattern for Vatican Two in its legislating; which was unanimously acclaimed by the Council in Session when its name was mentioned; which is already established in 1,832 dioceses or kindred ecclesiastical jurisdictions; and which—more than any other organisation—was pointed to by Section 21 of the Decree on the Lay Apostolate.

These examples of the reluctance of so many of the Priests to align themselves with the Legion are not encouraging as to the future. They point to a deepening night rather than to a dawn, to the entry into an increasingly dark tunnel rather than to the emerging from one.

There can be even sadder cases than those viewed above, where an incoming Priest shuts down good branches of the Legion. Take an instance which presents the position at its worst. An energetic Priest went through a series of promotions. He believed intensely in the Legion and in each new place he established praesidia which performed the double work of awakening spirit in their members and securing important apostolic results. If even a comparatively few other Priests imitated this continuing process, it would not take long to transform a diocese. But what actually happened was that each successor of his promptly on arrival shut down the branches which were there. Under the Legion rules he has the power to do that.

Consideration of that position has produced the suggestion that in a case where for one reason or another a Priest is not available as spiritual director, the Bishop should himself assume that office. Of course it would not be possible for the Bishop to be present at the meetings but he might be able to give an occasional or token attendance. It would be the duty of the praesidium to keep him in touch with its work and to obtain his instruction in any unusual case.

In practice something like this already obtains in pure mission territory and in home lands where Priests are few and areas immense. There are very

many cases where a Priest has a great number of praesidia, even as many as sixty, eighty or one hundred. He circulates through them and the system is working admirably. This shows the extent to which the legionaries can be developed and there is the sequel of vast numbers of conversions.

In a case just reported (Kapanga in the Congo) a catechist was sent several years ago to an unevangelised territory. He was an experienced legionary and he soon assembled classes and prepared them for the Church. He so represented the apostolate to them that almost automatically they became legionaries. Through them he expanded the process of conversion and at a further stage the area received a resident missionary. In it there are now 100 praesidia and the conversion of the whole area is in sight.

Has this method no relation to the more advanced places?

In Canada at least one Bishop in a region where the Priest problem exists is attracted towards the idea of attaching all the praesidia to himself, thus permitting them to exist irrespective of the coming or going of Priests and of their personal attitudes towards the Legion. This would put the Legion on a firm footing and enable it to work with continuity. This arrangement would not supersede the normal rule as to spiritual director. If a Priest were available as spiritual director, he would of course fall into that position as assistant to the Bishop.

Could this idea not be applied in all instances where for any reason it is found difficult to give a Priest as spiritual director to a praesidium, and where likewise a religious brother or a nun would not be available?

Too often it is supposed that the lay people will not carry on apostolic work unless the Priest be in their midst encouraging them. Sometimes this is assumed as a truth and prevents efforts to organise a praesidium. That means the permanence of the defective position where the people will not take any responsibility for the needs around them. This could work out disastrously, for there are not enough Priests—and never will be—to cover the Catholic problem. If advance is going to be proportioned to the number of Priests, it will be negligible. Actually the proportion of Catholics to the world population is a steadily shrinking one. We are losing ground, not gaining it. It is estimated that by the end of this century we will have sunk to five per cent of the total population. This would be a grim commentary on our title of "Catholic" which means universal. Therefore a remedy must be found and the laity must be mobilised. Just to stand calmly surveying that developing crisis would be to align oneself with the tyrant emperor Nero who sang songs to the accompaniment of his lute as he watched from a high tower the city of Rome burning.

I imagine it would be safe to say that if this problem of the shortage of Priests could be solved, it would mean at least the immediate doubling of the size of the Legion in the whole world. The imagination is shaken to think what this would mean an increase of spirit among the Catholics and in conversions among the others. Yet, there it is—waiting to be invoked by a slight adjustment of our formula.

This amendment would be the addition of a sub-head to the formula to the effect that where a Priest is for one reason or another not available, the spiritual directorship could be vested in the Bishop.

In this there would be no violation of Legion principle. No part of the chain of authority is being left out; we are considering the case of a missing link which cannot be found and which aborts the Church's intentions. What I am suggesting as to be done is the joining of the broken ends so as to permit the Legionary machinery to work and to carry spiritual impulses to places at present deprived of them by that absent connection.

In such cases the Legion would find in the Bishop its immediate incorporation in the Mystical Body and its subordination to and its dependence on Christ the Head.

I go so far as to say that what is at stake in this matter is the implementing of the legislation of Vatican Two as a whole; not alone in regard to the Decree on the Lay Apostolate but in regard to every other Decree as well. For all that legislation is ultimately directed towards the People of God and has in view not merely the reversal of that diminishing Catholic percentage but the conversion of all men.



The scene depicts the Cenacle after the Pentecostal descent of the Holy Ghost with the Apostles gathered around a map of the then known world. Our Lady is in their midst and St. Peter is presiding. He is chief. Mary is Mother, not preaching nor commanding but playing her own intimate part in the mission of the Church—the sending forth of those who are to bring the "good news" of Christ to the world. This role she still plays in regard to all the faithful who are called to serve as Christbearers.

AN IMPOSSIBLE ENTERPRISE

By Enda Dunleavy

THE episode here narrated took place ten years ago. It has not appeared previously in MARIA LEGIONIS. It is published now as an example of the type of pioneering which the Legion is undertaking on an increasing scale over the world and which must be stepped up.

Target: A Highland Village

It seems natural that following the footsteps of the early monks, eyes should be turned on Scotland, the land of the missionary conquest of St. Colmcille. The north-west region of the Highlands has been remote from Catholic influence since the Reformation and few Catholics live along the north-west coast from Lockalsh to Dounreay. With the gracious encouragement of his Lordship, the Bishop of Aberdeen, our team of four legionaries was sent to a village of some 600 people, with the commission to go from door to door humbly asking to be allowed to present the Catholic Church.

The village in question is the most interesting and unusual village of the north-west coast. The long sea loch on which it is built is flanked by mountains, the lower ranges of which we found covered with last year's brown heather, while the great peaks still retained their snow caps. These Alpine scenes, coupled with blue seas and glorious Atlantic sunsets, lent enchantment to this village and contrasted strangely with the spiritual gloom which cast its shadow over the lives of the people in this Presbyterian village.

Strict Presbyterianism

These strict Sabbatarians will not go out except to church on a Sunday. Walking the streets on our first Sunday there, the only thing moving on one street was one man and on the next, one dog. The ferry will carry only the doctor or the minister on that day. Many of the stricter ones will not cook or wash a dish on that day. All believe in predestination. Nothing we do will affect our eternal destiny. Many hold that music and laughter and all that gives pleasure is carnal and sinful and is a sign of predestination for the fires of hell. As for the Church of Rome, it is a monster which will, however, be destroyed by God in the end. These are the traditional beliefs of these people which we were to come up against.

Three Protestant Denominations

Difficult though our task was in face of such circumstances, there were things which favoured us as well. In this village there are three Presbyterian

Churches—the Church of Scotland, the Free Church of Scotland and the Free Presbyterian Church. These Churches have the effect of dividing the people into different camps, varying in the intensities of their convictions and often at loggerheads with one another. In this respect, our position was extraordinary in that we were the first people to plead the cause of Christian unity among them. It was admitted to us on several occasions that the only path to unity was a return of all to Rome. “But,” we were told, “that will NEVER be.”

The Problem of Accommodation

Our team of four arrived on Good Friday night. We secured accommodation in a boarding house for the week. We then faced one problem. “As there are no Catholics here, our landlady is doubtless a Presbyterian. We may have to face eviction when our mission is made known.” We were determined that nothing would prevent us from carrying out our mission. If people objected to our visits, we would guarantee that we would not disturb the objectors, but we would not accept the objectors as representative of the whole population. But with our landlady the situation was different. Her friends might descend on her with all sorts of threats if we remained in her house. So we decided to tell her our mission, after tea. If then we were evicted we could go elsewhere, sleep on the hill or in the car as an alternative. When we did tell her, she was so far from objecting that we were surprised to find ourselves telling all about the Legion and finally presenting her with a Miraculous Medal, which she graciously accepted. During the following week, she looked after us like a mother and any hour of the day that we dropped in, wanted us to have a “strupach”, a Gaelic word for tea and a bun. She was a member of the Free Church.

Last Arrangements

On Holy Saturday morning, we held council in the sunshine on a little hill overlooking the village. The streets were divided up, four to each pair. Then we had a final word on our approach. We decided that we would declare plainly who we were and why we had come. “We are Catholics, members of the Legion of Mary. As you may know, our Church is interested in unity among Christians so we have come here on our holidays, to meet people of other religions, to explain our faith, so that at least we can come to understand each other.” We then descended to the village saying the Catena: “Who is she that cometh forth as the morning rising, fair as the moon,



One of the lovely scenes which met the eyes of the legionary visitors to the Highlands.

bright as the sun, terrible as an army in battle array." Each pair went straight to the first house in the first street on their list.

Unhoped for Reception

Two hours later at lunch time we compared notes. People had been surprised indeed, but several had discussed matters of faith with us for long periods. These discussions had covered practically the whole range of Catholic doctrine. Suddenly we realised that we had got on so well with people that we had been surprised when we got a firm refusal to speak to us. What an anticlimax this was going to be for those who had prophesied insults, rebuffs and even worse for us. And so we continued our task throughout the afternoon now with tremendous confidence. One lady, one of the most staunch but also one of the most well-versed of the Free Presbyterians that we met, gave us over an hour, at the end of which, though her convictions were not obviously altered, she said: "There are many people in this village who know very little about the Catholic Faith. I fear they will not receive you, but I would be glad if they would, for they would be surprised to discover how false is their notion of your Church."

Easter Vigil

On Saturday night we travelled over 40 miles to the nearest church for the Easter Vigil Mass. Before setting off on our journey, the Parish Priest asked us how we were getting on. He was thrilled to hear that we were well received and that we had found one Catholic. Our Easter Mass and Holy Communion were to be our last for a whole week (for we could not afford to travel 90 miles every day), so we prayed fervently for the tremendous graces needed for our mission. We knew in our hearts that Sunday would be a decisive day in that all the villagers would meet at church and would talk about us. If there was to be a front to us, it would be obvious on Monday. We

felt that those who had spoken to us had taken a liking to us but that was not a complete guarantee against the development of resentment. But we knew also that we had the backing of the prayers of countless people, religious and lay, and this helped us to be confident of a successful outcome. To make up for the loss of our daily Mass, we decided to recite the short Breviary together each morning and evening. This we did throughout the week and never before did those inspired words and ideas presented in the Psalms, take on such meaning for us.

A Limited Day

Sunday afternoon was a limited day for us as nobody was around the village. However, one pair contacted a lady at her own door and had a fruitful evening with her.

Frank Talks

On Monday, full scale work was resumed and during the following days, we visited in the morning, afternoon and evening. After three days we were progressing so slowly, that it was evident that we would not complete all the streets of that small village. Visits lasted one, two, even four hours in one case. Several wanted return visits to meet a husband who was out at work. People we met casually in the street or in shops, kept us talking for long periods. What was a real surprise was that they spoke of religion, of Our Lord and the Blessed Virgin, with no trace of shyness for all the world to hear. We could not say there was one among them who cared what others might think. They spoke freely and openly to us.

Topics of Talks

The conversation covered a wide range of subjects. Everybody we met believed that Catholics went to the priest and paid money in return for which the priest forgave them their sins. The priest-

hood, the Mass, the Pope were all stumbling blocks to them, and in reply to those objections, we pointed out the Catholic doctrine of the Mystical Body; the Mystical Christ who reproduces in His Church every phase of His life—His infallible teaching, His miracles, His priesthood and His sacrifice. Catholic devotion to Our Lady was another universal objection and we asked first, to be allowed to give them the Church's interpretation of certain texts of Scripture. Then we explained the prophecy of the woman and her seed, the Incarnation, the working of the "beginning of miracles" at Cana at her request, her role at the foot of the Cross, where we were committed to her and her role at Pentecost when the Church was born and sent into the world. This explanation of Mary as Mother of the Mystical Body of Christ seemed to be most effective, for we usually followed it up with showing the people the Miraculous Medal. About thirty-six people accepted the medal to wear it, while about six refused it as being incompatible with their belief. One man accepted a bottle of Lourdes water for a paralysed child in hospital. Many accepted books.

An Out-and-out Presbyterian

Our days in the village did not slip by without incident. One ardent member of the Free Presbyterian Church obviously had read the warning given in a recent issue of the Presbyterian bulletin that the Church of Rome was reaching out its tentacles to destroy religious freedom again even in Scotland. When he overcame his initial surprise at our call (for it was the Sabbath) he asked us if we were Jesuits. "Unfortunately we are not," we said "we are ordinary lay people on our holidays." The retort was noteworthy. "Jesuits could be anything." But even he, when we pleaded with him, agreed to give us half an hour the following evening to discuss our differences. We found that he had a deep-rooted distrust of the Catholic Church and firmly believed that there were Jesuits in the Church of Scotland plotting for its subjugation to Rome. We explained that that would be tantamount to a denial of faith and would never be permitted. In the ensuing discussion, which covered the whole range of Catholic doctrine, while maintaining his hostility to the Church, he told us that he held no personal ill-will towards us. On our departure, he exclaimed "Woe, woe is Scotland that Roman Catholics can go from house to house. Five years ago you would not have dared to do it. I will pray fervently that your work be a failure." We said "Pray rather that God's Will be done." "Yes," he said as we departed. "I always pray for that." A number of such instances happened during our stay.

Our Frankness Appreciated

One part of our policy which paid dividends was that we were completely open and frank about our mission. "Will ye be calling to our minister?" many

asked. "Oh yes, we are calling on him too; we would like very much to meet him." Instead of being cautioned about our work when we did call we were asked many questions about our Faith.

It was obvious in one case that the minister in question was trying to assess what his position would be in the event of a return to the ancient Faith. Would the Catholic Church have a use for a churchman like him, married but desiring to follow the career for which he had been trained.

"He who receives you, receives Me," said the Lord. It was true in this case. The next team which came to the village brought a priest who visited the people and brought the Sacramental presence of Christ with him. "Do not remove from house to house," was another admonition of the Lord to His apostles. We did not have to do so, thanks to our gracious landlady. She was to have the privilege of Mass in her home, probably the first in that district since the Reformation. She has since gone to her reward.

Not long after these events, a lady who said she came as a representative of the villagers presented herself to the Vicar General in Inverness to ask for a resident priest to be sent to live in their village. Some said that it was to encourage Catholic tourists to come to this place, but plainly there was more to it than that. A new attitude towards Catholicism had asserted itself.

Tribute to P.P.C.

This extract from the letter of a priest in a Glasgow parish is typical of many tributes paid to the work of the Peregrinatio pro Christo teams in various countries.

"Many thanks for sending the P.P.C. team to our parish. As the team found out, it was a difficult assignment with little obvious human satisfaction, but the devotion and zeal of the team greatly impressed anyone with whom they came in contact.

They were a happy well-led team. There were no failures. They prepared their task well and in the language of Scripture, they made sure they were sowing 'good seed'. This, coupled with their faith and devotion, must have a good effect.

I can only speak for myself but it was a great experience and well worth the effort and sacrifice. I did the follow-up work personally.

Efforts like this in the vineyard must benefit the parish and for this I am extremely grateful to the Legion of Mary especially the P.P.C. organisation in Dublin.

Let us pray for one another and Our Lady surely will make her presence felt."

A "Shift Workers" Praesidium That Worked

by CARMELO FORMOSA

THIS is not a "twin praesidium" with two presidents presiding on alternate weeks; it seems that Concilium is not too optimistic about such branches because experience has taught that they did not work.

In fact no mention of them has so far been made in our official Handbook and they are still on a trial basis. Those who work on a three or four shift schedule are never free to say "am off work today week at this same hour".

A working formula was found. Active members keep attached to their own parish praesidium, where weekly Legion work is assigned to them with another member. When shift work does not permit them to be present for the meeting with their parish group they come to the shift praesidium meeting where they give their report on the work done. Thus the main rules are obeyed—members are attending regularly and Legion work is performed.

In our case, members are dry docks and small industry workers with ages running from 19 to 50 years. Place, Valletta, day, Friday, and time of meeting, 8.30 a.m. were agreed upon by the members themselves and they come from practically every corner of the Island of Malta: they fall under the jurisdiction of five different councils. To most of them, attending these meetings means coming after a night's work and it takes them about two hours to travel to the place of the meeting and back home.

The effects of a night's work cannot always be concealed. For instance, a member was noticed hurriedly finishing off a sandwich on kneeling down for the opening prayers; another could not help dozing off for a while during the meeting. No doubt Our Lady, like the good mother that she is, smiled sweetly upon her hungry and sleepy children so willing to serve her.

The writer of this, the praesidium president, a pensioner, besides attending the shift praesidium, attends regularly the parish praesidium where he holds an officership and does active work in both praesidia; as these fall under Malta Regia he represents also at this council this shift praesidium.

To those called to preside over such branches it may be stated that if the president is also a member of a parish praesidium, the work of officiating the "shift workers" praesidium satisfies his work obligation: in case he is a member of the shift praesidium only, he would be obliged to perform the two



hours substantial active work requested by the Legion (New H.B., p. 96, XXV, para. 3: same rule of officiating a junior praesidium).

Perhaps some may ask who presides when the president (who of course is expected to be present at all meetings), is prevented from attending? One of the shift workers does so, and in our case this is not difficult as there are among our members some who are capable of performing this duty of officiating. Two are praesidia presidents and there is a vice-president of a junior praesidium who is also a junior curia officer. Of course there are the usual other three officers: vice-president, treasurer and secretary.

The praesidium is now heading towards its second birthday. It is an experiment which so far has worked out well. This has been confirmed by the notes read out at the Malta Regia meeting, when our yearly report was given as follows:

Regia Correspondent's Comments on the Annual Report of "Mother of Workers" Praesidium

"We can say that this is a special report. A look at the attendance shows that there are members who attended 30 meetings during the year of the report and we find others who attended only 9 meetings. Of course these members attended the other meetings in their respective parish praesidia. We must not forget that this praesidium is helping to keep the shift workers in the Legion. Hence one can just imagine how useful it is. Without it these generous members would be lost to the Legion. This praesidium solved the main problem of the Legion and the shift workers—the regular attendance at the weekly meetings.

The report shows that solid work is being performed—visitation of a ward for TB patients, personal contacts with lapsed or indifferent Catholics. Two of them returned to the Sacraments after more than two years. Another work is the recitation of the Rosary in some workshops at the dockyard. The Rosary is recited with other workmen during the free time for meals. How sweet and consoling it is to

PAPAL HONOUR FOR MALTA LEGIONARY

On August 5 (Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary, Rome) Carmelo Formosa was appointed Knight of the Order of St. Sylvester.

At a ceremony in the Archiepiscopal Palace, the presentation was made by His Grace Metropolitan Archbishop of Malta, Mgr. Michael Gonzi, who made the recommendation in consultation with H. L. Mgr. E. Gerada, Bishop Coadjutor.

This makes history in Malta's Legion; it is the first Papal honour conferred on a legionary since its establishment in 1940. This honour was bestowed in recognition of the sterling work constantly performed by the recipient in the field of the lay apostolate and the award testifies the predilection of the Holy Father towards the organisations of the lay apostolate.

Brother Formosa was called to the Legion ranks in 1941; he opened and presided at the first three senior and junior praesidia in the capital, Valletta. Afterwards he was elected President of the Junior Curia and then Comitium President; he was sent by Concilium to Sicily and London for Legion extension and consolidation work. His last enterprise, an experiment that worked, is the running of a praesidium for shift workers, about which he writes in this issue.

With our readers we join in hearty congratulations to Brother Formosa on a well merited award which goes also to the honour of the Legion in Malta and Gozo.

A "SHIFT WORKERS" PRAESIDIUM THAT WORKED

(continued from page nine)

note that a few generous legionaries are daily reciting such a beautiful prayer in honour of Our Lady, Mother of Workers, in that same place where many others are using their tongues to offend God!

It is our duty to thank all members for the good work done and above all for the spirit of sacrifice shown in attending these meetings after a night's work. Our Lady will surely shower her blessings on such a generous praesidium.

A word of thanks should also go to the president who is devoting enough time to attend two praesidia meetings and also do work allocated to him from both praesidia. May we all learn something from this report."

The problem of shift workers is heartbreaking in the Legion: to obey the rules—and these should always be adhered to—they have to quit through no fault of their own. If this is also YOUR problem, can't you do something on the above lines? IT WORKED.

The Legion ... "Saves the Faith of the people ..."

Fr. Guilherme Meels, Spiritual Director of Mesa Curia, Mozambique, tells of a three weeks' visit to the Macondes territory in the north of Mozambique, which the Fathers were forced to leave in 1965 because of the troubles in that area.

"YOU know, of course, that the Christians, like all the other people in that area, live like refugees and hide themselves in the jungle. I'm going to read you part of the report, which I have prepared for my bishop, which shows once again, the force and the beauty of the Legion of Mary and of true apostles and this will incite you all to be better legionaries.

... in Mueda, I had a long and interesting conversation with the father of the President of the Legion of Mary, a true apostle amongst the Christians scattered throughout the jungle. That good man told me that the faith of the Macondes has suffered nothing but continues to be alive, and as well alive as ever. Under the orientation of the three legionary leaders, who are the same ones that were there in my own time, all praesidium meetings are held without fail every Friday, the curia meeting is always held on the first Friday, the Acies is held every year, always with a numerous attendance. The same is true of the great solemnities of Christmas and Easter and, during Holy Week a three-day retreat is preached by the three leaders mentioned above.

Great processions are held on the 13th May and 13th October. On these occasions, all the Christians of the five missions gather at a point previously decided upon. The procession is organised during which they pray and sing hymns. At the finish, the leaders give vibrant sermons, just as in former times when the Fathers were there.

The only ceremony which is lacking is the Eucharist celebration.

Every Sunday the Christians come together to pray and not only the older ones but also the boys and girls.

Those who wish to be baptised are given a serious three-month preparation, everything strictly according to the former customs of the missions. These three leaders are real apostles indeed. All details of baptisms, marriages and deaths, etc., are entered up in the proper books.

This news is indeed very consoling and it can be said that the Legion of Mary has saved the faith of these people, who were true Christians guided by true legionaries. It is indeed a fantastic thing that they continued for so long and alone and in such circumstances. It is for us a stimulus to make a greater effort to become better legionaries."



THE PRAISES OF MARY

A Bethlehem tradition, full of delicate poetry, points out on the outskirts of Bethlehem a grotto where Mary suckled her Babe at the beginning of the Flight into Egypt. A drop of her milk fell on the rock and the latter immediately became white.—Hoade, O.F.M.

Removing eighty stone columns of the fifth century Byzantine ruins at Nazareth, Father Bugatti's team discovered scribblings on plaster fragments underneath. One of them read: "Ave Maria." Another: "Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us." In a third layer of plaster they found a coin dating from the fourth century, strong evidence to support the claim that the church at least predated that time by two layers of plaster. The Ave Maria inscription and other indications led Father Bugatti to the hypothesis that here was the earliest known evidence of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He places it some time within the second century. The only competitor, he says, would be a fresco representation of Mary in Rome's catacombs of St. Priscilla, which some ascribe to about 150 A.D.—*Irish Catholic*.

When the Child Jesus in the Temple first

announced that He was to be about His Father's business, His Blessed Mother heard those words and that decision. She was the first mother in the New Testament to know that her Son was going to be a priest of the New Law.—McNally.

Mary not only exceeds the holiness of the Church in her Immaculate Conception, and exceeds the Church in the intensity of her growth in sanctity, but also surpasses the Church in the visible triumph of her sanctity.—Laurentin.

Peter Damian wrote: "Out of Mary we see the Church issue. She is, as Serlon de Savigny insists, the initial member of the Church: Mary has come first and the Church will follow. The same applies in regard to the Assumption. According to Godefroy de Saint Victor her birth is the coming into the world of the first person of the Church.—Gerard Philips.

Just as in the case of the expression "Divine Maternity" which found its way into the official liturgy of the Church, the term "Mary Spouse of the Holy Spirit" is used by the theologians and spiritual writers. It remains to be seen whether, after what the Vatican Council has said, this designation "Spouse of the Holy Spirit" can be retained in reference to the relation of the Virgin to the Third Divine Person.—Manteau-Bonamy, O.P.

If my only thought was of Jesus Himself, I would gladly wish that He would always remain in Mary and never come forth from her into this miserable world where He would find nothing but sinfulness.—Berulle.

The community of life and labours of the Son and the Mother were uninterrupted, so that to both might be applied the words of the Psalmist: "My life is wasted with grief and my years in sighs" (Ps. 30). And when the last hours of the Son had come, there stood by the Cross Mary, His Mother, not merely engaged in the contemplation of the cruel spectacle but surely rejoicing that her only begotten was offered for the salvation of mankind, and so fully participating in His sufferings that if it had been possible she would have most gladly endured all the torments that were borne by her Son. But from this communion of sufferings and of will between Mary and Christ she merited to become most worthily "the Restorer of the lost world and the Dispenser of all the gifts that Jesus purchased for us by His death and by His Blood".—Pope Pius X.

Peregrinatio Pro Christo to Alto Paraná, Paraguay

By JOAN CRONIN

Three priests, four seminarians and 18 legionaries took part in the P.P.C. to Paraguay from the 15th to 27th January, 1972. The team was divided up into three teams which operated in different places. The Military Commander of the Region ordered a bus to bring the peregrini to the Brazilian border and had another, in fact two, for the return trip from the Brazilian border. (It cost the military 600 dollars.) The Bishop of Ponta Grossa was unable at the very last moment to go as he got an attack of flu.

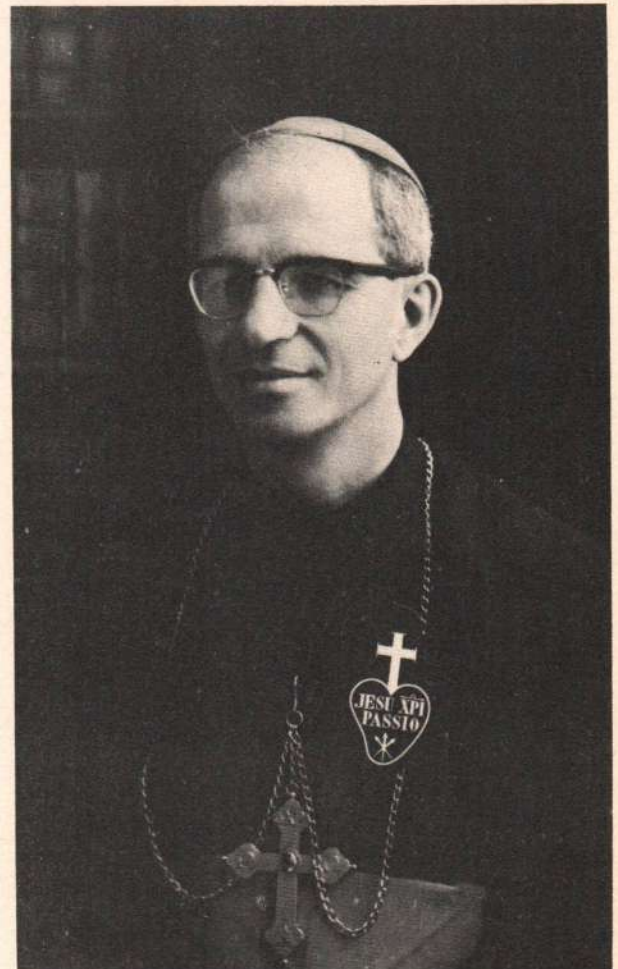
Ages of the team ranged from 18 to 55 and all came from middle-class and very wealthy families.

Well, I never saw such misery and filth as the "houses" we stayed in. Close your eyes and imagine a burning desert with roughly-built wooden shacks; pigs, hens and dogs scrounging round the people; straw mattresses alive with bugs of all kinds, rough floor boards or none at all; ants, beetles, snakes, bats; no WCs, a well with a rusty can that supplied all washing and drinking water, and there was nothing else to drink; primitive mud fires for cooking that turned the huts into furnaces; candlelight, wooden horse-drawn carts, etc., etc., and you are still miles away from what it was like. Most of the "bedrooms" were over the henhouses, and as there

His Excellency, Dom Geraldo Pellanda, C.P. Bishop of Ponta Grossa in Paraná State, Brazil

Dom Geraldo started the first praesidium in Paraná when the Envoy Joaquina Lucas visited him in 1955. Since then he has always been most actively associated with the Legion and recently the first Regia to be set up in Brazil was actually for the State of Paraná, with headquarters at Ponta Grossa. The Southern Regional Conference of Brazilian Bishops unanimously appointed Dom Geraldo as Regia Spiritual Director. From the very first mention of the P.P.C. to Paraguay, the first of its kind from Brazil, Dom Geraldo enthusiastically supported the idea and expressed his intention of joining the party. He conducted a Triduum of preparation for the 24 legionaries who went on the P.P.C. and on the last day all the members were appointed Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, which enabled them to distribute Holy Communion during the P.P.C. in Paraguay. On the eve of the departure for Paraguay, Dom Geraldo was prevented from joining the team by a bad attack of flu.

When the P.P.C. party returned from Paraguay, Dom Geraldo, whose brother and sister both died in that short period, told the envoy, Sr. Cronin, that although unable to join the legionaries, he had been able to offer the sacrifice of both deaths for the success of the project. He also said that he was very favourably impressed by the way the Concilium consulted the wishes of the Brazilian Bishops with regard to the setting up of the Regia, adding that in his opinion the Legion has the right spirit.



were large splits between the floorboards we had nightly chats with the hens and occasionally had to go out with a torch to retrieve the soap, Rosary beads or pins that fell between the floorboards. Dirt seems to be ingrained in the cups and tin plates on which we ate and I was glad that I brought the remains of the plum pudding sent to me from Dublin. It was funny out there in the filth and darkness eating pudding out of a bag—fortunately the Brazilians and the Paraguayans dislike pudding so I ate every crumb of it myself, including the bag. With one tiny basin we managed all our toilette, especially when we got proof of our suspicions that the large one in the kitchen served for baking bread, washing the floor, and as a bath for all the family. Rats ran across our beds at night and as most of us were two in a small straw bed we could not sleep anyway.

Thanks to the Bishop of Ponta Grossa we were able to distribute Holy Communion. The priests were really wonderful with Confessions. In all during the 10 days that we spent in Paraguay we distributed 3,000 Communions; 23 tough marriage cases were settled, 110 children received first Holy Communion, having been prepared by the legionaries; many adults returned to the sacraments. I had the privilege of preparing a man of 21 for his first Confession and Holy Communion, also fixing up a couple living together for six years with three children. The wife was only 19 and she started living with the fellow when she was 13. I prepared them both for Confession, Holy Communion and marriage, caught hold of the priest just as he was leaving for another place; he heard their confessions and without rituals, ring, holy water, he married them and when he went to the Tabernacle nobody could find the key. As the couple lived about five miles from the chapel and the husband was very ill I offered to bring them Holy Communion next morning. So three new legionaries came with me in a horse-drawn cart on a trip that took four hours. We brought flowers, holy pictures, etc., and transformed their hovel into a little chapel. After a liturgical ceremony I gave them Communion.

We set up six new praesidia, six weekly Bible Circles, four clubs for mothers organised by the legionaries, and gave endless talks to married people, boys and girls separately, generally two hours at a time.

I spent three days with each team and found a wonderful spirit in each one and, of course, had tremendous jokes and fun. We said most of the Breviary together each day and some were able to have a daily meditation together.

The full report is not finished yet but I would calculate about 1,000 visits were made to Catholics, Protestants of all sects, atheists, most of the visitation being done on foot and in blazing sunshine.



Joan Cronin, Envoy to Brazil (left), with her friend, Dona Alzira Bevilaqua, accompanied by her son and daughter. Dona Alzira is a descendant of Oliver Cromwell (remembered for his leading part in the persecution of Catholics and destruction of the monasteries). She is a very active praesidium president, extension worker and an avid reader of everything written by Frank Duff.

The wife of one of the Protestant Pastors was so pleased with our visit that she attended most of the conferences and sent flowers to decorate the altar.

Holy Communions, which were few the first day, increased daily until we could no longer have Mass in the chapels and the last day's Mass was in the open. I gave Communion to 57 people and was allowed to serve Mass once.

Each team finished with a torchlight procession and the people just cried and cried when we left; the children especially clung to us and cried bitterly. We left, all packed into the same jeeps in which we arrived, some sitting on the wheels inside, others with one leg over the side and a few stretched out on the luggage, cramped up but singing happily.

In all there are 40,000 Brazilian emigrants building homes in Paraguay as they say that they needed more land for their growing families. Many of them are political and criminal escapees. One "hardened" criminal went to Confession; another, a drug addict, did likewise, and several men who went in for plurality of wives decided to stick to their lawful spouses and live happily ever after.

Reflections of an American Legionary

By

ROBERT BONSIGNORE

THE Legion in our diocese of Rockville Centre receives the MARIA LEGIONIS which is read diligently along with Concilium reports. As a result we are aware of the success of the Legion in various parts of the world and would like to see it duplicated in America. This past summer I went south to western North Carolina during vacation and worked with a priest in a mission area. In the so-called Bible Belt ($\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% Catholic) I visited door-to-door stating that Fr. Hautz of St. William's Catholic Church was interested in bringing people closer to God and wanted to add his efforts to the efforts of other Christians; I would then enrol them in a pamphlet series of Spiritual Talks Fr. Hautz was preparing. The response was gratifying and made it obvious that the work of conversion must be a prime objective of the Church and the Legion.

I reside in the New York Metropolitan area which encompasses 18 million persons who are predominantly Catholic. Also Manhattan is a major commercial and financial hub of the Western world and presents many opportunities for True Devotion to the Nation work; especially since the "private" decisions of our businessmen do affect the life styles and thought patterns of many of our populace. I feel that if Catholics can be awakened and exercise their faith much can be achieved in building the Church; New York, I consider, is mission territory in this sense.

High church attendance and the heavy Catholic population often cause a false impression and cover up the fact that many Catholics do not practise their religion. What is needed is that priests give Legion members a mandate, to send them out, to assign to them a given geographical area and give them the responsibility of following up on cases and visiting homes in that area and of converting non-Catholics. (Some of our most zealous legionaries are converts.)

In my work as a production supervisor in an electronics plant I am responsible for getting a job done. In reaching a planned objective every effort is made by every member of the management team. We shift people and resources, we work Saturdays and holidays, we work two shifts and into the third shift, we bring in consultants and outside help if necessary, we harangue and goad people onward, we streamline bottleneck operations, we improve and modify, we discharge the inefficient and uncooperative, and we seek and hire experienced supervisors. This is done to meet a planned schedule or maintain a cer-

tain profit level and must be done if management people are to maintain their jobs. In my place of employment the job is done through sheer effort rather than expertise.

And I say to myself, if the same approach were used in the apostolate and the Legion of Mary how many more people would come to know the freedom and light of the Church. I ask myself how can the Legion attract management men with drive and energy and the kind of priest with the managerial skills necessary to deal with them.

Unfortunately many of our people base their self esteem upon their utility, their productive employment, their money value, or their skills; it seems that many people are struggling for psychological survival. High interest rates, mortgage payments, real estate taxes, plus income and sales taxes make it necessary for long hours of work plus the wife working. Returning home many men must do repairs on the home or make improvements and attend to the children. In the midst of affluence there is an intense struggle to stay out of debt. This drains the energies of many and when they finally relax in the easy chair and watch television they are subjected to many impressions on various social issues which do



Rev. Fr. Archangel Sica, O.F.M., Spiritual Director of Comforter of the Afflicted Praesidium which meets at St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, seen with some of the legionaries and members of their families. They work with drug addicts.

not reflect reality. One is not surprised that it is mainly well-intentioned elderly women who have the time and are most ready to fulfil Legion obligations; but, they generally lack organising ability.

Perhaps a fresh approach in applying Legion law and spirit is in order. Why shouldn't the Legion meet in the home rather than the rectory? Can a work apostolate be part of the Legion assignment whereby Christian principles are deliberately applied to business decisions and work associates? Can the Patrician movement be developed with that in view? In my junior praesidia I already have the boys and girls embarked on a "Good Neighbour Policy" whereby they help their fellow students; eventually I hope to induce them to involve themselves in the Student Council and have more of an impact. Thus their Legion training is applied within the scope of their daily routine.

One priest recently wrote to me that each of us received a mandate from Christ at the moment of our baptism; I also read in Father Ripley's writings that every priest is another Christ. In the Legion Handbook it states that the praesidium depends on the priest for its work which should be of a worthy and difficult kind. In this sense I believe the bishops and the priests should define specific goals and objectives for the Legion in America; I do not envisage a gigantic plan of action emanating from one central point. Some months ago, I spoke with Msgr. Reynolds from the New York Senatus about having the bishop assign the Legion the task of promoting the dignity of life before birth (this to offset our liberalised abortion laws). In the New York area, praesidia can be set up to work in specific areas such as the advertising industry, entertainment media, communications media; approaches should be made to the men who hold responsible positions in these industries especially since they influence so many other persons. I sincerely believe that the bishops and priests must not only permit the Legion to function but must want it to perform specific tasks; they must (according to the Handbook) define the goal and objective in a meaningful manner.

Many laymen in America possess superior organisational skills. Many are adept in those things which move and motivate people or in more contemporary jargon sensitise people and alert them to the job to be done. Of course, when this approach is used without due regard for the dignity of the individual it amounts to manipulation. Many persons subjected to manipulation have become distrustful of their fellow man and cynical about human nature. The New York area is noted for people who are unfriendly and distrustful and many priests have difficult dealings with laymen raised in this climate and many times run into outspoken "laymen" who theologically go off the deep end. However, there are men and women who possess sound judgment and



On the shores of Cape Cod at 27 degrees below zero Father Aedan McGrath found this dolphin dead from the cold. Another experience in his legionary envoying!

are mature, formed Christians, and who have the necessary skills and experience to perform apostolic tasks on a level and scale equal to the challenge at hand. There are people who can join with the priests and bishops in first defining the goals and objectives, and then attaining them.

The particular appeal to the businessman about the apostolate is that in the spiritual order there is no such thing as failure as long as the intensity of effort is present. These formed Christians must be sorted out and given a task which challenges them. I believe the bishops can use the Legion to run the pastoral work of their diocese, especially since the Legion teaches docility to ecclesiastical authority; the Legion can be a bishop's private army in which he can have the utmost confidence.

America is, if I might quote from the title of John F. Kennedy's book "A Nation of Immigrants". We really have only the future to look forward to. Out of revolution, strife and turmoil, and many waves of immigration there is a huge conglomerate of 200 million spread over vast territories with each region having its unique local culture. We are still an experiment and if we fail—we have little history and depth of tradition to keep alive our spirit. But at one time the New World was called New Spain and dedicated to Mary. Thus the U.S.A. is dedicated to Mary. Therefore if we want to be patriotic in the sense of having concern for the collective and individual welfare of our fellow American citizens, should we not do so if possible as members of Mary's Legion. After all do we not see engraved in golden letters in the chapel to Our Lady of Guadalupe in our National Shrine in Washington D.C.:
"Who is she that comes forth like the rising Dawn, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, like the rainbow gleaming amid luminous clouds, like the bloom of roses in the spring".

Ancient Irish Litany

O great Mary
Mary, greatest of Marys
Most great of women
Queen of the angels
Mistress of the heavens
Woman full and replete
 with the grace of the Holy Spirit
Blessed and most blessed
Mother of eternal glory
Mother of the heavenly
 and earthly Church
Mother of love and indulgence
Mother of the golden light
Honour of the sky
Harbinger of peace
Gate of Heaven
Golden casket
Couch of love and mercy
Temple of the Divinity
Beauty of virgins
Mistress of the tribes
Fountain of gardens
Cleansing of sins
Washing of souls
Mother of orphans
Breast of the infants
Refuge of the wretched
Star of the sea
Handmaid of God
Mother of Christ
Abode of the Godhead
Graceful as the dove
Serene like the moon
Resplendent like the sun
Destruction of Eve's disgrace
Regeneration of love
Perfection of women

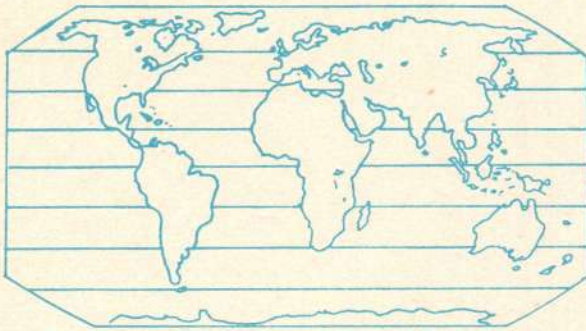


Chief of the virgins
Garden enclosed
Fountain sealed
Mother of God
Perpetual Virgin
Holy Virgin
Prudent Virgin
Serene Virgin
Chaste Virgin
Temple of the living God
Throne of the eternal King
Sanctuary of the Holy Spirit
Virgin of the root of Jesse
Cedar of Mount Lebanon
Cypress of Mount Sion
Crimson rose in the land of Jacob
Fruitful like the olive
Blooming like the palm
Glorious Son-bearer
Light of Nazareth
Glory of Jerusalem
Noblest born of the Christian people
Queen of life
Ladder of Heaven

Hear the petition of the poor; spurn not the wounds and the groans of the miserable. Let our devotion and our sighs be carried through thee to the presence of the Creator for we are not ourselves worthy of being heard because of our evil deserts.

O powerful Mistress of heaven and earth, wipe out our trespasses and our sins. Destroy our wickedness and our depravity. Raise the fallen, the debilitated and the fettered.

Repair through thyself the transgressions of our immorality and our vices. Bestow upon us through thyself the blossoms and ornaments of good actions and virtues. Appease for us the Judge by thy prayers and supplications. Allow us not for mercy sake to be carried off from thee among the spoils of our enemies. Allow not our souls to be condemned but take us to thyself for ever under thy protection. We, moreover, beseech and pray thee, O holy Mary, to obtain through thy potent supplication before thy only Son, that is Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, that God may defend us from all straits and temptations. Obtain also for us from the God of creation the forgiveness and remission of all our sins and trespasses, and that we may receive from God further through thy intercession, the everlasting habitation of the heavenly kingdom, through all eternity, in the presence of the saints and saintly virgins of the world, which may we deserve, may we enjoy, in saecula saeculorum.



FROM THE

LEGIONARY



WORLD



SPAIN



After successfully establishing the Legion in the diocese of Huelva, South-West Spain, Sister Carmen Herrero, the Concilium extension-worker, arranged with the newly erected curia in Cordoba to organise a P.P.C. project to Huelva, during the summer months. Fr. Sierra, the curia Director, and 20 legionaries took part, including three from Jaen diocese. They spent ten days in Huelva, and among the fruits of their apostolate were the seeds of future praesidia there. The Bilbao Senatus organised a successful P.P.C. project in Jaen, near Granada, in the south of Spain.

Barcelona: It was reported at the June meeting of the senatus that a total of 27 had volunteered for the P.P.C. in Monserrat, seven of these being from Ireland. Sister Greta Sorkau, who led the P.P.C. to Monserrat, gives a very impressive account of the work done.

They had several profound discussions with tourists from all over the world, and rendered many services to others, giving them information on the Church, etc. and explaining to them about the life of the Benedictine monks at Monserrat. The monks participated with the legionaries, and were very impressed by the apostolate to the tourists. The abbot, on the last day, came to breakfast with the legionaries, and also attended their final session. He invited them to return again next year.

Madrid: The Spiritual Director of Vigo Curia, on N.W. coast of Spain, attended the July meeting of the Madrid Senatus and gave a report on the progress of the curia. The legionaries do extensive home visitation; they made contacts with non-Catholics, including members of the Witnesses of Jehovah, and distributed some 9,000 Miraculous Medals. They also have a junior curia attached.

A Madrid praesidium, with 15 members on their roll, has 12 praetorians. They organised a fiesta for porters, whom they visit, and had an attendance of 200. They are also very active in extension.

The Spiritual Director of the Curia of Likasi,

Congo, who attended as a visitor, said that his legionaries were as his right hand, and that through their efforts 80 people were baptised in three years.

IRELAND



If, at the commencement of its fifty-second year the Legion were asked for proof of the value of visiting homes, a praesidium in South Dromore Curia engaged in that work would provide the necessary confirmation. The legionaries concerned are in contact with 25 non-Catholics, many of whom buy *MARIA LEGIONIS*, 220 copies of which are distributed quarterly. In addition the praesidium arranged for confirmation of a convert, regularisation of a marriage which resulted in the family receiving the Sacraments, and recruited 400 auxiliaries in its area.

Most Rev. Dr. McCormack, Bishop of Meath, celebrated Mass at the commencement of an all-night vigil of prayer for peace organised by Dolorosa Curia, Mullingar. Twelve priests heard confessions during the night.

Limerick and Tuam Comitiae, West Cloyne, South Cloyne, and Birr Curiae, also organised very successful vigils. The Bishop of Waterford, Most Rev. Michael Russell, D.D., celebrated Mass at 11 p.m. during an all-night vigil organised by the Waterford legionaries for peace and for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Public recitation of the Rosary by several curiae in Dublin and throughout the country is again mentioned in reports.

Legionaries in Ardagh Curia helped in providing a holiday in Moate for families from Northern Ireland.

Many reports tell of works of service being performed. Ten old people are being visited by a praesidium in Roscommon town (South Elphin Curia) and such works as laundering and painting are done for them. Nine itinerant families with about 30 children are visited by legionaries in Assumpta Curia in Waterford; two of the babies were baptised and three boys were prepared for reception of first Holy Communion. A praesidium in Down and Connor Comitium arranges instructions for converts



Two former presidents of Dublin praesidia of the Legion were ordained to the priesthood last June at St. Patrick's College, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. Seen here with Father Robert Bradshaw—Spiritual Director, St. Patrick's College—(centre) they are: Father Brian O'Reilly, ordained for Florida (left) and Father Bernard Morgan, ordained for Menevia Diocese, Wales. With their many friends and legionary colleagues we join in wishing them every grace and blessing to carry out a long and fruitful priestly mission.

and reports that 54 of them had been confirmed on the first Sunday of Advent. Some excellent items appear in reports received from the 21 senior curiae in the Archdiocese of Dublin. In addition to visiting them in their homes and arranging for the placing of au pair girls, legionaries from Coronato Curia run a club for Spaniards resident in Dublin; the same praesidium visits three non-Catholic homes, and one of its three Moslem contacts attends Mass regularly. People from the flats visited by Dolorosa Curia do adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every third weekend. Many homes were consecrated to the Sacred Heart and 50 children were dedicated to Our Blessed Lady as a result of being visited by legionaries in Immaculata Curia. Several of the Dublin curiae report the holding of retreats, the running of very successful Patrician groups, and the performing of numerous works of service.

Junior legionaries in Thurles visit three hospital wards, one of which caters for mentally handicapped patients. The legionaries read from the Bible to the patients and explain the Gospel to them. Junior legionaries in Dolorosa Curia (Dublin) engage in Mass Crusade, hospital visitation and work for the blind. There was an excellent attendance at a most impressive vigil of prayer for success of Peregrinatio Pro Christo, organised by Annunciata Junior Curia (Dublin). The apostolate to tourists was continued

this year by numerous praesidia in Dublin who organised weekly social functions for the visitors. A special function for non-Catholic tourists was held during July. Limerick Comitium also reported very good attendance at its weekly tourist functions.

PORTUGAL



Maria Senra writes:

Isle of Madeira: The Legion had been founded there but wrongly, and it has not developed; some praesidia died out. The priests, owing to the mediocrity of the work, never showed interest.

The bishop, however, had an appreciation of the Legion and gave great support. The praesidia had not responded to this trust of His Excellency. They did not recruit and so they had difficulty in filling up the posts of officership, and had no qualified members for the curia. I visited every praesidium, reorganised three, and did extension work. We had a meeting with all the presidents of praesidia, and a day of work similar to a Congress. The bishop was present at this day of work. Things are not perfect yet. I left them working and started to Azores with the intention of going back according to the wish of the bishop and the real need of a second visit. I left Madeira on the 7th January. I intended to go back after two months but the work in these islands did not allow it.

Azores: The Azores Archipelago is composed of nine islands, all of them remote from one another, some of them with rare means of communication; only four are served by planes. I began my work in the island of S. Miguel, the biggest one. At first I had a lot of difficulties. The Legion was not known at all; there was the Catholic Action (only in name) and the Legion demanded too much, I was told by the priests. On the other hand, they are disappointed

In acknowledging the congratulations and good wishes of the Concilium on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood, Rev. Charles Molony, S.J., St. Francis Xavier's, Dublin, wrote: . . . "It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to have served the Legion of Mary for most of my priestly life. I owe the Legion more than I can pay but I will try to pay the debt by keeping the Legion, its members and its works in my daily Masses as long as God gives me strength to offer His Divine Son at the altar.

"May our Blessed Lady watch over her Legion in every part of the world and guide it through rough days and smooth in the cause of her Divine Son".

with associations which do nothing. By the end of the first week I founded the first praesidium. I visited 35 parishes and talked personally with 27 priests, and had the joy of founding 11 praesidia.

There is only one town, Ponta Delgada, and there we have four parishes. I founded the Legion only in a parish—a senior praesidium and a junior one. One of the parish priests, when I visited him for the fourth time, turned me out saying he did not agree with our methods, etc. I also founded the Legion in a college, and little by little the youth affected the college. The priests were astonished with the results, discovering there was a grace working in the Legion, coming from the presence of Our Lady. They said to me: "There is here a sign of the Holy Spirit; no doubt there is a special protection of Our Lady; the Legion so organised can revolutionise a parish."

Meanwhile I tried to give every support and orientation to the Legion in the parish of the town of Ponta Delgada so that this parish might be a parish-pilot and I could bring there the priests and legionaries to see the Legion working. It happened as I thought. The senior praesidium has now 22 members, the junior praesidium has divided. Already they have founded a Patrician group and a club for old people. They have a day during the month for campaigning on behalf of the good press, besides the home visitation, catechism, etc.

I left 11 praesidia taking their first steps and went to Terceira, seat of the diocese, where the bishop lives. I visited the isles of Pice and Faial too.

DENMARK

Copenhagen: Sisters Peggy Gleeson and Deirdre Moran went to Denmark for a year as Incolae Mariae. Already they have started an English-speaking praesidium in one parish and it is going well with seven members, two from India, one from Pakistan, one from Portugal, one of Czechoslovakia and the two founder-members. It is hoped to increase the membership. Many priests are impressed and it is felt that further praesidia may be set up. Many of the people have no religion but are interested in the work of the legionaries. The work consists of visitation in the parish, street contacts and visitation of pubs. They are hoping to organise a weekly get-together for drug addicts. The miraculous medals and crucifixes go like "hot cakes" and it is proved that people continue to wear them.

Our Comment: These two legionaries are setting a headline of hidden sacrifice and love for souls. They have obtained leave from well-paid jobs and have undertaken inferior employment to maintain themselves. Every hour of their free time is given to their work for the Legion. They are shining models for the new corps of Incolae Mariae.

AUSTRIA



A special welcome was extended to Br. Seidl, president of the Senatus of Austria, when he attended the Concilium and addressed the meeting. He reported that the Legion had many successes in the last year and it enjoyed the great interest and support of the bishops and parish priests. To mark the Jubilee in a positive way the spiritual director of the senatus had suggested (in an article in the Senatus Bulletin) that 50 new praesidia should be formed during 1971. This target had been achieved.

They also set up four senior and three junior curiae. Referring to the very substantial work which is being undertaken by junior praesidia, he said that, due to the efforts of the juniors a pilgrimage which had been discontinued for over 150 years had been revived. Through this means the Legion had become widely known amongst young and old and over 30 praesidia had been set up in that region of Austria.

Peregrinatio Pro Christo is rapidly extending. Last year they had several projects and during the present year six projects were held or being planned. Br. Seidl also mentioned the work for the down and out classes and for ex-prisoners. Br. Cummins warmly congratulated Br. Seidl on the impressive successes which had blessed the efforts of the Austrian legionaries.

Rev. Fr. Bastel, Spiritual Director of the Vienna Junior Curia, and a group of legionaries from Vienna were also present at the meeting. Fr. Bastel, who addressed the Concilium, is also spiritual director of a seminary. He said that he was happy to report that of the seven ordinations this year all were former legionaries. He had devoted much time to giving retreats to priests; always he had used the Legion prayers and he had proposed to the priests that the Legion would help them to be more and more conscious of their priesthood. Fr. Bastel also reported on the junior work programme which as well as extension included the propagation of the Patricians amongst youth.

Our Comment: It is a sad circumstance that while Br. Seidl was in Ireland, his mother died. Both she and her husband had been busy in the Legion since its early days in Austria. She was president of several junior praesidia and he was president of a curia. This represents a happy family record. The lesson is obvious. Parents who wish their children to play a noble part in the battle of life should try to direct their children into the Legion. The sympathy of the whole Legion goes out to Br. Seidl.

GREECE

A Congress held for two days in Athens, was attended by the Apostolic Delegate, Msgr. Pio

Laghi, the Archbishop of Athens; Msgr. Printesis, the Archbishop of Corfu; and Msgr. Varthalitis, the Archbishop of Tinos; Msgr. Perri, Msgr. Giacinto Gad, of the Byzantine Rite; Msgr. Hatzian, Administrator of Salonica; Rev. D. Roussos, Administrator of Rhodes; and many priests and spiritual directors.

Animated sessions discussed the place of Our Lady in the Church, recruitment, fidelity to the Legion system, the duty of the laity to work for the Church according to Vatican II. At the final session the Apostolic Delegate addressed the legionaries exhorting them to continue with courage and indomitable zeal their apostolate through the help of the Holy Spirit like to that of the Apostles. He was connected with the Legion in Jerusalem, Nazareth and Bethlehem, and he promised to pray for them.

His Excellency Msgr. Varthalitis said: "You know that I am a great friend of the Legion and I am happy after ten years to be here present at these meetings and to find the Legion working with zeal in Athens, Salonica, and in the Islands." His Excellency exhorted them to continue to work in the vineyard of the Lord. Concelebrated Mass concluded the Congress, celebrated by Msgr. Printesis, who gave a final address telling them to be courageous and to hold firm in their legionary faith. After the concluding Legion prayers, the Apostolic Delegate gave his blessing.

U.S.A.



Miami Regio: Sr. Jean Claussen, president of a curia started last February, reports that the "baby is well fed and cared for and is quite healthy". Senior praesidia have grown from the original eight to eleven and an additional junior praesidium has been formed. Jean is especially pleased with the co-operative spirit shown by all the praesidia at a recent Columban Drive and at their first Acies ceremony. There is genuine concern for one another. In addition to the more usual works, help is being given to deprived children at a day care centre, supplying individual attention. Teenage volunteers are being trained to help with court cases. Seniors are permitted to "check-out" persons from a correctional facility for brief visits. One parish is being trained in house-to-house visitation as well as running a "friendship" club. Future plans call for concentrating on praesidia for men and juniors.

To keep in contact with Auxiliaries, there is an annual party with Mass and legion prayers.

Our Comment: This Regia is showing a fine development spirit. Nearly two years ago a number of them, including Jean Claussen, came to the Concilium with a big Philadelphian party. Under the inspiration of the Mooney sisters, who migrated

from Buenos Aires for this purpose, a Spanish-speaking curia with many praesidia has been built up for the Cubans. The above account indicates that the Regia is both zealous and successful in extension. It is stretching out to every need. It understands what a governing body is supposed to be.

Indiana: Most Rev. Francis R. Shea, Bishop of Evansville, writing in the diocesan weekly newspaper in preparation for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Legion:

"For thirteen years of my life I was the pastor of a downtown church. I deliberately use the old designation 'downtown' rather than the current 'inner-city' label because the parish also served some suburban areas as well as an old, quite dilapidated neighbourhood. From this you can easily deduce that my parishioners were pretty well scattered. To make matters worse, situated within the parish limits there were three large hospitals and several nursing homes where Catholic patients needed frequent attention. Under such circumstances, to try to do much visting of the homes where our families lived was a virtual impossibility.

After one year of frustration I inaugurated the Legion of Mary in the parish. For the next twelve years, I can truthfully say that my pastoral care became much more of a reality than a mere theory. Dedicated men and women answered the call to serve in Our Lady's army and gladly accepted the Legion's manifold spiritual works of mercy as their way of furthering the cause of Christ in that community. Through their faithful devotion to duty, they helped me to accomplish vicariously what I could never have done personally without their help. I regard my work with them as one of the most fruitful and satisfying experiences of my years in the priesthood."



U.S.A.: This photograph was taken at the first meeting of the Comitium of Allentown, Pennsylvania. Present on the occasion were Spiritual Directors and Officers of Philadelphia Senatus and of Norristown Comitium. The president Al Norrell is seen addressing the meeting.

Our Comment: Our gratitude goes out to the bishop of Evansville for this helpful tribute to the Legion. We would wish it could be read by every priest and show them the simplest way of fulfilling the special duty pointed to by Vatican II, that is the mobilising of the people of God. Likewise, every pastor is enjoined to develop the faithful in knowledge of Mary, and to instruct them that she is the mother of every man and that their salvation is bound up with her. These purposes are certainly being accomplished through the Legion and it is not easy to see through what other agency they are being attempted. The Legion is indeed under obligation to His Excellency for all he has done for the Legion.

Allentown, Pennsylvania: V. Rev. Msgr. Charles T. Moss brought 16 intermediate legionaries from Bethlehem, Penn., to take part in a P.P.C. project to Liverpool, England. He writes: "The girls enjoyed the trip and spoke glowingly of their work. To quote one girl: 'I don't know what good we accomplished in Liverpool but I do know that my faith is stronger now than before I left the United States.' This is true not only for her but for all the girls.

"From what I learned from the English legionaries, the girls made a lasting impression on the people they visited by their spirit of friendliness and a desire to be of help. In fact Joe O'Connor told me that their work not only helped the people they contacted but also gave a boost to the Legion in Liverpool. I hope God will see fit to bring some lasting good out of our girls' efforts.

"The girls' parents were delighted with the effect the trip had on their daughters and would not hesitate to allow them to make another P.P.C. in the future."

Kentucky: Extracts from the report of a praesidium in the "Federal Youth Center", Ashland, Kentucky. In the United States there are thirty federal prisons; ours is one of them. We are euphemistically called the "Federal Youth Center". One would suppose that this is some kind of a playing grounds or the like with a name such as this. But as any visitor approaches the compound the stranger will see two fences several feet apart, both topped with barbed wire. Inside the inner fence there are two water filled hoses; this is known as the periguard. If one of these two hoses receives more pressure than the other, it sets off an alarm in the control room. The officer (guard) who spends eight hours in a truck outside the fence will travel to the area where the activity was created to see if any of the "guests" at the youth center are seeking a different location, other than inside the inner fence.

The youths confined at our center are here for rehabilitation; they are here for violation of some federal law. These would be inter-state transportation of a stolen vehicle, mail theft, bank robbery,

selective service violation, bringing drugs into the country, hijacking, counterfeiting, destruction of government property, forgery, etc. Our average age here now is twenty-one and the average stay of an inmate is one and a half years.

At the present time there are seventy-seven out of our five hundred and forty inmates who list themselves as Roman Catholics. Our mission in the Legion is primarily with these men. Usually one who is a good Catholic would not end up in an institution such as ours. It is not pleasant for us to think along those lines, but it is a reality. We admit, we are not perfect; we seek to become better and we hope the Legion and its formation will help us. We also realise that we are the ones who were caught; there are many criminals roaming the streets and holding important positions in society. We are the Dismases who were found guilty and are now paying the price for our offences. We are in hope that our stay here will help us to become good followers of Jesus, the hope of every legionary.

As inmates in an institution we realise that our work in the Legion is very limited; we do not have free access to move about the compound as one would have in a regular parish area. We cannot even visit the hospital area if someone is there sick.

We are not permitted to visit other dormitories or cell blocks; our limitation is to the dorm where we live. So we must be given these inmates to contact with whom we live, or those with whom we are working. This presents a feeling of familiarity and of "suspect". It can sometimes be a cause of embarrassment for visitor and visited and this is one obstacle that has to be overcome.

Our inmate president usually gives us two or three men who are supposed to be practicing Catholics to contact to see why they do not attend church. Everybody is aware of the fact that no one can be forced



President Greta Brugia (centre), of the Portland, Oregon, Comitium, poses at the fiftieth anniversary celebration, with past presidents, (left to right), Marion Hite, Emma Calouri, Marie Bruck, and Julie Amato. Miss Calouri was the first president of the council. Not pictured are past presidents Harold Kempster, Robert Harris, Maurice Gilles, and Peter O'Brien.

to be good or to return to the Church. All we can do is to encourage the person to attend and return to Christ; what we have received we want to share. We realise that we are not perfect, but as some sage said, if we waited till we were perfect no one would open his mouth.

One of our members is given the job of distributing the *Messengers*, which the diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Society sends us every week (we receive eighty copies a week). Another member sets up and takes down the altar and its assignments for Sunday and Thursday Mass.

Some member is assigned to be a Mass commentator or reader. One of the Mass servers helps to train the new servers.

We did not keep an account of how many people were contacted during the past year (God will do that). We do what we can; we try to work closely with our chaplain to make our environment more Christian. We ask your prayers so that our Legion will grow and prosper.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica: Members of the Seminary Praesidium do their Legion work on Saturdays and Sundays, visiting homes, giving missions, teaching catechism and helping with youth organisations. The senatus and their attached councils each organised a retreat for legionaries. The spiritual director of the senatus, Right Rev. Mons. Galvez, summed up his allocutio by saying "The perfect legionary is he who knows his Handbook and lives by it."

Archbishop Msgr. Carlos Rodriguez of San José attended the June senatus meeting. He urged all legionaries to study the booklet "The Legion and the Second Vatican Council"; by doing so they would strengthen the Mystical Body of Christ on earth.

CHILE

Redolent of St. Paul's "boastings" to the Corinthians, is the tenor of the following report from Roberta Connon, Envoy in S. Chile.

"Well, we finally got the Peregrinatio off the ground and it was fabulous! We were six, with Fr. José. We worked like Trojans, but Fr. José is so zealous and apostolic that I just basked in the sunshine of his spirit. We visited four islands and had lots of contacts with other islands. We got drenched, were bitten by fleas, went around with damp clothing, wet feet, got caught in storms, hailstorms, snow—and beautiful days. We got lost in the boat. We travelled at night or early in the morning, before sun-up. We hitched home and got left on the highway at 1.30 a.m. We slept two to a single bed, in poor homes, slept on the floor or in wicker chairs.



Lima: His Eminence, Juan Cardinal Landazuri Ricketts, O.F.M., Archbishop of Lima, receives Brother Dan Hourigan, Envoy of Concilium, and Francisco Trono, the Extension-worker who assisted him in Peru. The Cardinal thanked the two legionaries for their services to the Legion in Peru.

It was a week of sacrifice, and not one sank under.

We arrived back shivering. I do not think I have ever been so cold in my life, having got thoroughly soaked before setting out and then travelling at night in a rowing boat, with mist and rain. We got two new praesidia started, and then got a telegram to say that Father José had started a third."

Our Comment: While we can (and most legionaries do) display admirable devotedness in our normal surroundings, there is a particular value in such heroic enterprises as the above. They strike the imagination of all, legionaries and non-legionaries, and fulfil the absolutely essential purpose of giving witness to Christ in a supreme manner which cannot be ignored or laughed off. Thus is the Church uplifted from the category of the cheap and routine to which so many are fond of assigning it.

PERU

With the aid of his assistant Bro. Francisco Trono, Bro. Dan Hourigan, the Envoy of the Concilium, has been busy re-organising the Legion government in Lima and Trujillo. A comparatively small number of groups have separated themselves from the Legion, either through a rejection of the use of the Legion altar and Rosary at the meetings, or by preferring to engage in political activity. All authentic and loyal praesidia and curiae are now affiliated to the new superior councils in Lima and Trujillo. Before completing their work in Peru, both Bro. Hourigan and Bro. Trono were received by the Cardinal Archbishop of Lima, His Eminence, Juan Landazuri Ricketts, O.F.M. to whom they reported on their work, receiving his blessing and thanks for their services to the Legion in Peru. Bro. Hourigan, after a short visit to Ecuador, will proceed to Colombia, to visit the Legion councils there.

KOREA

Most Rev. Peter Han, Bishop of Kwangju, writes: "Thank you so much for sending me a copy of 'Jubilee Talks to Legionaries'. I am very happy to be appointed bishop of Kwangju where there is a Sanctuary of the Legion of Mary in Korea, I would like to devote myself for developing this salutary movement throughout the whole of our land.

Please pass my humble and kindest regards to every legionary.

Asking God's special blessing, I am devoutly yours in Our Lady.

✠ Peter J. Han."

ICELAND

Bro. Matt Byrne has been working for the Legion in Iceland for the past six months. He has established friendships with many people including the teenagers, and is using the Miraculous Medal for contact purposes. He has had innumerable conversations, among others, with the teacher in the village, the chemist, the director of the swimming pool, the barber, who is a young Minister of the Adventists. In the town of Stykkisholmer with a population of 1,000 there is not one Catholic and no convert for the past 30 years.

In the town of Akureyri with a population of 10,000 there are about 6 Catholic families. There is no resident Priest and the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in a small chapel in a Diocesan House where an old German housekeeper resides alone. Each Sunday the local Catholic chemist distributes Holy Communion, and conducts a service. The Bishop is giving Bro. Byrne every encouragement and he hopes to set up praesidia when he can find members. His contact with the tourists has been very satisfactory.

INDIA



Bangalore: His Grace Dr. Arokiasamy, Archbishop of Bangalore, convened a meeting of Spiritual Directors and officers of councils and praesidia to tell them of his deep interest in the Legion of Mary. He told the Spiritual Directors that they must attend the praesidia meetings and encourage the legionaries who are making great sacrifices of their time and even money to attend their weekly and monthly meetings, and to perform the weekly obligations. His Grace held the opinion that parish priests would be greatly helped in their parochial burden if they closely associated themselves with the legionaries and their meetings.

Bombay: A worthwhile programme of works by a junior curia highlights the approach to non-

Christians, many of whom were accompanied to Mass and to visits to the Blessed Sacrament. At Mahim legionaries helped to inoculate 2,193 persons at a dispensary. They teach backward children and have literacy classes for domestics. The Patrician meetings are continuing well.

Margao comitium in the course of one month taught catechism weekly to 3,455 children and 250 were prepared for first Holy Communion. Two non-Christians were instructed for an hour daily.

A very sick lady who had gangrene which gave out a foul smell was visited regularly; when she died the Sacraments were arranged for her and the legionaries were with her till her last.

Worli legionaries brought 80 non-Christian ladies to the Church where they attended Mass and were given a talk in Marathi. At the Senatus meeting Rev. Fr. Alvaro said that if there was a spirit of self-sacrifice we would go to any extent to get leave, save money and go out on extension.

Pondicherry had a Moslem family instructed and received into the Church, Also a Tamil-speaking comitium had 19 Hindus and 1 non-Catholic brought into the Church through persevering effort. Karachi reports that Moslem families have expressed appreciation of the visits from legionaries and have invited them back.

BURMA

Extension is proceeding very well. The latest reports recount the setting up of two new curiae in the Bassein Diocese, which covers a very large and scattered area full of small villages. Representatives of the Senatus have engaged in many weeks' work and long travelling by bus, by boat and on foot to



Another Golden Jubilee celebration: This picture shows the Campus of the University of St. Thomas, Manila, on the occasion of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Legion by the Senatus of the Northern Philippines.

set up these curiae. The praesidia there report many contacts with non-Catholics, many people being received into the Church, and many returns to the Sacraments.

Our Comment: We pay compliment to the extension efforts of the Senatus, some of it in most difficult conditions and by not-so-young persons. The Bishop of Bassein recently expressed the desire that there be a praesidium in every village in Burma. Let it be remembered that otherwise it is probable that the obligation of apostleship which rests on every Catholic will not be discharged.

PHILIPPINES



His Lordship Antonio Y. Fortich, Bishop of Bacolod writes: "Greeting from a far country where the Legion of Mary is gloriously existing. I am happy to inform you that the Legion of Mary is doing a wonderful job of strengthening the faith of the people of God and also leading back people to the fold of Christ. Indeed, the Legion

is and will always be an indispensable apostolate in our Diocese. We do hope that more and more people will realise the tremendous work of the Legion in its quest to conquer the world for Christ through the Blessed Mother. Long live the Legion!"

A Peregrinatio project was carried out in the newly created town of Bingawan which is composed mostly of Protestants.

During Holy Week, the Way of the Cross was brought to the different sitios comprising the Parish of Guadalupe.

SIERRA LEONE

Sister Barbara Hopper, concilium extension worker, organised a most fruitful P.P.C. team in Kambia and Pepel Islands, both largely Moslem areas. Bishop Azzolini and the local priests provided religious films and filmstrips with commentaries. In Kambia 3 Moslems met them for a discussion on their beliefs and this was of assistance to them in their contact work. In 70 homes visited one occupant, at least, was interested in learning more about the Catholic religion. She says that the films made a great impression; one film "The Son of Man" attracted an audience of 1,000 and was the talk of Pepel Islands.



Jane Sophia Wairimu, junior legionary of Muruma High School, Nairobi.

SOUTH AFRICA



Cape Town: Miriam Lynch of Symphony Orchestra, City Hall, writes: "We had holidays last month and I was hoping some legionaries could do P.P.C. with me. But this was not possible

and so I went alone. As Bishop Kinders of Keimos diocese has welcomed the Legion, it was decided I visit as many praesidia as possible in his diocese. I had no idea how I was going to get from mission to mission and left it to Our Lady, realising that if she wanted me to reach her legionaries on these missions, which were so remote and miles from a town, she would get me there. The bus from Capetown to Springbok broke down before we reached the first stop! Everything else worked out smoothly and I got to eleven different missions. This was a wonderful experience as I had never been on a mission before.

Most of them were in the heart of the mountains across semi-desert, while others were just outside a village which had grown as a result of the mission. Many places were self-supporting with their own farms providing essential produce for the school and convent, while others were on barren land with just a few goats trying to find a blade of grass. It was lovely to wake up in the mornings to the crying of the sheep and goats with the cocks and donkeys competing to waken the peaceful mission shrouded under a star-studded sky.

The Legion is doing very well in these missions and most praesidia have a membership of from 12 to 30. Their work consists of home-visitation, where they fix up marriages, baptisms, etc., as well as promoting the Pioneer Movement, which is strong and very necessary. Many hardened drinkers have taken the pledge and now go to Mass which previously had been neglected. Some legionaries

come a long distance to their meetings. One old lady comes across two mountains for her Legion meeting and Legion work. One Sunday we went with the priest to an out-station. While Father was hearing Confessions, the legionaries were giving instruction. The Mass was said in an old shed where machinery, etc. had been moved back to make room for the little table where he said Mass. The benches were planks on top of paint-tins. It reminded me of the stable in Bethlehem. The people are lovely, so shy but yet friendly. The children are very lovable and often follow you around. The trip was delightful. And indeed the Holy Spirit was very much in demand because most times I had to speak in Afrikaans. I could wish that more legionaries had this experience; they would learn so much in such adventuring for Mary."

Our Comment: Miriam Lynch is a sister of Noel Lynch, who succeeded Alfi Lambe as Envoy to Argentina; married Anne Lavery, a fellow-Envoy and now they have 2 children. Miriam, who is an accomplished musician, is fulfilling a contract with the South African Radio Orchestra and is as good as an Envoy. The above exhibits her idea of a holiday. The greatness of the work done in that short period is there to read. We fervently echo her final wish that more legionaries would indulge in this profitable adventuring for Jesus and Mary.

AFRICA

Lagos: Two of the five senior curiae attached to Lagos comitium have been set up in the last year. One of these curiae organised a P.P.C. project from Nigeria to Dahomey—the neighbouring country,



His Lordship Bishop A. Tarantino who performed the ceremonial opening of the Curia at Zeu and Father D. Morley, Verona Father, Spiritual Director of the new Curia and also of the Visitation praesidium.

which was very successful. It is hoped to organise another and concilium advised that legionaries from the comitium and other curiae be asked to take part.

Our Comment: As we have already pointed out, the Peregrinatio is a real supercharger for those who engage in it. Each place should be stimulated to undertake a project to some other country. This co-operation and exchange of effort aid towards the all-important purpose of building the Legion into one great family.

NIGERIA

(Egbado Deanery, Lagos Archdiocese to Dahomey, Diocese of Porto Novo)

The Egbado Deanery runs along the border between Nigeria and the Republic of Dahomey. Recently, the Egbado curia, Our Lady Refuge of Sinners, carried out a Peregrinatio in the adjacent Diocese of Porto Novo. The districts visited included Ketou and Pobe.

In all thirteen legionaries headed by the curia president Brother Joseph Are of Otta took part. They were accompanied by the curia Spiritual Director, Rev. Fr. M. P. MacLoughlin. The following senior praesidia, Ado Odo, Ajilete, Ilaro and Otta were represented. The journey commenced on April 25th and ended on 29th. The legionaries were well received by the S.M.A. Fathers and the Diocesan priests of the Diocese of Porto Novo.

The visiting team in conjunction with their brothers and sisters in Dahomey carried out visitation, held meetings and had many useful discussions. The fact that the people along the border speak the Yoruba language (although French is widely spoken) was a help to us from Yorubaland.

It is hoped that this is but the beginning of useful contacts between us and our neighbours in Dahomey. We have been impressed by the devotion shown by the people of Dahomey. We hope and pray that this visit may be a means of imbuing our brothers and sisters with greater zeal for the Legion of Mary and encouraging more Catholics to devote themselves to this great work.

UGANDA

Arua: Sunday, July 16, 1972, was a happy day for the legionaries of Zeu, Diocese of Arua, West Nile, Uganda. A new curia was opened by His Lordship, Bishop A. Tarantino: it is the first in the Diocese. It means that the Legion has taken a big leap forward since it was founded in 1967. This is the result of hard work on the part of all its legionaries. The new Curia will govern 7 senior and 6 junior praesidia. Bro. Damubira, who represented Kampala Senatus at the ceremonies, travelled over 400 miles to be present.

During Pontifical Mass, His Lordship expressed his pleasure at being present for the historical

VERY REV. JAMES ROBINSON, P.P.

THE unexpected death of Father James Robinson, P.P., on October 14th came as a shock to all legionaries in Dublin by whom he was deeply revered. Frank Duff, speaking on behalf of the Concilium at the October meeting, expressed the sorrow of legionaries at his loss. "Father Robinson's priestly life," he said, "had covered the same time as that of the Legion. Those early close ties had never relaxed; there could not have been a more devoted priest."

Ordained in 1920, Father Robinson served as curate in the parish of St. Nicholas of Myra, Francis Street, where the Legion of Mary began in 1921. Subsequently he ministered in the parishes of Donabate, Rathmines and St. Andrew's, Westland Row, where he was Administrator for some years before being appointed first parish priest of Our Lady of Consolation, Donnycarney, in 1952.

His complete dedication as a priest, his devotion to our Blessed Lady, his charity and love of children endeared him to all. His zeal in seeking and gaining conversions gave a distinctive mark to the Legion's apostolate to non-Catholics when as Spiritual Director of the Pauline Committee he was at the centre of that work in Dublin. For several years he was Spiritual Director of Assumpta Curia and also Spiritual Director of different praesidia.

Though in failing health for some time, he continued active in his pastoral work, and it was a most happy experience for the great gathering at the Legion's Golden Jubilee celebrations in September, 1971, to hear him, still in powerful voice, proclaim the Gospel.

occasion. In his sermon he stressed devotion to Mary our Mother, and said where there is no love for Mary there is no love for Jesus either. Referring to the Sunday Gospel, he reminded those present that the good seed could be compared to the good Christians who love Mary with all their hearts. Devotion to Mary strikes a fatal blow at Satan, brings peace to the soul and to one's country.

Finally, he exhorted the legionaries to have a deep faith in Mary, and encouraged them to forge ahead bravely because Mary was with them and there was nothing to be afraid of in her company. Before imparting his blessing to the legionaries, he thanked the Senatus of Kampala for sending a representative and also the president of Uganda Senatus for having happily concluded all the arrangements for the new curia.

GUYANE

Praesidia are established in most of the main towns and these are to be found along the coastal area of the country. Despite the difficulty in attend-



It was typical of Father Robinson that at the age of 76, on the day before his death, he attended the funeral of a schoolboy in the parish—victim of a fatal accident.

At the Requiem Mass and ceremonies at Our Lady of Consolation Church, Donnycarney, fitting tribute was paid to Father Robinson. Most Rev. Dr. Ryan, Archbishop of Dublin, presided; their Lordships Bishops Dunne and Carroll, Diocesan Auxiliaries, attended, with an exceptionally large assembly of clergy and an overflow congregation. The atmosphere was not one of mournful sadness but of holy joy in the belief that a beloved disciple had been called to the reward of the good and faithful servant.

ing meetings in a country which is largely rain forest, reports received state that all praesidia and curiae are very faithful to their meetings. At the comitium meetings there is a fairly regular attendance of curia representatives.

The comitium Spiritual Director, Msgr. Marie attended every morning in the past year with the exception of one when he was ill. His Allocutions are always true to the spirit of the Handbook and the Legion owes him a debt for his loyal and devoted service. A number of conversions are reported, and immigrant Brazilian and Indian families are encouraged to attend Mass.

The junior legionaries undertake home to home visitation. The first ordination to take place in the country was in June, Fr. Theresine, he has close connections with the Legion and he offered Mass for all the members. Many legionaries attended. Bro. Nelson, the President of the comitium is a young married man with 4 children and his wife is also an active member.

Nigeria has Big Programme for the Legion

“THE message that I bring back from the All-Africa Episcopal Symposium at Kampala is one of total involvement of the Catholic laity in all the activities of the Church, and plans for this purpose will be discussed and drawn up by the forthcoming National Episcopal Conference of Nigeria. I am happy that this conference of the Legion of Mary, involving Legion delegates from nearly every diocese of Nigeria, is the first gathering of Catholic laity to which this important message and proposal can be delivered.”

The speaker was Bishop A. Sanusi of Ijebu Ode



From left: James Fajumi, President, Theresa Griva, Vice President, Bishop F. A. Job, Mary Ayoola, Treasurer, Peter Egbogur, Secretary, Rev. Fr. P. O'Neill.

diocese, and secretary of the National Episcopal Conference, and of the Lagos ecclesiastical province Episcopal Conference. The occasion—a gathering of some 50 senior Legion officers from nearly every diocese of Nigeria at the Lay Apostolate Centre, Ibadan, from August 25th to August 27th, 1972.

Bishop Sanusi had come straight from the meeting of the African and Malagasy Episcopal Symposium which had just concluded in Kampala, Uganda, to the Legion meeting. He was delegate of the Nigerian Bishops to the symposium. Two weeks later the National Episcopal Conference of Nigeria was to open in Lagos to discuss the findings of the symposium and to plan for a total integration of Catholic laity in the activities of the Church in Nigeria. Before addressing the Legion conference, Bishop Sanusi concelebrated Mass with Legion spiritual directors for the legionaries, and preached the homily.

Bishop Felix A. Job, Auxiliary Bishop of Ibadan and Vicar General, also concelebrated Mass on Sunday to a packed church and preached the homily to the legionaries. Besides the visiting legionaries, large numbers of legionaries from Ibadan diocese attended.

This unique meeting of senior Legion officers was

called, as the Catholic Church in Nigeria begins to settle down again after the upheavals of the recent civil war, and as new apostolic situations will arise due to the planned take-over of schools (including Catholic schools) by the various state governments of the Federation. Included also in the purpose of the meeting was (1) to have legionaries from various dioceses meet with one another, (2) to find some means of maintaining permanent contact and to establish a ready flow of information to and from the Legion in all parts of the country, (3) to discuss common Legion problems.

Nearly everywhere in Nigeria legionaries are deeply involved in the teaching of Christian Doctrine to candidates for Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. With the government take-over of schools this aspect of legionary activity will inevitably take on newer and vastly larger dimensions. Rev. Dr. T. Lindon, director of religious education for Ibadan diocese, therefore addressed the legionaries in considerable detail on the directives of the new General Catechetical Director that has come from Rome. He stressed how uniquely placed the Legion was for putting these directives into effect.

Rev. Father P. O'Neill, director of Ibadan Comitium, spoke on the Spiritual Formation of the legionaries and also on the organisational aspects of the Legion of Mary. On the former he said that the spiritual development of the legionaries themselves was the first objective of the Legion and that it was really from this that the Legion apostolate flowed and became objective. He said that not only spiritual directors but also all Legion officers should take this spiritual formation seriously and ought not to be afraid to speak on it at praesidia and council meetings.

In his second address, on the organisational aspects of the Legion, Father O'Neill said that it was from this organisational side that the Legion acquires its distinctive character and its particular approach to the apostolate. The Legion Handbook, he added, represents 50 years of international apostolic experience. He laid particular stress on the choice and training of Legion officers at all levels. He also described the various Legion councils and their functions.

Highlight of the many topics discussed following the lectures and in special discussion sessions was the proposal to investigate the possibility of the Legion of Mary in Nigeria organising its own Peregrinatio Pro Christo project to a neighbouring African country.

For The Legion Library

From the list below we suggest that Legion councils should add to their libraries. All councils should carry stocks of suitable books and pamphlets for sale to their members to enable them through study to acquire a deeper appreciation of the ideas and principles which inspire the Legion. Why not send your orders now?

* * *

Jubilee Talks to Legionaries by Fr. Francis J. Ripley with an introduction by Mr. F. Duff. Legionaries all over the world have already been inspired and helped by Father Ripley's books on the Legion. His latest consists mainly of the allocutios he has given to the Senatus of Liverpool of which he has been spiritual director for many years. In such a context he comes to grips with practically all the problems which the Legion is facing in the turbulent Church of our day. Again and again he returns to the topic of renewal, shows how it has been misunderstood, what it really means and how the Legion is constantly in process of renewal.

(Available from John S. Burns & Sons, 25 Finlas Street, Glasgow N2, Scotland. 221 pages; price 60p.)

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Mary Shall Reign by Frank Duff: "Mr. Duff's principles are more than worthy of notice, they are cardinal, fundamental, indispensable. . . . All who love the Church and yearn for its growth and extension will be grateful for these thrilling pages. They will not only read the book over and over again; they will never cease to recommend it." (From the Foreword by Father Francis J. Ripley.)

(Available from John S. Burns & Sons, 25 Finlas Street, Glasgow N2, price 31½p plus postage.)

* * *

Legion Breviary: The new Legion Breviary is available from the Concilium Office in two bindings—

Morocco—Price £2.10 plus postage.

Imitation Leather—Price £1.75 plus postage.

Also available Breviary covers at 13p each.

* * *

Legionaries should read the dramatic story of the beginning of the Legion in *Miracles on Tap*, a 284 page thriller available from the Concilium Office at 67½p. Cloth bound edition £1.00.

* * *

True Devotion to the Nation: The principles enunciated in this book by Brother Duff have been proved valid by the passing of the years. This third

printing with an up-to-date introduction puts the vital ideas of *True Devotion to the Nation* in the possession of every Legionary for 6p (postage extra). Available from the Concilium Office.

* * *

Prayer Patterns on the Rosary by Rev. Fr. Thomas O'Flynn, C.M.: All legionaries, active and auxiliary, and all lovers of the Rosary will find instruction and inspiration in these pages written by the Spiritual Director of the Concilium. Available from the Concilium Office at 30p plus postage.

* * *

The Legion Songbook: Compiled by Brother Bill Peffley of Norristown, Pennsylvania, and available from Montfort Publications at Bay Shore, New York 11706, and also from the Concilium, this book emphasises the lighter side of Legion life. And why not, since Mary is the cause of our joy. Price 17½p.

* * *

Leaflet Publications: Two leaflets available from Concilium—

The Jehovah Witnesses.....42½p per 100 } Postage
 Jesus and Mary in Islam...83½p per 100 } Extra

Both are reprints of articles by Brother Duff. The first is an ideal preparation for discussion with Jehovah's Witnesses who claim to be the fastest growing religion in the world. The second is a document of major importance as the Legion today is in friendly contact with Islam in every country where it has an influence. This apostolate is destined to develop and the approach outlined in *Jesus and Mary in Islam* has the highest commendation.

Please note the address of Concilium Office is—

Legion of Mary Concilium Office,
 Morning Star Ave.,
 Dublin 7.

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Maria Legionis: Legionaries are urged to procure and read each issue of MARIA LEGIONIS in order to keep up-to-date on Legion development. They should also be active in promoting readership of the journal amongst auxiliary members and the general public. MARIA LEGIONIS gives a picture of the Legion in action. Published quarterly at 2 Hardwicke Street, off North Frederick Street, Dublin 1, Ireland. Price 7p. (Orders should be sent to 2 Hardwicke Street.)

CHILE: ONE YEAR

By **ROBERTA CONNON**
(LEGION ENVOY)

I WAS thinking of writing something like "A Day in the Life of an Envoy" but impressive as it may sound, really and truly it is impossible to pick out one typical day. You see, every day is so different, so full of surprises that the only thing I could tell you about would be the diversity of this way of life. Diversity is the word, for one day you're with millionaires, the next with the most humble country folk or with bishops or communists or rebellious folk or charmers of legionaries. Each day brings its fell blows of crosses and surprises that have you dancing in the air. I always explain the Legion as an easy way of putting our Faith into practice and when one is trying to go hard at it all the time for the Lord and Mary, you really see how beloved you are by them. They cherish us so much that it is a very humbling and enriching experience. I think if each of us could work full-time for even a very short while we would be transformed and the world too; for instance just look at even a short-term impulse like P.P.C. Its effect is dynamic.

We have just come back from a real adventuring P.P.C. to the Chiloe islands. We had to travel around in a little rowing boat which every once in a while just plain gave up the ghost. I remember that happened one night in a storm. We set off in very choppy seas but all of a sudden the waves started pounding and lashing at us. We could not even see! It was a thrilling experience. Then we got lost and tried to pick up answering signals to our torch as we touched from coast to coast. Reaching shore we thudded into the sand and made a mad scramble to wade through to the pebbly beach. My vivid memory of that night is having a sing-song by candlelight and trying to pick out who was who in the huge gathering. I later found out why I had difficulty, for the head of the family exercised his ancient privilege as leader of the community by having two wives with six children by each.

The following day I had a problem of growing trousers! I will explain. It had rained so hard that we were utterly drenched and the material in my trousers began to stretch with the weight of the water. So there I was with these enormous wide trousers flapping around my ankles and covering my squelching shoes.

It is certainly a very humbling experience to be received as we were that week and in fact that is what happens all the time. For even the poorest of the very poor families go out of their way to make you feel welcome and spread before you a feast (I suspect of all they have). I can honestly say I *never*

go hungry! But at times it is a bit much, for I remember in one home being given three times the amount the man of the house had—and he was on the plump side!

I enjoy home visitation. There you really get to know people and I just love the humility of poor homes. To sit listening to the woes and confidences of a woman while the sound of rain battering down on the tin roof almost drowns out the conversation and the draughts skirting around you, is a tremendous privilege. I was delighted when I first ploughed through mud, had pigs, hens, geese and what not receiving us first and then following us into the homes afterwards. Then I touch on the other extreme and visit people of means. It is restful to be in their beautiful homes and see how they, who are so hard to reach, are stirred by someone from another country. Each person in the community needs friendship with God and I love to see how the Legion breaks down stupid social barriers to bring us together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

So much seriousness! Did I tell you of the fiestas here? They start at 9 p.m. and go till dawn. They are all mad on "soul" as they call it here. There is a lovely rhythmic dance called the Cumbia. That is the favourite of all. Then you have the old-fashioned "corrido" which had me helpless laughing at first but now I like it. You and your partner dance bobbing from side to side in time to a quick beat. Then of course the "cueca"—the national dance. It is *the* dance for the "dieciocho"—the national day on the 18th September.

At those dances "being on duty 24 hours a day" is very literal for you see in their short-sightedness, people do not imagine apostolic folk to be so crazy about dancing. There must be something very attractive or noticeable about legionaries enjoying ourselves for invariably questions start flowing and it is surprisingly easy to speak of the Legion in a fiesta (but do not get the impression that we wait for *them* to contact *us!*).

During the first part of the summer we had about 18 young folk with us on extension. Needless to say we had little sleep, then we had a Chilean fiesta for those who were leaving us; so on Friday night we had a couple of hours sleep. On Saturday we had to go into another city and the car gave out. After looking till the early hours of the morning for someone to fix it, we had to give it up as a bad job and got emergency lodgings with a friend. We slept three to a single bed. (I did not think first it was possible to fit nor to sleep but we managed both.) On the Sunday we had the complicated journeying to get to Temuco. We arrived just in time to catch the night train to Santiago. It was a twelve hour journey spent sleeping on the floor. Those who could not sleep just kept tramping up and down and trampling over us. It was a hilarious journey with a real wit



A group of Rhodesian Legionaries visits Concilium. They are seen here with Concilium Officers at Legion Headquarters with their Spiritual Directors, Father Maphumo (second on left of statue) and Father Philip (standing), Father Sandler, former S.D. of Oskarstrom Curia, Sweden, is in the foreground.

behind us passing comments on the man snoring beside us. Chilean wit is out of this world.

When we got to Santiago on the Monday we still had a six hour journey ahead of us. This time we were three girls with two seats on the bus—so we took turns sitting on the floor and playing with the children. When we finally got to our destination at midnight it was almost too much for me when I saw I had a bed to myself and the prospect of a hot bath. It is very notable that legionaries always rise to the occasion not only heroically but with a sense of humour too!

That car by the way has got me in and out of more scrapes! It just goes along on rosaries—saves Concilium money!—and gives up when it feels it needs a rest! We've had one crash—when we did a full somersault in the air (landing upright) and had the windscreen broken when a passing lorry threw up a stone against it. The car has been pushed into action so many times but I tell you *not once* have I been left on my own without help when something has happened. Some knights of the road always appear out of nowhere.

All the roads in Chile bring some lovely surprises and it is marvellous to go driving past a whole line of the Andes with their snow-capped volcanoes. The sunsets are breathtakingly beautiful. On one side of you, you will see a whole golden coloured sky with streaks of amber zipping across it and on the other side the icy-blue haze of the mountains against a rosy background. The journey by plane to Punta Arenas is so exquisite that no-one can concentrate on anything else but looking out the window at the meringuey toppings of the mountains. The same happens passing the *cuesta* at Lastarria. It is so high up that you see a whole wide valley and mountain ranges set out before you. But one day I passed by,

it was covered in mist. It was like a different land—almost an ethereal existence. The mountain tops rolled down to meet the mist as if it were a great lake and there was one important looking volcano rising up to preside over his domain. Then the double rainbows, the rivers and lakes and the Pacific—just tremendous! You really would need a poet or an artist to convey this to you. The beauty of it all is my delight but my words cannot describe it so close your eyes and begin to picture it for yourself, using this paragraph as a little stepping stone.

And the Legionaries. What can I say but that I feel Our Lady has a special love for her Legion children for I definitely feel so much a part of that family. I have so many friends here and of so many different nationalities too. My dearest wish is to have time to get to know them better and to have them meet my friends from back home.

My crosses are sitting through boring meetings with half dead presidents following an agenda like a sacred ritual that must be carried out to the letter. Or folk who try to run the Legion *their* way and then blame lack of success on rigidity or say that we are antiquated. If there is a spirit of love and harmony you can do anything with the legionaries. Of course just as Christ said that he had come to divide men you can see that happening when there is opposition or criticism of legionaries or projects. The last project we were on was severely opposed but you should see the terrific chain of events it has had. Most of all it brought to the fore that spirit of sacrifice and generosity that is in all of us. It is a heady and fantastic experience to try to live as the first Apostles did!



Rev. Fr. Ludovico Lins, a German Missionary, Spiritual Director of the Legion in Rio Bueno, Chile, who has helped the Envoy, Roberta Connon, in extension in that area. He is a most convinced and enthusiastic Legionary priest.