



Maria Legionis

Maria Legionis

The Voice of the Legion of Mary

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INVITATION

The Editor and Board of Maria Legionis invite readers of Maria Legionis, and other legion members, to submit articles and other contributions with a view towards publication in future issues of the journal. Ideally, submissions should be made by e-mail attachments to: concilium@legion-of-mary.ie and marked 'Maria Legionis.'

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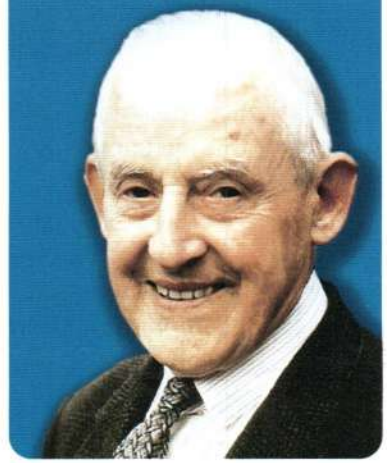
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More Woman than any other Woman



By Frank Duff



The Virgin Mary was the most perfect creature who ever came from the hands of God; yet her say in the world was barely noticed by her contemporaries! Despite the fact that she was so elevated by grace as to approach the borders of the divine, she remained none-the-less a woman. It was her divinely planned role to be true woman and true mother, and it would mar our relations with her for us to lose sight of that.

All the wonders accomplished in her did not diminish her womanhood, but indeed intensified it so that she was more a woman than any other woman. This sounds startling, but it is a truth proceeding from the circumstances that, unlike any other, she did not suffer from the warping of original sin. She began as a perfect woman. Then she became subject to the law of graces: her practice of virtue brought increase. She grew in holiness. With apparent contradiction in terms, her perfection became each new moment more perfect. When her earthly career came to an end, she was so full of grace that she had reached the limit of the human condition. She had responded faithfully to God's giving.

Mary, Pattern of all Womanhood

Mary was the original pattern in God's mind for all woman-kind. No other has achieved it. All other women fall short in some respects and in varying degrees. Some are too feminine. Others are insufficiently feminine. Softness need not mean gentleness, nor hardness strength. Interest may be only curiosity. Sentiment may not mean love. Prudery is not modest. Prudence may be only worldly caution. Courage may be really

recklessness. Calm may mask indifference. Honesty can be no more than shrewdness. Refinement may cover a multitude of sins. And so on through the gamut of human qualities. But there is in all these things an ideal point where balance lies. To fall short of it means defect. To go beyond it means defect. So if we were to think of the human race as a great mass inside a circle, all of its members would be at various distances and directions from that perfect point: the exact centre.

Mary is that centre, and there is no other with her, or indeed anywhere near her.

Let us have an enquiring, reverend look at this extra-ordinary creature. So great is she that it had been said that the angels rejoice more in her birth than in their own creation. So modest and normal that she could live under the intimate gaze of some 3,000 Nazareans without attracting undue notice.

What did she look like? We must not be misled by those pious pictures of her which show a good-looking face without character. Neither was she the spectacular type which would draw the eyes of everyone in a street. That would not be fitting. Obviously her beauty would be of a different sort, a quieter, nobler, unobtrusive kind. Truly there would be a perfection of feature. Her face would possess a spiritual quality which would be its supreme attraction but which would at the same time tend to veil the physical beauty. Plainly no artist could be expected to depict such a combined projection of nature and grace.

Therefore, in Our Lady we have to consider the presence and the interaction of those two types of beauty - or perhaps more than two? We will have an exquisite regularity of form - and then the Mother of God looking out through that lovely frame. The total effect of this would not, I imagine, be one of challenging beauty. Rather would it be submerged in that superior but elusive manifestation. To use an inadequate image, if ordinary light were

to shine strongly from a face, it would make it difficult to distinguish the features. It would not be anything in the nature of common light which would radiate from Our Lady's face, but a quality or characteristic which would go beyond description and beyond imagining. Such words as "kindliness" or "amiability" are ineffective, but contain the idea. Her aspect would be sweet, gentle, loving, maternal, unselfish, interested in you in limitless ways, so that if you met her and spoke to her, your whole being would expand toward her. She would lay hands on your heart.

A Picture of Mary

Probably she would not even be smiling. The expression would go deeper than that. I do not mean that she would never smile. Of course she would. But the abiding note would be that interest, love, motherhood, and hidden in all those things - strength, for she was a tremendous character, the strongest after her Son who ever lived. And in this connection it is to be remembered that it was from her that He obtained His human character and disposition. God did not do violence to that part of human generation.

Strength of character and mind was her special feature. She was an unparalleled person. The Immaculate Conception put her mind and body into a superior category to all others. She was intellectual, but not in the ordinary sense of that word which concentrates



on what the mind knows rather than on its essential quality. Degree of knowledge is a different thing from purity and perfection of intellect. So let it suffice to say that her mind was supremely great. She did not possess knowledge useless to her. But she had every quality in its highest form and in strict proportion, unlike ourselves in whom everything is unbalanced. She was that perfect centre which we always manage to miss.

Mary was educated in the precincts of the Temple. She was there from three

years of age. This meant that she received an education at the very height of that imparted to women of her time. It would be the equivalent of our best university training, but more suited to a woman's future. She would have a deep knowledge of the Scriptures, for this would be strictly necessary to her mission. Her acute memory and intelligence would lay open to her all its richness and hidden meanings. She probed the prophecies and sensed more of their symbolism than any of the scribes or scholars. But there is one thing the Scriptures did not reveal to her: that she herself was the promised Virgin, the Woman of Genesis.

Arts and Crafts

Mary would be capable in weaving, knitting, needlework, embroidery, and probably in drawing and painting. Her supreme genius would have to assert itself in all those departments, but it would not be in our modern technical method which to ideal standards probably represent exaggeration; and to Heaven perhaps a distortion. She would be expert in those arts in a healthy, rational way which would not be conspicuous. The purest water, you will realise, and the clearest glass, approach invisibility, and the same would apply to her qualities.

Most likely she was musical and sang much and merrily as a girl, and then to her Babe. Afterwards - we know not. The holy home was definitely not the seat of gloom. But likewise it was too much a place of destiny for light-hearted singing.

What way did she talk? It must have been according to the best rules of speech, for it was she who taught Our Lord to speak, and that had to be well. When men exclaimed of Him that "never did man speak as He did," they were no doubt referring to the subject matter. But we may be sure that His speaking was expressed in a worthy way, both as to accent and manner. Undoubtedly Mary came back to her native place speaking with the choicest Jerusalem accent, and exhibiting cultivated manners. Normally this would draw down on the returned one the imputation of airs, pretence, affectation, but not on her. Her transparent sincerity would ward off any such criticisms. Mary would have been a good pen-woman, notable in a time of

general illiteracy. She must have written many letters. It would be lovely to see one; what would the handwriting experts make of it? Botticelli's picture and others

show her often as with pen and ink bottle. One Sicilian town claims to have an actual letter of hers written to thank them for some service to the infant Church.

The Human Mary

How would Mary be dressed? After her marriage to St. Joseph she was not so well off. Some say they were very poor, but this is not certain, though they may

have been in difficulties during the Egyptian exile. It is sure that at her marriage she was elegantly clad, as every Jewish maiden had to be. It is evident that at the Cana wedding feast her position was one of respect and authority. At all times and in all circumstances she would be neatly, tastefully dressed; even though her clothing might be mended and patched. Cloth had to last long in those days as it was all laboriously made by hand.

Mary did not go barefoot, though many of the apparitions show her thus. Presumably she used the national footwear, sandals. A shoe of hers is preserved at Soissons in France which is reputed to have worked many miracles. Probably people in those days, as ever since, had two outfits, one of common wear and one for celebrations.

It is necessary when considering Mary to preserve that balance already insisted on. The contemplating of her as co-operator with the Holy Trinity, as Mediatrix of all Graces, and as Mother of every man - must not lead us to dehumanise her; that would be disastrous. So side-by-side with that vital, higher aspect, we must dwell on her as the real woman, with the woman's mind and qualities and with all the woman's problems. So far from being removed from us by her closeness in soul and blood to God, she is thereby brought the nearer to us. For we must always remember that she is our Mother in the most intimate, solicitous, understanding, and necessary way. It is imperative to know her.



Sixtieth Anniversary Celebrations of Alfie Lamb in Buenos Aires

By Noel Lynch



Noel Lynch and Noelia Garcia represented Concilium at these celebrations.

As Noelia Garcia was completing her extension work in Italy on behalf of Concilium, we decided to meet in London airport and travel together to Buenos Aires where we spent four days partaking in the 60th anniversary celebrations of Alfie Lamb.

There were many meetings with the different groups of legionaries who came from Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay and all the councils of Argentina. Noelia was able to explain in detail how Alfie's cause for beatification is progressing and the importance of keeping up the momentum.

Meetings were held separately with those legionaries who had the privilege of working with Alfie all those years ago; they gave testimonies of his humility, spirituality and his Legion life.

On **Sunday 20 January** Mass was held in the huge cathedral in the city centre of Buenos Aires which was packed to standing room with legionaries and with those who had learned about Alfie. Many street contacts were made at this time with the great crowds of onlookers.

Argentina at this moment is enjoying large numbers of tourists from all parts of the world.

During both days a continuous stream of legionaries passed Alfie's tomb in La Recoleta cemetery, stopping to pray the rosary and full legion prayers. Once one group had completed their praying, the next group commenced the rosary and full legion prayers at his tomb. As the crowds were so large, this took many hours in the scorching heat of the sun. The crowds of legionaries prayed the rosary in a slow and devout manner, giving time for each one to honor, pray and meditate the mysteries of each rosary.

Alex Craig, the great-grand nephew of Alfie, was present with his Argentinean wife Agustina.



Alex was surrounded at all times by groups of legionaries asking him many questions about Alfie's life, taking photos and getting his autograph. In appearance, Alex bears a striking resemblance to Alfie.

On *Monday 21 January*, Alfie's 60th anniversary, the church beside the cemetery was overflowing for the Mass. Later, all-day sessions took place in the parish centre in relation to Alfie's life where hundreds of legionaries attended.

Noelia was in great demand here and capable of answering all the queries relating to the Legion and to Alfie's life.

On *Tuesday 22 January* the ceremonies concluded with a visit to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lujan, with



a n o t h e r concelebrated Mass for Alfie in that beautiful basilica. As Noelia had to leave for Panama, the Senatus of Buenos Aires asked their assistant secretary,

Oswaldo Coronel to continue the Concilium visit with me to the Senatus of Salta in Northern Argentina. This entailed a twenty-two hour bus journey with the Salta legionaries who had been at the ceremonies in Buenos Aires.

The five-day visit to Salta was an extraordinary eye opener. On arrival there was a welcoming Mass and an opportunity to meet many of the city legionaries and some of the Senatus officers. The next few days were packed full of meetings with all the Senatus officers and with their spiritual director. They very humbly explained their problems and difficulties, as well as their good works and projects for the future.

Junior legionaries are very well looked after by their capable officers. Included in those days, the young legionaries in national costumes performed different local dances with music from their local instruments.



We were able to attend a Comitium meeting in a rural town which has many councils attached. The legionaries, who are not so poor, travel to meetings and do their Legion work on horse back.

During the months of February and March all legionaries have to help save the tobacco harvest which is handpicked. This is done from sunrise to sunset, and Legion contact work is done while working in the tobacco fields with fellow workers.



Oswaldo Coronel came on the visit to Salta and Bolivia

A one-day visit to the Regia of Jujuy was achieved, which stretches up the Alteplano on the border of Bolivia. The Legion exists in many towns where previously North American sects used to work.

Finally, Osvaldo and I flew to the Regia of Santa Cruz, Bolivia where we joined up with the La Paz Senatus officers during the four-day visit. At the close of this visit we gave them a written list of suggestions and recommendations to work on together.

This part of Bolivia is noted for its devotion to Our Lady and for its faithfulness to the sacraments. Many legionaries organise 5 am dawn rosaries and processions, which are attended by large groups of the faithful. The 7.30 am Sunday Masses are packed to overflowing with crowds of men and women, rich and poor, young people, and many families with their children.

The Regia of Santa Cruz has significant plans for extension -especially amongst the native peoples.



In this entire visit the presence of Our Lady was tangible - as was Alfie Lambe. In South America he is considered a very holy man.



Noelia Garcia and Noel Lynch at 60th Anniversary of Alfie

Venerable Edel Quinn: 75th Anniversary

By Raymond Mulrooney

“To suffer for Our Lord is my greatest joy.”



To mark the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the death of Venerable Edel Quinn on 12 May 1944, a commemorative Mass was celebrated by Fr. John Littleton in St. Mary's Dominican Priory, Tallaght, Dublin on 10 May 2019.

Reminiscing on his first connection with Venerable Edel Quinn, Fr. John Littleton remembered as a boy visiting his aunt in Dublin, where she had a picture of Edel in her sitting room.

Later he read Cardinal Suenens book on her life and discovered that he had something in common with her. During the many moves necessitated in the life of the Quinn family, due to her father's position as a manager of a national bank, Edel made her first Holy Communion in his parish church in Cahir, Co. Tipperary, where many years later he had done likewise.

Edel's love for the Eucharist took over her life, wanting to attend many Masses on Sunday mornings, while the rest of the week found expressions of how to serve the poor and deprived in society. Her discovery of the Legion of Mary became a powerful means of introducing the mothering of the Lord's

mother and the part we all should play in this service to the Mystical Body.



The lay apostolate became her means by which she could bring together in her life the Christian witness which we are all called to show. The sense of 'being sent' created in her a responsibility to go wherever the Legion might send her. She found her full expression in her years of missionary accomplishment in Africa, inspiring the clergy and the people with her enthusiasm and her self-sacrificing nature. Her influence is still being felt.

The illness that Edel experienced, especially on her many long journeys to mission stations, did not stop her achieving her goal to serve Jesus and Mary in bringing the faith to the African people. She was no slave to illness but drove on in love with her God. Her persistence and commitment to the Gospel was an example to all. She summed up her whole approach to suffering by saying: "To suffer for Our Lord is my greatest joy."

In the great example of Edel's self-sacrificing life, Fr. Littleton continued to tell of an incident in his aunt's home on a St. Patrick's Day, seeing a couple of Jehovah Witnesses going door-to-door, and marvelling at their commitment. Then he remembered, as a priest in Tipperary, rising at 4.30 am to celebrate Holy Mass for a group of legionaries going on PPC to England, to do precisely the same door to door evangelisation in the spirit of Venerable Edel Quinn!

The homily given on the 50th anniversary by Rev. Fr. Terence McLoughlin, O.P.

*"As you sent me into the world
I have sent them into the world"*

I come here for a very special reason tonight - I come here not to preach to you, I come here to sneak in and get one message across, which is a personal one - the reason I've come to know Edel. And if you permit me to tell you with gratitude that in the year of 1983 I had been in Lisbon, Portugal for 36 years, and towards the end of summer, I collapsed sick. It was totally against all my style of life and doctors were puzzled.

They took all the tests and I was diagnosed - and the message was sent home, unknown to me, to my family, that I had Myeloma and had six months to live. I discovered one night that I was being given chemotherapy - I had not been told that and it was a night that I had to think about. Meanwhile two Dominican sisters came to my bedside and they said: "we're going to pray to Edel Quinn for you." And they

went back to their convents, and Fatima took it up, Ireland took it up, South Africa took it up. The children in school had a sticker on their desks with the prayer which you read every day for the beatification of Edel. And I was taken home in a wheelchair to die.

The chemotherapy continued, the specialist that I was to see was down sick and could not appear for months. But when the tests were finally taken again, I was completely cleared of sickness. Now, I have no forensic proof that Edel Quinn intervened, but I personally appealed to no other heavenly patron but to her and through her to Mary and through Mary to Jesus. Having said that, I say thanks to Edel, and let's get on with the main part of what I have to say.

When I read what Edel had done in Africa, it is too puzzling for me to open even an atlas and to come to terms with these little places that she had visited under great hardships, especially in the rainy season, especially cadging lifts on trucks, on cars, in her own little "rolls royce", combating the muds of winter, being muddied from head to toe and catching all that Africa has to offer in the way of sickness - of dysentery, of malaria, of fever - and knowing that in her youth and in her young womanhood she was already a condemned woman.

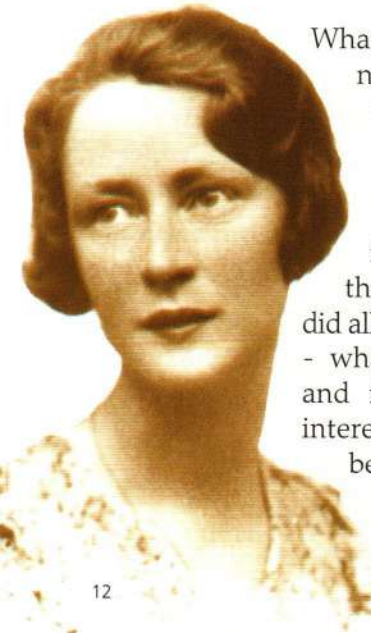
The doctors had given up on Edel Quinn and she should never, in all prudence, have been sent to Africa but she fought her way there, against dear old Fr. Magennis who said it was folly and foolishness to send her there; but she did go there because she knew where she was going. All her life Edel knew where she was going.

What interests me is not the vast travel, is not the extension work, is not the extraordinarily fatiguing work that Edel Quinn did all through her life - what interests me and is of perennial interest to all of us, because it touches on your life and on mine, is

what caused her, what gave her the strength and the coil of energy to take on this work. When God chooses his apostles he picks them very young, picks them within the family, picks them in schooling, picks them on the day of First Communion.

Edel was no ordinary girl, although she would pass for one. When she came to live in Dublin she was fashionably dressed like other girls of her time. There was no dowdiness in her dress and there was no lack of gaiety or life - she bubbled with life - she danced, she played the piano, she played tennis and anything you may wish. She swam and she was the most popular at any party. All the time she had a level of life, a depth of life which nobody guessed and which she herself tried to conceal.

Somewhere, and we cannot trace where, some sister or some parent or some influence had taught her that there is a God, not just whom one obeys but whom one walks with - that there is a God we follow for life and that it is good to be with our God, and that Holy Communion is the nearest on earth we will ever attain to being with him! So that every Sunday at every Mass she was to be found, and every weekday she was at 7 o'clock Mass and then, with no breakfast whatever except an apple in her back pocket, she went forth to work.



Maria Legionis

A girl like the rest who had a beautiful offer of marriage and who coloured and blushed at the thought of the embarrassment it would cause this young Frenchman who proposed to her in Jury's hotel - not knowing that she had already promised her life to another - to God.

She would have been a Poor Clare Sister if her health had held out. But her health did not hold out because God chooses them and knows where to put them. And her Poor Clare convent was not to be in Belfast. Her cloister was not there. Her cloister was the wide world - she had learned something from our Catherine of Sienna, that you do not need, necessarily, to live in a cell, you take your cell with you and that cell is open as the wide world. It is not really a cell, and not bound by a wall - it is only a cell in the sense that you are alone with God.

Edel relished and thrived and revelled in this aloneness with God. And it was from that strength of aloneness with God that she reached out to human beings and saw them in their dignity, in their nobility, saw them in their poverty, loved them in their poverty and went out to each and every one of them. And it was for that reason she poured out her life, a dying candle guttering out, until every ounce of that life had gutted away and the flame which spent itself over eight years in Africa guttered to extinction.

I am not interested, as I say, in her peregrinations through Central and

East Africa. I am interested in the principles that guided her. I am interested in what happens when one is near to God. I am interested in the fact that instinctively she obeyed God in everything. In Chapter 5 of the Acts it says: "*The holy spirit is given to the one who obeys*", and she learned to obey and she had the Holy Spirit. Wasn't it strange that even her family noticed the wisdom the child had, whilst yet a child, - they called her granny - because she had a Christian instinct of what to do.

She had a Christian instinct, an infallible instinct and when people would try to dispute this and that, she knew. She would never reveal her sources; she kept that secret of the King - the intimacy of the King to herself, only when people almost forced her hand.

Edel also had this gift of serenity. Because when she discovered the Legion of Mary, which was the great weapon which she used in life, she discovered there that extraordinarily simple secret of Mary - of consecration, of dedication, of commitment total to God, through Jesus through Mary, and solemnly she asked her confessor and director about this - would it be alright to take a vow, giving all to Mary, giving her life's work, giving her sufferings, giving even the merits she might possibly obtain - and Fr. Culligan said "yes, I believe it would." And he knew at that moment that she had long since done it.

WHEN YOUR LIFE IS GIVEN TO GOD NOTHING CAN HAPPEN.

When we hand over our lives to God but totally, nothing can happen that life. It is indestructible, even though a man be persecuted, even though he die, it is indestructible. The serenity that comes from the fact that God's life is hidden in the hollow of God's hand and nothing can touch it - nothing at all can touch it. Also, the joy that comes from being close to God - because I was thinking of the beautiful image that we have at home. Many of us have televisions and many of them have rented televisions. The man with the rented television is a lot happier because he doesn't give a hang what happens to it, because it is only rented, and if it goes wrong he will send for the maker and he will get a better one.

When your life is given to God nothing can happen. The serenity that comes from that! Nobody can browbeat you. This accounted for the fearlessness and the optimism of Edel Quinn. The fact that she was one bubble of joy, that she was happiness all through.

Her life and death took place fifty years ago. Her works in Africa are only being discovered. Book after book - and wonderful books they are, and they should be read, and it is due

to my interest in Edel Quinn I began to read her books and realise the depth of spirituality behind her - the real life beneath the apparent life, is the real riches of Edel Quinn. The simplicity of walking with God. The utter stark generosity of handing over her life at such an early age and resting tranquil and secure that everything was safe - that all things work for the best for those who love God.



I pray that we can learn some of her traits, like the long-lost trait of obedience which is lacking nowadays; the long-lost utter generosity of commitment which is not in evidence nowadays, whereby a person gives his whole life and not for a week or a day at whim but forever, generously and irretractably; the joy of Holy Communion; of being with Our Lord; the glory of walking with Him day by day. I ask, personally, for these graces and gifts, I ask for a share in her spirit, I ask it for myself and I ask it for you.

Note: Homily at the 50th Anniversary Mass for Edel Quinn in St. Saviour's Dominican Church, Dublin at which Most Rev. Dr. Williams, Auxiliary to the Archbishop of Dublin was chief concelebrant. His Excellency Archbishop Emmanuel Gerada, Apostolic Nuncio, presided.

The picture on the front cover is the famous painting entitled 'The Sistine Madonna' painted in 1513 by the High-Renaissance artist, Raphael.



The painting was commissioned by Pope Julius II in honour of his late uncle Pope Sixtus IV as an altarpiece for the basilica-church of the Benedictine Monastery of San Sisto in Piacenza, Italy; and it is from this monastery of San Sisto that the painting receives its name as the Sistine Madonna. It is an oil painting on canvas and measures 265cm X 196cm, and is now on display in the Gemaldegalerie Alte Meister, Dresden.

In commissioning the painting, Pope Julius stipulated that the two third - century martyrs- Pope Saint Sixtus II and Saint Barbara must be included in the painting.

A green curtain drawn back and looped up at the sides frames the Virgin, who with the Child Jesus, seems to float on clouds. She is in her bare feet and is clothed in her traditional blue and red.



On the left the Martyr-Pope Sixtus II is kneeling. He looks up at the Virgin and Child, and with his right hand points out to an invisible audience as if to say: "Look at those who come to pay homage to you and worship the Holy Child. In deference to the Virgin and Child, the pope has taken off his papal tiara and leaves it in the corner, next to where the two cherubs are sitting. He is clothed in gold and white-the official colours of the papacy. On the right side is Saint Barbara-patron saint of gunners, lightning, and all who risk their lives at work. Unlike Pope Sixtus, she is not looking at the Madonna and Child, but down at the two cherubs. The Madonna, Child, Pope Sixtus and Saint Barbara each have haloes over their heads, but these are now scarcely visible due to the passage of centuries.

The Sistine Madonna has been hailed as 'supreme among the world's paintings.' It is possibly the most famous painting by the most famous artist of the most famous art period in recorded history.



Cana Reflection

By Killian McMorrough

The congregation in a Dublin church was blessed to hear a recent homily which drew a lovely lesson from the story of the wedding feast of Cana.

A marriage, the priest said, can be compared to the wine at Cana. When first married, a couple are enjoying the fine wine of the blissful love of the start of their lives together. However, that manner of love is unlikely to continue. When the realities of the challenges which are faced become clearer, the early romantic-type nature of the bond diminishes, 'The wine fails', and it becomes clear that it, of itself, could not sustain the relationship and the vocation.

What couples should not do at that point is panic, the homily continued. They must instead look to the Lord. They must seek the miracle which is told in the story of Cana.

The metaphor could be extended: the water which the Lord changes into what is in fact a better wine, might be said to represent a couple's problems, doubts and fears, emerging perhaps after the first year or two. The urns in which the water is to be put, formerly

used to contain water with which to wash, might represent the history which both parties bring to their union. By seeking from Jesus the miracle of Cana in their lives, their problems, the priest told us, can be overcome and indeed transformed into the stuff of a deeper, closer and more loving bond; the couple can have an abundant supply of what is a better wine and a union which will endure.

The Servant of God Frank Duff explains in his essay: 'Our Lady of Cana', that it is Our Lady who asks Our Lord to perform His first recorded miracle. A miracle which can rescue the couple's wedding day from humiliation; and it is Our Mother Mary who is aware of, and draws the situation to His attention in the first place; and it was she who directs the servants to follow His instructions. The Servant of God Frank Duff describes this as an epochal moment, touching 'infinite chords', which indicate the mystery of the co-redemptrix.

They must instead look to the Lord.





And he continues: 'But thou hast kept the good wine until now' is 'a memorable phrase which rockets down through history into our every-day language. But later on there will be still better Wine – that of the Eucharist!'

So, the struggling couple of today have a means of conveying their prayers to Our Lord in order that they may receive the grace they require for their family life. By telling Our Lady of their situation, they can know that she will convey it to Our Lord, because when

she became His Mother she became the Mother of all humanity. In fact they must ask our Blessed Mother to communicate for them, for it is to His Mother that Jesus will listen best: 'mercifully grant that whoever comes to you seeking your favours may rejoice to receive all of them through her.'

Mary will hear and convey the plea of the heart with her gentle love, so that her Son, the Son of God, can answer with the infinite love of the Blessed Trinity. Our Lady of Cana, pray for us.

*They must seek the miracle which is told
in the story of Cana.*

First Legion Praesidium among the Indians in British Columbia, Canada

By Michael Walsh

Yet another proof of the adaptability of the Legion of Mary is shown in the announcement of the establishment of a branch among the **Cowichan Indians in Duncan, British Columbia, Canada in late 1931**. This praesidium is the result of queries concerning the Legion made by Fr. Neway, S.M.M., the lone missionary of Duncan, who, acting on the advice of the Concilium President in Dublin, decided to try the experiment of introducing the organisation to the Cowichans. In a letter received in Dublin Fr. Neway says: "The Legion is just what I have been dreaming of for years. But little did I think that I would be so favoured as to realise my dream among the local people of Our Heavenly Mother... I read your Handbook carefully, noted how well the Legion was adapted to the needs of all people and then boldly put it to the test."

Fr. Neway goes on to describe the difficulties that confronted him, not the least being the fact that "most of my Indians cannot read, and even those who can, could never understand the Handbook." So he decided to take practical steps to bring home its meaning. He says: "I simply invited all

the Indian Braves to attend a trial meeting of the Legion. They came and were deeply impressed. Then I risked another trial meeting. I conducted these meetings exactly as described in the Handbook. I assigned work, etc., but told my Braves that they did not have to do this work, as these were only trial meetings. But some of them decided to try the work. And when I saw that they meant business, I called a real meeting on the Eve of Our Lady's Nativity and received five men into the 'Mother of God' praesidium of the Legion of Mary.





In order to accommodate those Indians who could not read, Fr. Neway says: "I shall do my utmost to render the Catena in the Cowich language. Now that we have started, I hope to be able to give you encouraging news before long. The language question is a drawback, but this will come in God's good time."

The 'encouraging news' came on 24th Nov. 1932 in the form of an update by Fr. Walter M. Neway S.S.M. on the new praesidium: "Mother of God" praesidium is doing well. We have seven members who are most active. The regular meeting is held each Wednesday evening at 7.30 p.m. The rules as laid down in the Handbook are followed to the letter. Although we

have not been long established, we have been able to put the Legion to the test and we can say that the results so far are encouraging. A weekly visit is made to the hospital. One member is busy instructing a 48 year-old Indian for his first Holy Communion. Two others are looking after the Indian children in our day schools; the others are visiting the sick in the poor areas. We are even preparing to put on a stage play for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. We have also started a study group. Now we are taking up a course of Christian Apologetics. Are we attempting too much? I do not think so. Rest assured that we shall continue to pray in a special way for the success of our beloved Legion." *Fr. Neway.*



Footnote: Duncan, named after William Chalmers Duncan, who in May of 1862 arrived in Victoria (capital city of the Canadian province of British Columbia on the southern tip of Vancouver Island off Canada's Pacific Coast), today has a population of about 5,000 people. Duncan, situated up-stream of the Cowichan River's estuary on Vancouver Island serves the Cowichan Valley with a population of 80,000, many living in North Cowichan. The name Cowichan is an anglicisation of Halkomelem, which means 'the warm land.'

The First Legion Praesidium in the Philippines

By Michael Walsh

MANILLA:

On 21 July 1940, nineteen years after the Legion of Mary was founded in Myra House, No.100 Francis Street, Dublin, the first praesidium in the Philippines was established at the Hospicio de San Jose in Manila.



Hospicio de San Jose on an island in the middle of the Pasig River



Manila Metropolitan Cathedral-Basilica

1942 - 45:

In 1942 the Philippines was quickly cut off from the outside world and for several years - until the liberation in 194 - little news reached the Concilium in Dublin about the development of the Legion in Manila.

At the time of the Japanese invasion of the Philippines during World War II, there was one Curia with twelve praesidia attached. On liberation, it was found that there was a Comitium, three senior Curiae, a junior Curia, and over one hundred praesidia in the Archdiocese of Manila. A Senatus was established with Spanish Vincentian Father, the Reverend Manual A. Garcia, C. M. Spiritual Director.

During the next four decades the Holy Spirit and Our Lady seem to have been at work in a wondrous way. The Legion in the Philippines not only grew at an incredible rate in active and auxiliary membership, but supplied Envoys such as Joaquina Lucas, one of the founder members of the Legion in Manila, who promoted the Legion in South America, Portugal, Japan, Indonesia and Korea from 1946 onwards, and Pacita Santos who was an Envoy to Spain from 1950 to 1959.

1982 - 85:

By 1982 there were 200,000 active members and 14,700 praesidia in the Philippines. By 1985, Santo Tomas University alone boasted 18 praesidia and there were a total of 15,500 praesidia in the country. Legion

founder, Frank Duff was in awe at the rate of expansion.

Since that time, the Legion has continued spreading throughout the Philippines with multiple councils established, influencing millions of lives decade by decade to the present day, thanks to wonderful support from the hierarchy and the apostolic spirit of the people.

As the Legion approaches its 100th Anniversary, Concilium is delighted to look back at the first seeds sown at the Hospicio de San Jose on an island in the middle of the Pasig River, Manila. From small beginnings at that location, the Legion has blossomed and spread its wings across the vast territory and many islands of the Philippines.



The late Archbishop O'Doherty of Manila, who had seen the picture in the Philippines so dramatically changed by the advent of the Legion, once stated: *"I can now dream dreams and I say to myself: This is the only Catholic nation of the Orient, why should it not convert the Orient?"*

The origin of Peregrinatio Pro Christo - PPC

By Jack Fearon

The Peregrinatio Pro Christo movement evolved from a praesidium meeting in University College, Dublin, in 1958 when at the end of the meeting the President asked: "Is there any other business?" One member declared that they were soon to break for summer holidays and many planned to take summer jobs in canning factories in England. He suggested that they go to the factories in organised groups. There, they could contact fellow students also working and encourage them to attend Sunday Mass, as many were neglectful when away from home. They agreed to try out the scheme. It was a remarkable success. They came back with glowing reports on their summer work which they called the Holiday Apostolate.

The following year they decided to expand the work by inviting students from other universities and teachers, with long summer holidays, to join them. This was also very successful, and the project gained momentum. The Concilium was keeping a watchful watch and became very interested in the new apostolate.

Frank Duff said: "why restrict it to those with long holidays; Why not open it up to those who can give no more than a week!" Those who could volunteer for only a week initially worked in Central London. They met the boat-trains from

Ireland on arrival at the stations and contacted arriving immigrants who needed advice on getting to their destinations, etc. British Rail was very helpful and placed a small office on the station platform, with a telephone, at the disposal of the Legion. Other works included crowd contacts at Tower Hill, Speaker's Corner, Hyde Park, and Soho Square.

The Holiday Apostolate went from strength to strength and expanded into parish work.



It was renamed Peregrinatio Pro Christo, PPC, which means 'Journeying for Christ', and had been the motto of the 6th to 8th centuries Irish monks who left Ireland to re-convert Europe after the collapse of the Roman Empire.

The PPC, which has now spread throughout the Legion world, commenced with the simple question: "Any other business?" at the end of a praesidium meeting in University College Dublin in 1958.

True Devotion to the Nation

By Finola Kennedy

Fifty-five years ago, at the Whit Conference in 1965, Frank Duff described Mary as the key to True Devotion to the Nation (TDN). Mary sees Christ in all men. She looks on His life as a whole. She wants to remedy anything wrong in the life of His members. This is the basis of TDN - a spiritualised service of the community. The Legion speaks of serving Christ in the Mystical Body. The Legion does not speak of the Mystical Soul. It is the doctrine of the Mystical Body which links the Legion to the Nation. TDN calls on the legionary to look at the whole person, to look at the whole community in which the person lives.

Regarding TDN, the Handbook says: "The Legion has a compelling motive for the service of the community. It is that Jesus and Mary were citizens of Nazareth. They loved that town and their country with a religious devotion, for to the Jews faith and fatherland were so divinely intertwined as to be but one. Today the world is their country and each place is their Nazareth." No doubt that Frank Duff loved the City of Dublin and Ireland and it was a sense of true patriotism which sparked his work on TDN. It should not be forgotten that he spent twenty-six years as a civil servant, entering the Land Commission in 1908 as a Second Division Clerk and leaving the Department of Finance in 1934 as an Assistant Principal Officer.

TDN can be brought to life either by full-scale projects or by smaller, more piece-meal, but no less important, work. The earliest TDN projects go back to the 1950s in Inchigeela in Co Cork and Tuosist in Co Kerry where legionaries carried out remedial work, cleaning and painting and generally improving the appearance of those towns to make them more attractive to visitors and residents alike.

In the booklet on TDN, Frank Duff says that every citizen should be prepared to give one hour each week in voluntary service of the nation. The Legion

could help to facilitate this in each locality by helping to recruit for various appropriate initiatives; for example, Tidy-Towns work, Active-Retirement Groups or Irish-Language Groups. In a talk given to *An Realt* in 1971, Frank Duff gave an intriguing analysis of the Irish Language in which he observed that Mary, the Mother of God, has a special name, Muire, while others named Mary are called Máire in Irish.

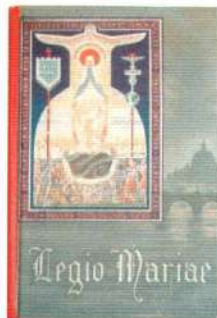
The Legion does not exist only to promote the Legion. The Handbook speaks of promoting Parish Societies so that the Legion could help to promote those groups as part of TDN.

An area of great importance and one which is of particular concern to the young is the environment. The topic was the subject of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si*. The Latin title was taken from St Francis of Assisi, 'Praise be to you Lord'. The title used in English was 'Care for our Common Home.' Frank Duff had a horror of waste and legionaries were involved in saving waste paper decades before the arrival of the Green Bin!

To integrate TDN work into the ordinary work of the praesidium, legionaries first of all need to know about it.

Legionaries can learn about TDN by reading the booklet which Frank Duff wrote and by reading the references to TDN in the Handbook. Frank Duff also wrote an article on TDN in the collection, 'Woman of Genesis.' To convert knowledge into action,

TDN will need to feature on the agenda of praesidia. Or perhaps one praesidium would undertake as its special concern the way forward for TDN. It has never been needed more.



The Miraculous Medal: Badge of Consecration to Mary

By Paul Moran

This article briefly examines the timing and the significance of the Miraculous Medal, and the apparition of Our Lady to St Catherine Laboure in 1830, which precipitated the declaration of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception, proclaimed by Pope Pius IX in 1854.

Remarkably, four years later in 1858, Our Lady appeared to St Bernadette, at the Grotto in Lourdes, and declared: "I am the Immaculate Conception." The medal of the Immaculate Conception, as it was originally known, represents a universal call to intimacy with Our Lady, a call more relevant today in our crisis of faith. In these times it is absolutely crucial for souls to seek refuge in Mary's Immaculate Heart, where no infernal demon may enter. Few can doubt that the Church is now in the throes of purification, and only those who are consecrated to Jesus, through Mary, will remain faithful to the Catholic faith. So, in the words of Frank Duff: "If you do not understand Our Lady, you do not understand Christianity."

The Age of Mary

One ought to take into consideration the appearance of the Miraculous Medal, and the simultaneous discovery of De Montfort's treatise on 'True Devotion to Mary' in the 19th Century. Their complementarity is most striking. They make more sense in the light of the events of Fatima. Both the medal and the treatise appeared at the dawning of the darkest times in human history, when atheistic philosophies were about to be unleashed upon Christianity, especially in European culture, causing the death of faith in countless individuals. The apparitions of Our Lady in the Rue De Bac and her gift of the Miraculous Medal, together with the Marian theology of St Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort, have effectively heralded in the Age of Mary.



*"The primary and basic reason for our love of Mary is that it is God's will."
Cardinal Leon Joseph Suenens.*

Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

There are many signs to support the birth of the Marian Age. Let us consider just a few. Apart from the obvious dogmas of the Immaculate Conception, and the Assumption, one has to take into account the surge of heavenly visits of Mary. One also cannot overlook the emergence of the worldwide Legion of Mary, whose spirituality embraces De Montfort's 'True Devotion,' and has established the Miraculous Medal on its Standard. Similarly, we must not overlook St. Maximilian Kolbe and his Crusade of Mary Immaculate, more recently the Marian Movement of Priests, and the election of Pope John Paul II. The common thread among these is their consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and propagation of the wearing of the Miraculous Medal and Brown Scapular. The Legion of Mary insists on total dependence on Mary, and absolute loyalty to the Magisterium. All legionaries are required to renew their consecration to Mary at their annual Acies ceremony. In the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, while holding the Legion Standard, the legionary exclaims: "I am all yours, my Queen and my Mother, and all that I have is yours."



Now let us listen to St Catherine Labouré's own account of how Our Lady presented the Miraculous Medal to the world in 1830.



The First Apparition: the night of 18/19 July, 1830

"On the eve of the feast (St. Vincent de Paul), our good Mother Martha gave us the instruction on devotion to the saints, and in particular on devotion to the Blessed Virgin. I had been yearning to see her for such a long time and I went to sleep thinking that St. Vincent would obtain this grace for me.

About half-past eleven in the evening, I heard someone calling my name: "Sister! Sister!"

A child of four to five years old dressed in white said to me: "Come to the Chapel, the Blessed Virgin is waiting for you."

At once, the thought came to me: but someone will hear me!

"Be tranquil, it is half-past eleven, everyone is sound asleep; come, I am waiting for you."

I dressed quickly and stood beside this child. I followed him. Lights were glowing everywhere. As I reached the entrances to the chapel, the door swung open; the child had barely touched it with his fingertips. The candelabra were burning brightly just as for Midnight Mass. However, I did not see the Blessed Virgin. The child led me into the sanctuary, and there I knelt down. Near midnight the child said to me:

"Look! The Blessed Virgin is here."

I heard a noise like the rustling of a silk robe. A very beautiful lady was sitting in the Father Director's armchair. The child then said to me once again in a strong voice: "Here is the Blessed Virgin."

I leaped towards her, fell on my knees at her feet on the steps of the altar, and put my hands on her knees.

I don't know how long I stayed there: it was the sweetest moment of my life.

The Holy Virgin told me how I should comport myself with regard to my Director and confided to me several things... (Here we have the essence of these things revealed later, in 1876, in an account written in her own hand, some months before her death.)

"My child, the Good God wishes to entrust you with a mission. It will cause you much suffering, but you will overcome this, knowing that you are doing it for the glory of God. You will be contradicted, but you have the grace;

don't be afraid. You will see certain things; give an account of them; you will be inspired in your prayers."

"The times are evil. Misfortune will befall France: the throne will be overthrown... the entire world will be overwhelmed by evils of all kinds... but: come to the foot of this altar. There, graces will be poured on all those who ask for them with confidence and fervour. They will be poured out on the great and the humble."

I was unaware of how much time had gone by. The Virgin disappeared like a light that fades away.

The second apparition took place on 27 November, 1830.

It was the Saturday before the first Sunday of Advent. It was 5:30 in the evening. In the silence, immediately after the point of meditation had been read, I seemed to hear some noise coming from the side of the tribune; looking to that side, I saw the Blessed Virgin. She was standing and was wearing a white silk robe: the colour of dawn; her feet were resting on a "globe" of which I could see only half; in her hands, raised at the level of her breast, she held a globe effortlessly; her eyes were raised heavenwards... her face was utterly beautiful; I could not describe it.

At that moment, as I looked at her, the Blessed Virgin lowered her eyes, looked at me, and an inner voice said to me:

"The globe that you see represents the entire world, particularly France... and each person in particular."

Here, I don't know how to express what I felt and what I saw, the beauty and brilliance of the rays were magnificent!..

The voice said to me again:

"This is the symbol of the graces which I will pour out on the persons who ask me for them."

At that moment, ... a sort of oval formed around the Blessed Virgin and on it were written these words in golden letters: "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you."

Then I heard a voice saying:

"Have a medal struck on this model. The persons who wear it will receive great graces; the graces will be inexhaustible for those who have confidence."

Some of the precious stones emitted no rays....

"The stones which give off no rays represent the graces that people forget to ask me for."

Suddenly, the picture seemed to turn: I saw the reverse of the medal with the letter M surmounted by a Cross, and below it, two hearts, one encircled with a crown of thorns, and the other pierced with a sword.

I seemed to hear a voice saying to me:

"The M and the two hearts say enough!" Mary, Jesus...two sufferings joined for our redemption.

Extraordinary Conversion

One of the most famous of the early miracles pertaining to the Miraculous Medal is the extraordinary conversion of the Jewish anti-Catholic journalist, Alphonso Ratisbonne,



who was given a Miraculous Medal by a friend. He confessed that he wore the medal only to prove to his friend its uselessness! To his astonishment, Our Lady appeared to him, and infused in him the truth of the Catholic faith, to the extent that he needed no instructions to receive the sacrament of Baptism. He later became a Catholic Priest, and dedicated himself to the conversion of the Jews in Palestine.

The Nominal Catholic

Many Catholics do not have a true understanding of the theology of the sacraments. Clearly, mediocracy flourishes when the fire of the Holy Spirit is not burning in hearts. The tragedy is that a new type of Catholic is emerging, the nominal Catholic, that is, Catholic in name only. This is evident when Catholics present their children for the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation, and afterwards rarely darken the door of a Church. One of the reasons for this is that Catholics have lost a sense of a sacramental mentality. Therefore, the body language of reverence is seldom witnessed in Church.

Hence, empty pews on Sunday mornings, and unused confessionals. This is a tragedy.

Sacraments are Signs of Christ and of His Presence in the Church

One may ask why was there not seven jars to represent the seven sacraments at the wedding feast in Cana? It is because Jesus Himself is the Eucharist, the Seventh Jar, so to speak. He Himself is the New Wine that fills the other six sacraments. Thus, the seven sacraments derive their essence from Jesus Christ; they are not of human origin. They are given to the Church by Christ Himself, and are signs of His presence in the Church.

Grace is a Participation in the Life of God

By contrast the sacramentals are given to us through the Church. There are numerous sacramentals, such as a crucifix, scapulars, holy water, blessed salt, medals, holy pictures, holy oil, statuettes, etc. To be valid they have to be blessed by a Catholic Priest. They are not lucky charms. They are instruments that direct us to God, and promote spiritual wellbeing in all its multiple forms, which include protection against the forces of evil. Whether a sacrament or a sacramental, they are part of God's imputation of grace in the life of the baptised. Grace is, of course, a participation in the life of the Trinity. St Maximilian tells us: "Grace comes to us from the Father, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,



through Mary." De Montfort's tells us: "This is the will of God, who wished us to have all things through Mary; if, therefore, there is in us any hope, any grace, any salutary gift, we know it comes to us through Mary." (TD 141).

The pictorial theology inscribed on the Miraculous Medal, is not of human construct, and reflects the indivisibility of Christology, Ecclesiology and Mariology. The front of the medal depicts Mary as the Mediatrix of all Graces; the New Eve who distributes the life of grace to her children. On the back of the medal the Church is symbolically depicted by the twelve stars representing the twelve Apostles, or twelve Tribes of Israel; all are images of the Church, and in the wider sense all nations. Hence, Our Lady is Mother of the Church, and of all Nations.

Sign of Predestination

To highlight the significance of wearing the Miraculous Medal, I draw your attention to the miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe imprinted on St Juan Diego's tilma. The image of Mary is an outward sign of an inward reality of belonging to Our Lady, and symbolises intimacy with her. Why should not the child reflect his mother's image? Did not Jesus reflect His own Mother's image? Did not Our Saviour give us the added gift of His own Mother? Hence, De Montfort stated: "All the true children of God, the predestinate, have God for their Father, and Mary for their Mother." (TD 30). Therefore, the image of Mary on the tilma of our souls does not conflict with our being made in the image and likeness of God. On the contrary, it is a sign of predestination. St Louis De Montfort informs us: "The most terrible of all the enemies which God has set up against the devil is His Holy Mother" (TD 52). Thoughts such as these ought to encourage us to wear the Miraculous Medal.

Victory comes through Mary

Mary's cooperation in our salvation is reflected on the medal. Her medal, with the sign of the Cross, commemorates Christ's victory of over Satan. Hence, the V for victory is contained within the letter M, surmounted by the Cross. Beneath the Cross are the two hearts of Jesus and Mary, the New Adam and the New Eve. This evokes the proto gospel in Genesis 3:15: I will put enmities between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he shall crush thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel.

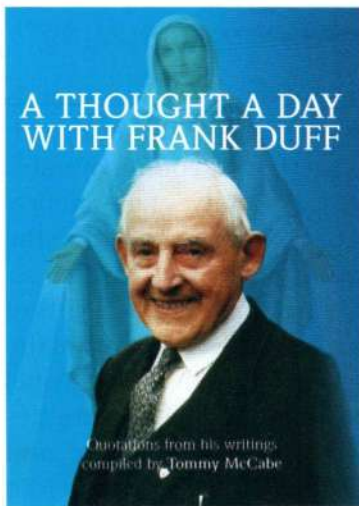
Finally

Saint Ambrose points out: "He who could create all things from nothing would not remake his ruined creation without Mary. God is the Father of the created world and Mary is the Mother of the re-created world." Consequently, De Montfort makes this bold statement: "The more the Holy Spirit finds Mary, His dear and inseparable spouse in a soul, the more active and mightier He becomes in producing Jesus Christ in that soul."

Finally, wearing the Miraculous Medal makes a statement to Satan, and to the world: 'I am a Child of God!'



Uncorrupted body of St Catherine Labouré, can still be seen today at the Mother House of the Daughters of Charity in The Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, 140 Rue du Bac in Paris.



A THOUGHT A DAY WITH FRANK DUFF

Compiled by Tommy McCabe

- Frank Duff:** The President of a Legion praesidium or council must urge each one because God want from each person the maximum of his capacity.
- Frank Duff:** Mary was versed in the scriptures. She already knew full well that she was to be the Mother of the Man of Sorrows.
- Frank Duff:** Suffering is always a grace.
- Frank Duff:** Mass missed by children a bishop held to be one of the chief sources of all later trouble.
- Frank Duff:** It is a divine grace to give along with an office every grace required for its adequate discharge.
- Frank Duff:** The special glory of charity is to understand others. There is no greater need in this sad world than such gift.
- Frank Duff:** The Vatican Council tells us for the first time that the apostolate is a necessary part of the life of every lay person. It is a corollary and a novel idea that the lay apostolate should be equally necessary to the life of the priest.
- Frank Duff:** The more numerous the contacts, the more numerous will be the conversions.

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



Praises of Mary



Mary is the stem of the beautiful flower on which the Holy Spirit rests with the fullness of His gifts. Hence, those who want to obtain the seven gifts of the Spirit must seek the flower of the Holy Spirit on the stem [Mary]. We go to Jesus through Mary, and through Jesus we find the grace of the Holy Spirit. *St. Bonaventure*

While remaining the Mother of our Judge, Mary is a Mother to us, full of mercy. She constitutes our protection. She keeps us close to Christ, and she faithfully takes the matter of our salvation into her charge.

St. Peter Canisium

Many will not let devotion to the Blessed Virgin even take root in their hearts. But blessed is the person who accepts this grace and keeps it. Such devotion dwells in all who are the Lord's heritage - in all who will praise Him eternally in heaven.

St. Alphonsus Liguori

The salvation of the whole world began with the "Hail Mary." Hence, the salvation of each person is also attached to this prayer.

St. Louis Grignon de Montfort

Seek refuge in Mary because she is the city of refuge. We know that Moses set up three cities of refuge for anyone who inadvertently killed his neighbour.

Now the Lord has established a refuge of mercy, Mary, even for those who deliberately commit evil. Mary provides shelter and strength for the sinner.

St. Anthony of Padua

Those who have great devotion to Mary not only will be saved but also will, through her intercession, become great saints. Furthermore, their holiness will grow from day to day.

St. Vincent Palotti



Curiae and 10 praesidia has 4,500 active legionaries with 188 probationers. All reports to the attached **Regia of Tuxla Gutierraz** indicate home visitation and care of the sick, with large numbers returning to the practice of the faith and reception of the sacraments. In **Guadalajara Regia**, prison visitation is widespread; legionaries lead prayers, and where requested they prepare prisoners for the sacraments. The comitium of Mazatlan attached to the **Durango Regia** reported an increase in active and auxiliary members. Results from the apostolate show an increase in Church attendance- particularly by young people. The Acies was celebrated in a prison for members of the praesidium there. The Regia reported a very successful effort was made in June to promote Consecration of the homes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. A talk was organised in a seminary to introduce the seminarians to the Legion. In addition to other works, legionaries in **Monterrey Regia** organise public rosaries with very good attendance. Book-barrow work is also very successful. A club for children with special needs is run by legionaries; this club includes a catechism class.

CANADA: The **Senatus of Toronto** acknowledged Msgr. Sheehy's retirement as their Spiritual Director, after 45 years of devoted service. Their Korean Comitium, with three Curiae attached, conduct religion classes, visit the sick and welcome newcomers. The Curia in Niagara has 17 senior and 2 junior praesidia attached. An extension project had 38 legionaries visiting 990 homes, making contact with 65 Catholics and 216 non-Catholics. A lady and a family returned to the Catholic Church from the Pentecostal Church. At a Legion booth at the Steubenville Conference for Youth, 29 seniors and 27 juniors took part, making 314 contacts and sharing their Legion experience. Many contacts were made also at a 'Men of

Faith' Conference with 20 men participating. The attached Winnipeg Curia has 19 senior praesidia and three junior praesidia. Legionaries in the Mississauga Comitium made numerous contacts at a shopping mall. **Montreal Senatus** held a successful Congress. They established a junior praesidium of nine members aged between 12 and 17 years. A monthly recruiting report shows five active members per month recruited. A monthly Frank Duff prayer meeting is held. Two Exploratio Dominicalis projects were carried out with a new praesidium formed in Quebec. From June to September, an attached Curia organises an Adoration event called Lumiere dans la Ville on First Saturdays from 5pm until 10pm during which they do crowd contact in the vicinity of the Church; as a result, 125 – 175 people visited to do Adoration. A praesidium in **Edmonton Comitium** reported the promotion and organising of junior retreats for boys and girls aged 7 to 16 years. A praesidium reported contacting people after setting up an 'Evangelisation Booth' during the Chinese New Year celebrations. Another praesidium had success in recruiting new members for the Legion by approaching auxiliary members and asking them if they would consider another form of service to Our Lady. A Curia in **Vancouver Comitium** reports that during Family Rosary Crusade legionaries guided a non-Catholic man to conversion to the Catholic Faith, receiving Baptism, and Confirmation. A prayer meeting for the promotion of the Frank Duff Cause has been established.

EUROPE

BELGIUM: The works of two praesidia in **Brussels Senatus** are home and hospital visitation, visiting those living alone and visiting a nursing home to prepare residents for Mass. A family who had become involved with a sect were visited. One daughter had four

children and had been abandoned by her husband. The legionaries advised the mother to pray the Rosary morning and evening. On a subsequent visit they found that the mother had returned to practice each Sunday and that her daughter had become much more positive in her outlook. An apostolate to street girls is carried out during which Miraculous Medals and Rosaries are offered and nearly always accepted.

DENMARK: The praesidium in Copenhagen holds its meetings each Sunday at 3 pm with an average attendance of between 10 and 13 members. Works being done are visiting the sick and others in need of visitation.

ENGLAND: Birmingham Senatus: In a follow up to the Peregrinatio Pro Christo project in Sheldon last year, three people who had been lapsed attend Mass regularly and four contacts joined the RCIA course. Night Fever Apostolate was carried out in Solihull in November where over 90 people visited the Church; these included Sikhs, Hindus and Moslems. Some people went to Confession. Many good contacts were also made on the street. Crowd contact and apostolate to homosexuals continues monthly. Bristol Curia set up a new praesidium in St. Patrick's Parish, Redfields. An Exploratio Dominicalis project was carried out. West Birmingham Curia organises a Rosary each Thursday at lunchtime in a Secondary school and two legionaries go into the school each week to give a talk on an aspect of the faith. **Northampton Comitium** has a total active membership of 84, with 220 auxiliaries. Two officers of Birmingham Senatus recently visited the Comitium. **Liverpool Senatus:** Leeds Curia has 3 praesidia with a total of 21 active and 32 auxiliary members, and Warrington Curia has 3 praesidia with a total of 24 active members. Works include home and

prison visitation, street contact, book barrow, visitation of schools, and assisting with Baptism preparation. Curiae attached to **Southwark Comitium** are very active with recruiting and extension. A recruiting drive was held in Streatham in March. A Muslim man had the Fatima statue in his home for a week. **Central London Curia** has 22 praesidia. Reports were taken from five praesidia. A number of these do home visitation and crowd contact work with very good contacts being made. A Muslim lady expressed an interest in learning more about the Catholic faith. **Brentwood Comitium** set up two new praesidia. A praesidium recites the Rosary with residents in a nursing home, does pilgrim statue visitation and offers the Miraculous Medal. A lady in a nursing home requested a visit from a priest and received Holy Communion.

FRANCE: In **Paris Senatus** one praesidium visits parents of newly-born children and arranged three Baptisms. Members of another praesidium participated in evangelisation work at a festival in the city of Dax, which included street contact work, inviting those met to visit the Cathedral, light a candle and pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Many lively discussions with young people took place and legionaries were encouraged by the demeanour of those who visited the Cathedral. **Valence Regia:** One praesidium visited families, encountering people of various religions, lapsed Catholics, and co-habiting couples; one such couple had 11 un-baptised children. After numerous visits and prayers, the parents were married and seven children were baptised on the same day. A praesidium organises monthly Mass for families with alcohol issues. After Mass the Frank Duff prayer is recited for parishioners with alcohol problems. The fruits of this effort

included a twenty-year old with a drink-problem, and a gentleman with an addiction to alcohol for more than 30 years, giving up alcohol. An elderly sick lady who had not practised the faith in 50 years and who had refused the Sacrament of the Sick, after several visits agreed to see a priest, made her Confession and received Holy Communion.

GERMANY: Senatus of Frankfurt: In the **Regia of Munich** the Curia of North-West Munich arranged with a cinema owner to show the Fatima film with a display stand of spiritual books in the cinema. Intensive street apostolate and book-barrow work was carried out in December. The Living Rosary was explained and offered to people. A priest in the Diocese of Eichstaett presented the Legion of Mary in the Easter edition of his parish bulletin. 14 legionaries took part in a Spring School in March which included street contact apostolate. Freiburg Comitium engage in home visitation and services of the Word. One Curia does hostel visitation, organises six hours of Eucharistic Adoration each week and a service of repentance/atonement. Other communities have been invited to a special day of reflection organised by legionaries. The theme of this day is 'The Renewal of the Church through Prayer'. The works of the Saarlouis Curia include distribution of the Miraculous Medal, bringing people to Mass and encouraging them to go to Confession. In one case a legionary encouraged her doctor, after many discussions, to go to Confession. Another legionary accompanied a dying person over a long period of time. In Darmstadt Curia legionaries assist refugees with language lessons, with driving and with children's homework. A Curia in **Cologne Regia**, with the support of women from Ethiopia and Eritrea, organised a 'Coffee to Stay' gathering. Their effort was acknowledged in the local newspaper as a sign against intolerance. A

Syrian Catholic has joined the Legion. Legionaries also help conduct Alpha courses and they represent the Legion at the Lutheran Church-Day Conference. Works undertaken by the Regia include city-centre street apostolate with Rosary beads assembly stands and newspaper stands. In **Berlin Comitium** monthly Eucharistic prayer takes place in a convent for the beatification of Frank. Duff; his prayer leaflets are in all parishes which have the Legion of Mary. Other works include: home, hospital and nursing-home visitation, and a monthly 11km Pilgrim Walk with the Rosa Mystica Madonna, visiting three Churches, street apostolate, distribution of the Miraculous Medal, and visits to the lapsed. The Korean Curia has 152 members who are involved in the Korean parish life.

NETHERLANDS: Amsterdam Regia reported Christmas carols were sung in the red-light district before Christmas. Legionaries in the English-speaking praesidium do home visitation, visit the sick and elderly and organise a block Rosary. Two praesidia reported holding Patricians meetings. The Cape Verde Curia reported visiting new families to the parish and encouraging them to come to Church and have their children baptised.

NORWAY: Tonsberg praesidium has 9 Active and 24 auxiliary members. Legionaries participated in a two-day retreat. The praesidium in Drammen has 8 active and 15 auxiliaries. A traditional Filipino Advent activity which included a Nine-Day Novena of Masses was organised for the first time. The response was positive with a very good attendance of Filipino and many other nationalities. One Norwegian lady was recently received into the Church and is very interested in becoming an active legionary. Enthronement of the Sacred Heart was carried out.

SCOTLAND: Senatus of Scotland: Legionaries from the Senatus were invited to Parliament. The event was in recognition of the Catholic Church's place in Scotland; eight Bishops were present. The legionaries spoke with two Bishops who told them about areas where extension could be done. Following an extension drive in St. Michaels, Parkhead, five parishioners attend a weekly Legion meeting. Schools are visited to promote the Rosary. The visit on behalf of Concilium by Sile Ni Chochlain and Dr. Evie Monaghan to the function to promote the Cause of Bro. Frank Duff was much appreciated by the legionaries, and the information given was most helpful. There are four newly established praesidia. Greenock Curia reported on home visitation, book barrow and contact work.

SIBERIA: The Curia in Siberia has five praesidia with 20 active members and 12 auxiliaries. Works include visitation of the sick and elderly, distribution of Miraculous Medals, care of people with special needs and accompanying the priest on his visits to villages. The number of legionaries in Siberia is growing and the priest in Novosibirsk is endeavouring to establish a praesidium in the region of Irkutsk.

SWEDEN: A report from Tony Kirsten and his wife on their visit to Sweden from 26th Sept. to 10th Oct. was received. They had a meeting with Cardinal Anders who gave them a warm welcome. They brought him up-to-date with the Legion in Sweden and told him of their hopes for its continued growth. The Kirstens attended the Curia meeting, and some praesidium meetings including two Arabic meetings which have 13 and 5 members. They also met the new Iraqi Bishop who blessed their project and spoke very highly of the Legion group in the parish. The visitors felt that all groups were strengthened and that the true spirit of the Legion was very much present.

SWITZERLAND: Zurich Comitium reported that 25 people took part in a procession in honour of Our Lady in St. Gall; 57 people took part in a weekend Legion Pilgrimage to France, and five legionaries and a Spiritual Director took part in a Peregrinatio Pro Christo to Majorca. Swiss legionaries will assist in a Peregrinatio Pro Christo in Basel which is being organised by the Senatus of Vienna. The praesidium in Bern gained two members with the help of a religious sister.

WALES: In Swansea Curia crowd contact, homosexual apostolate, and street rescue on Swansea high street, are part of the apostolate. In an effort to attract mothers of school children to membership, meetings are held at 1.p.m.

Points to Ponder

If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world on fire.

Saint Catherine of Sienna.

Act in such a way that all those who come in contact with you will go away joyful. Sow happiness about you because you have received much from God.

Saint Faustina Kowalska.

Have patience with all things, but chiefly with yourself. Do not loose courage in considering your own imperfections, but instantly try about remedying them- every day begin the task anew. *Saint Francis De Sales.*

When the stars threw down their spears,
And watered Heaven with their tears,
Did He smile His work to see?
Did He who made the Lamb make thee?
William Blake.



O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today!
Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May.
O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today!
Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May.

St. Basil's Hymnal (1889)

