
Maria Legionis
Why should I be honoured with a visit
from the Mother of my Lord
Luke 1:39-56

Maria Legionis

The Voice of the Legion of Mary

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INVITATION Readers of Maria Legionis, and other legion members, are invited to submit articles and other contributions with a view towards publication in future issues of the magazine. Ideally, submissions should be made by e-mail attachments (Word Documents or jpg images) to: concilium@legion-of-mary.ie and marked 'Maria Legionis.' Hard copies of articles, marked 'Maria Legionis', may be sent to: Legio Mariae, De Montfort House, Morning Star Avenue, Brunswick Street. Dublin 7. *Thank you, The Editor.*

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Homily

by Fr. Paul Churchill

Spiritual Director

The following homily was given at Concilium on Sunday 15 March 2025

Mother of Divine Grace

Before Christmas I reflected on the Declaratory Note from the Dicastery for the Doctrine and Faith of the Church on Devotion to Mary, Mother of God.

With the help of both Frank Duff and St. Louis Marie de Montfort, we can say that Mary is a creature, with an infinity of distance between her and God. With the help of Frank Duff, we can see her as belonging to the humanity redeemed by Christ; her redemption starting with her Immaculate Conception and brought to completion in her Assumption into heaven. We also acknowledge that all grace comes from God because any grace at all is due to his good will towards us, a bounty that is limitless. We have ample evidence from the gospels that God does listen to our pleas for help, including the interventions of his Mother.

A question remains however about Mary's role in winning us grace. As we saw, the title Mary Mediatrix of all Grace must be used prudently. But questions have also been raised about the idea that God allows his graces to



be dispensed through her, and—as the Legion Promise puts it—that it is by her, "and to whom she pleases, when she pleases and in the manner and quantity she pleases", that all the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit are administered. Some puzzle at this assertion. So, let's take a closer look.

One initial reason not to dismiss this idea is that it comes not from St. Louis Marie de Montfort. Albert the Great, the teacher of Aquinas, because he too saw in her the custodian of what belonged to the Holy Spirit, says, "She pours out and gives the wine of the Holy Spirit to whomsoever she wills and to the extent that she will!" St. Bernard saw her as an aqueduct of grace from the font that is God. Where is all this coming from? Let us start with the Gospels and then move to a reflection on the Assumption.

Two moments in the Gospels have caused an 'ouch' in us all. The first is when, after having been found in the Temple, Jesus says to his mother: "Why were you looking for me. Did you not know that I must be in my Father's House?" And yet, despite this seeming moment of rebellion, we are told that he went back to Nazareth with them and "was obedient to them." We note that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity submitted to the authority of Mary.

The second 'ouch' comes with the wedding Feast of Cana. When Mary tells Jesus that the wine has run out, Jesus replies: "Oh woman, what have you to do with me; my hour has not yet come!" And yet, despite the seeming rebuke, he performs the first of his miracles - a miracle that many have seen connected to Pentecost, the day the wine of the Holy Spirit came on the Apostles.

Both of these moments clearly speak of some authority that God allowed to Mary over Jesus while she was in this world. God had already chosen and prepared her so that he could entrust his own Son to her minding.



If he could entrust the Second Person of the Trinity to her, why not entrust to her, "full of grace", the graces of the redemption?

But because of her Assumption, Body and Soul into heaven, we must now view her differently. If here in this world she saw things "in a glass darkly" (1 Cor 13:12), then how much more can she see and understand God now? St. John says: "we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is" (1 Jn 3:2). Jesus is clear: "Those who are accounted worthy to attain … to the resurrection from the dead … cannot die anymore because they are equal to angels …" (Lk 20:35-36) who immediately see God's will and do it. Listen again to St. John: "The one who loves the truth comes to the light that it may be clearly seen that what he does is done in God" (Jn: 3:21).

When we reflect on the implications in these words for Mary who knew no sin, and who now shares the resurrected glory of heaven, surely, we must admit that any grace she gains for us must comply totally with the will of God and will never be otherwise? And God who could entrust his only begotten Son to her while on earth, why now doubt that he can also entrust his graces to her in heaven knowing that she will disburse them only according to his Holy Will? Her role is never separate from the Holy Spirit! She will only want and to the degree that the Holy Spirit wants.



I add this—keeping in mind Bernadette's report that the Lady said to her: "I do not promise to make you happy in this world but in the next"— we must reflect on what she now sees as most important: namely the world beyond. And surely with a mother's heart she wants us all there with her; wants our best, and so will seek any grace we need. And since she is working even closer with the Holy Spirit than before, if we can put it that way, why doubt that expression of her heavenly work as articulated in the Promise which, as I point out, is based on the prayerful reflections of great Marian saints going back centuries?

Mary has a unique role to play as a cooperator in the work of redemption and in interceding on our behalf with Our Lord. Given the special role she exercised while on earth of working so closely with the Holy Spirit and taking Jesus in her charge, surely it is no less so in heaven where she sees God face to face and has been made Queen, privy now in an elevated form to God's plans which down here "no eye has seen or ear heard" (1 Cor 2:9)? All legionaries should reflect on this in prayer. Indeed, the whole Church must do this.

We are moving towards the celebration of the Acies and the Feast of the Annunciation. That is the event on which hinges the creation and history. For God made the world so that this could take place. And we are most grateful to Our Lady for her Fiat, her consent to allow the Redeemer to come among us and allowing her body to be used for this. By God's design she had already been redeemed and kept free from Original Sin and so was full of grace by the power of the Holy Spirit. Of course, her redemption would not reach its final moment until she was assumed into Heaven. Pope Pius XII, in his Constitution on the Assumption, taking account of all this then adds: "For the crown of all her graces, she was exempted from the sentence to decay … and was carried up to Heaven … there to reign as Queen." So let us not be slow or shy in turning to this fully redeemed creature who now enjoys an unrestricted access to God Almighty and let us ask for her constant intercession!

"I do not promise to make you happy in this world, but in the next"

Interview with Concilium Officer for Maria Legionis

Conducted by The Editor



Q1. Karen, you are now a Concilium Officer. Briefly, what is that position, and what are your responsibilities in that position?

I currently serve as the Concilium Treasurer and began my second term last October. The role involves overseeing the financial affairs of the Concilium. Each month I prepare a financial statement for the Concilium meeting, outlining the previous month's income and expenditure. I also organise the annual audit of the accounts, ensure that insurance policies are up to date, and handle the submission of statutory reports to the required bodies.

Q2. When did you first join the legion of Mary, and what inspired you to do so?

I joined the Legion of Mary in January 2015. Before that, I had been involved for a number of years with St. Vincent de Paul and Youth 2000.

I felt drawn to become involved in a faith-based organisation that worked with the homeless, mainly because I was passing homeless people every day on my way to and from work. A friend suggested the Legion of Mary, but I had the impression it was mainly for older people handing out Miraculous Medals, and I didn't think it was for me.

In October 2014 I attended a triduum to Saint Thérèse of Lisieux in St. Joseph's Church Berkeley Road. On the final day, as I was leaving the church, I asked St. Thérèse to send me a rose. Almost immediately a lady came up to me and said, "Karen, you don't have a rose, have one of mine." Then, as I walked out the gate, another lady handed me a small card, which turned out to be a recruitment card for the Regina Coeli Hostel.

St. Thérèse was giving me a very clear and personal answer. Soon after I joined the Legion and I've never looked back.

Q3. Briefly, how has membership of the Legion of Mary changed your life?

Membership of the Legion of Mary has had a deep impact on my life. While I had always practised my faith, it was through the Legion that I really began to understand the missionary call at the end of Mass, to go out and share the Gospel. I came to realise that our faith is not something private, but something

we are called to actively live and share with others.

Being part of the Legion helped me realise that, alongside caring for my own spiritual life, I also have a responsibility to reach out to others and help bring them closer to God. The Legion takes this mission very seriously, striving to be present in parishes, schools, and social events where faith can be shared.

Early on, I was invited to take part in parish outreach projects, including a PPC project in the south of England. Much of this involved visiting homes and inviting people back to Mass. I was genuinely surprised by the openness of people to speaking about their faith with complete strangers, even when from different faith backgrounds. It was both encouraging and humbling.

I also witnessed how legionaries, each with their own personalities and gifts, could connect with people in ways I might not have been able to myself. Everyone brought valuable contributions to the projects, each in their own way.

Q4. What challenges are currently facing the Legion of Mary- both nationally and internationally?

One of the main challenges facing the Legion of Mary today, both nationally and internationally, is recruitment. Many people are not aware of the Legion or may have misconceptions about it. At the same time, members can feel hesitant about inviting others to join, often due to a lack of confidence or fear of being misunderstood or reproached.

Another challenge is that of accepting officership. There can be a reluctance among members to take on officership, maybe because of lack of confidence or because of the responsibility or commitment involved. I can relate to this as I was initially hesitant myself.

Frank Duff teaches in the Legion of Mary Handbook, each officership carries with it the grace for the fulfilment of its duties. In other words, the role itself is a channel of grace, and its effectiveness grows with our cooperation with that grace.

Ultimately, I think many of these challenges come back to a deeper understanding of the Legion's purpose. When we recognise that our mission is ultimately to bring souls to heaven, it becomes easier to prioritise the Legion in our lives and to step forward with greater courage and trust.

Q5. How do you think the Legion of Mary should respond to a society of increasing secularism?

At its core the Legion is built on personal contact, to meet people where they are. However, the Legion doesn't wait for people to come, it goes out to them. That willingness to step into people's lives is quite unique.

I took part in a week-long parish project some years ago. We were covering a large area and, towards the end of the week, we knocked on a door where the man said: "In my 20 years living here I've never had Catholics call to my door, and you legionaries have called three times this week!" What struck me most was

that he was genuinely delighted to see us again. That, and many other experiences have showed me that, even in a secular society, there is often a quiet openness and even a hunger for connection and faith.

Frank Duff emphasised that God uses willing individuals as "channels" of grace to others. So even in a secular culture the Legion should remain faithful to its method: personal contact, perseverance, and trust in God's grace.

Q6. How do you think the Legion of Mary should counteract any erroneous views of the Legion held by some in society.

People will always form opinions about the Church and the Legion of Mary, some positive, others negative, and often based on limited understanding or perception.

The most effective way to address misunderstandings is through consistent apostolic work. When people encounter legionaries who are genuine, respectful, and dedicated, it naturally challenges misconceptions they may have. Our Lady is the one directing our work, and our role is to remain faithful in prayer and in carrying out our duties with humility and conviction. The authenticity of legionaries will help counter misconceptions.

Q7. Are you optimistic on the future strength of the Legion of Mary – both nationally and internationally?

The Church began with just twelve apostles, yet their mission transformed the world. Today, the Legion has millions of faithful members worldwide, and when you consider that each praesidium is committed to weekly apostolic work, it represents a vast and ongoing outreach effort across the world.

From my own experience on the streets of Dublin, I've found that people are generally open and receptive to receiving and hearing about the Miraculous Medal. In recent years we've received many new members, along with the establishment of new praesidia and curiae.

I am optimistic because the Legion already has everything it needs. The system is proven, the mission is clear, and the need in the world is greater than ever.

Q8. In the early years, Frank Duff involved the Legion of Mary with the moral and social issues of the day. Do you think the Legion of Mary should do likewise today?

From the beginning the Legion set out to reach "the most wretched and dejected" in society. Frank Duff's primary focus was souls living in spiritual poverty, and his approach was through personal contact, respect for each person, and carried out with compassion and faith.

That same spirit continues today. From the worldwide reports presented at Concilium each month, it is evident that legionaries across the world are still engaging with poverty, isolation, and moral challenges in their own communities. The circumstances may have changed, but the need remains the same.

Q9. What would you say to a prospective member contemplating joining the Legion of Mary?

Like any aspect of life, if something matters to you, you make space for it. Whether it's a hobby, a sport, or your faith, you seek out a community that will support and strengthen that interest. The same is true of our relationship with God: if we want it to grow, we need to surround ourselves with people who are striving in the same direction.

The Legion also offers a strong sense of community and friendship. Beyond the apostolic work, there are many social aspects that help create a real sense of belonging.

So, to anyone considering joining, I would simply say: come along and see. There is a place for everyone in the Legion, and you may find, as I did, that it becomes a very meaningful part of your life.

Q10. What ideas have you for making the Legion of Mary better known among the general population?

I believe the best way for the Legion of Mary to become better known is by visible apostolic work in our parishes. The Legion's strength lies in personal contact: soul-to-soul encounters. Whether it's visiting homes, street contact or engaging with people in everyday places: these small, personal interactions are incredibly effective.

While it may seem like a slow approach, it builds real relationships and trust, and it quietly sows the seeds of faith to open people's hearts. Over time, this consistent presence allows the Legion to become a familiar and trusted part of the community, spreading its message far more effectively than publicity campaigns ever could.

Q11. Do you think that the creation of junior praesidia in parishes, schools and colleges are the way forward for the Legion of Mary in Ireland?

Junior legionaries are vital for the future of the Legion of Mary. They nurture young people in faith and evangelising work from an early age, helping them grow into committed members of the Legion.

In Dublin over the past year the Legion has strengthened its focus on establishing junior praesidia in parishes and schools, with encouraging results. As Frank Duff notes in the Legion of Mary Handbook, it is a "necessary part of the system of each senior praesidium to conduct a junior praesidium." Developing the next generation in this way ensures the continuity, vitality, and growth of the Legion.

Q12. Finally, is there any further observation or comment you wish to make?

The beauty of the Legion of Mary is in its simplicity and faithfulness. It is meant to form the whole person so that our faith influences every aspect of our daily lives. It doesn't rely on complicated methods, but on ordinary people saying yes, giving their time, and trusting that God will work through them.

If we stay faithful to prayer, to Our Lady, and to the system that's been handed on to us, then the Legion will continue to grow and bear fruit.

Good News from Ukraine

By Elizabeth Kriss



For the first time, in preparation for Christmas 2025, many faithful in Ukraine made the Consecration to Jesus through Mary, following a joint preparation but in different locations. What a grace for this country, so afflicted by war!

We are deeply grateful that, through the service of the Legion of Mary, this mystery of grace could be given to the Church in the Ukrainian language. How did this come about?

In the Jubilee Year, the Concilium entrusted the Legion of Mary with the task of making the Consecration. The councils therefore encouraged their legionaries. At the same time, we wanted to share this treasure with the whole Church in Ukraine. The Bishop of Kyiv-Zhytomyr therefore recommended the Consecration to his priests as a pastoral instrument. Auxiliary Bishop Radosław Zmitrowicz OMI, who is responsible for lay movements, helped ensure that the preparation for the Consecration was broadcast throughout Ukraine on Radio Maria. After an introduction about the meaning of the Consecration, the prayers and texts were read twice daily; on each of the final three days, Bishop Radosław gave a talk on the topic. Some 10,000 listeners took part.

In some places, the Consecration itself was organised and celebrated solemnly; elsewhere, individuals made it privately.

We are infinitely grateful to Our Lady for this grace but, at the same time, we know that this is only the beginning.

We continue to dream with Mary:

- To offer the preparation for the Consecration through Catholic television, and then online, accessible to everyone, everywhere;
- To present the Consecration preparation to the bishops as a pastoral program, so that Mary may unite the faithful in the parishes and lead them closer to Jesus;
- To establish an annual renewal of the Consecration;
- To make the Consecration more widely known: distributing the book through church kiosks, presenting it at major pilgrimages and in various parishes, thus preparing the ground for new praesidia of the Legion of Mary.

We thank the legionaries throughout the world who pray for us in Ukraine. We feel your support and ask that you continue to give it.

Our Lady of Laus, France

Visionary: Benoîte Rencurel (1647-1718)

By Michael Walsh

Laus, also known as Notre-Dame du Laus, is situated in the town of Saint-Étienne-le-Laus, in Southeastern France.

The sanctuary comprises a set of buildings and places spread over a large area linked to the locations of apparitions of the Blessed Virgin to Benoîte Benoîte Rencurel. These include the Basilica, her birthplace, the Chapel of the Valley of the Fours, Pindreau, the Chapel of the Precious Blood, the house where she lived from 1673 and the Coronation Oratory, which are all places of devotion and pilgrimage for visitors and pilgrims.



Visionary, Benoîte Rencurel was born on 16 September 1647 in the village of Saint-Etienne d'Avançon, France. Her father died when she was seven years old and at the age of twelve, she had to work as a shepherdess to help her family survive. At the age of seventeen, she was still unable to read or write, but this did not hinder her from praying: she prayed the Rosary throughout each day while looking after her flock in the picturesque valleys and hills at the foot of the Alps Mountains Range.

In May 1664, after hearing a sermon from her parish priest, the young girl Benoîte felt a deep desire to meet the Virgin Mary. Soon afterwards, Saint Maurice, (a third century Egyptian martyr) appeared to her near a nearby chapel in ruins dedicated to Saint Maurice. He told her that her wish to see the Virgin Mary would soon be granted. He also warned her that if she remained in that area, the local guards would take her flock unless she moved them on to another pasture. He then advised Benoîte to go to a valley called "Vallon des Fours," above Saint-Étienne, where she would see the Mother of God.

The next day, on 16 May 1664, Benoite took her sheep to the "Vallon des Fours" and came to a grotto where what she described as "a beautiful lady" appeared to her. The shepherdess offered to share the bread she carried, but the beautiful lady simply smiled

and left without speaking. For a period of four months, the Lady came back each day, spoke to Benoîte and gave her intensive education, which was said to have transformed her behaviour and spiritual life.

On 29 August 1664, the "beautiful lady" revealed her identity: "I am Lady Mary, the Mother of my very dear Son."

After a month of absence, Lady Mary reappeared to Benoîte on the other side of the valley, in Pindreau, and instructed her to "Go to Laus and you will find a chapel there from which sweet scents will emanate; there you will speak to me often." The next day, Benoîte made her way to Laus and found an old chapel dedicated to Our Lady of the Good Encounter. The scent of violets emanated from the chapel, despite the poor condition of the building. Inside, standing on the altar, Mary revealed her plan to Benoîte: "I have asked my Son for this place for the conversion of sinners, and He has granted it to me. It is my desire that a new chapel be built here in honour of my beloved Son. It will become a place of conversion for numerous sinners, and I shall appear here very often," she stated. Mary also told Benoîte that when the sanctuary was completed, the oil from the sanctuary lamp would work miracles with the infirm if they received the anointing with faith in her intercession. Multiple testimonies have stated that a heavenly perfume would fill the church every time Mary appeared to Benoîte.



Father Antoine Lambert, the vicar general of the diocese, initially decided to test Benoîte's story and instructed her to ask the Virgin Mary for a sign or miracle that would prove the authenticity of her visions. Later, a crippled woman, whose legs had been permanently bent backward and who was said to be incurable by the doctors, had been attending a novena at the chapel. On the final day of her novena, her legs miraculously returned to normal, and she walked into the chapel, shouting "Miracle!" Father Lambert, who had been saying Mass at the time, was moved to tears and exclaimed: "Yes, the hand of God is there." After this astonishing event, Father Lambert gave his approval for the construction of the church the Virgin Mary had requested. A new chapel was soon built on the spot, dedicated to Our Lady of the Annunciation, and pilgrims began to arrive at the location.

Benoîte became a Dominican Tertiary



and was called "Sister Benoîte." The Blessed Virgin at this stage gave the visionary the mission to welcome the pilgrims. Sister Benoîte was also given the gift of reading souls. This was to help the pilgrims make good confessions to the priests, by making them know their sins, remember the forgotten ones, confess them and repent in the Sacrament of Penance. In subsequent apparitions, Mary repeated a call for holiness and devotion among the laity and for faithfulness among priests and religious. In 1665, the local Archbishop approved the public veneration of the initial apparitions.

Between 1669 and 1684, Benoîte was granted the vision on five occasions of the Crucified Christ on the Cross of Avançon. On a Friday in July of 1673, according to Benoîte, Jesus on the cross told her: "My daughter, I show myself in this state so that you can participate in my Passion." United with Him, she lived a 'mystical crucifixion' every Friday for several years and bore stigmata.

Benoîte continued to receive apparitions of Mary for 54 years, until her death in 1718. In 1855, authorisation was given by Pope Pius IX, to perform the canonical coronation of the bronze statue of Our Lady of Laus.

At a Solemn ceremony celebrated on Sunday, May 4, 2008, in the Basilica of Notre Dame in Laus the Bishop of Gap and Embrun Jean-Michel di Falco Léandri, announced the official approval of the Church of the Marian apparitions experienced by Benoîte Rencurel, while 20 bishops, plus thousands of lay people attended the ceremony at which the bishop stated: "I recognise the supernatural origin of the apparitions, and the facts experienced and recounted by Benoîte Rencurel. I encourage the faithful to come and pray and seek spiritual renewal at this shrine." He stressed the historic nature of the announcement (the first Marian apparitions to be approved by the Church in France since the 19th century).



WITH THIS APPROVAL, THE CAUSE FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF BENOÎTE WAS GIVEN NEW IMPETUS AND IN 2009 SHE WAS DECLARED VENERABLE BY POPE BENEDICT XVI.

Extension and Development of The Legion of Mary in South Sudan & Ethiopia

Submitted by: Senatus of Uganda

Introduction

The Senatus of Uganda has continued to undertake missionary and extension work aimed at strengthening and expanding the apostolate of the Legion of Mary beyond Uganda. In recent years, particular attention has been directed toward the consolidation and growth of the Legion in South Sudan and Ethiopia.

While extension work in South Sudan dates back as early as 1918, more structured and intensified efforts have been undertaken from 2022 to date. In Ethiopia, the extension mission is relatively recent, having commenced in 2024 following invitations from local Church authorities and encouragement from the higher councils of the Legion.

Despite operating under significant financial constraints, the Senatus of Uganda has managed to achieve substantial progress in both countries through sustained missionary visits, training, and structural organisation of Legion units.

South Sudan and Ethiopia

The extension mission in South Sudan has primarily focused on the Archdiocese of Juba and the Diocese of Tombura-Yambio.

Upon arrival, the extension team encountered a significant number of Catholics who identified themselves as members of the Legion of Mary. These groups had maintained certain devotional practices traditionally associated with the Legion,

And while these practices demonstrated a strong devotion to the Legion and a deep love for its identity, it became evident that the formal Legion system and structure had not been fully established or properly understood. The groups were functioning more as devotional associations rather than structured Legion units guided by the Legion of Mary Handbook.

The extension team therefore undertook comprehensive formation and orientation aimed at introducing and strengthening the authentic Legion system.

These formation sessions required patience and sustained engagement. However, through consistent teaching, mentorship, and pastoral accompaniment, the legionaries

gradually embraced the authentic system of operation.

Progress Made

In the Diocese of Tombura-Yambio, the reorganisation efforts produced encouraging results. Several praesidia were stabilised and coordinated under an existing Curia structure.

Following a period of strengthening and consolidation, one of the Curiae was elevated to the level of a Comitium in October 2024, marking a major milestone in the growth of the Legion in that region. This development has significantly enhanced coordination, supervision, and expansion of Legion activities within the diocese.

Similar challenges were encountered in the Archdiocese of Juba, where Legion groups were present but lacked the proper structural framework.

Through sustained formation, organisational restructuring, and pastoral engagement with the clergy, the situation gradually improved. As a result, the Legion reached an important stage of maturity when a new Comitium was officially inaugurated on 21st February 2026.

The Ordinary of the Archdiocese, Cardinal Stephen Ameyu Martin Mulla, further strengthened this development by appointing Rev. Fr. Guido Ganji as the Spiritual Director of the newly established Comitium.

To ensure effective leadership and proper understanding of Legion spirituality and governance, Fr. Guido Ganji is currently undertaking a two-week induction program in Uganda, where he is receiving orientation on the Legion system and operations under the guidance of the Senatus.

The extension mission in Ethiopia, which began in 2024, has also recorded meaningful progress, despite its relatively short duration.

Through missionary visits and collaboration with the local clergy, the Senatus of Uganda has successfully facilitated the establishment of six new praesidia in different locations.

One particularly notable development is the establishment of a praesidium within a Major Seminary, which is a significant step in nurturing Legion spirituality among future priests and ensuring long-term sustainability of the apostolate

Following guidance received from higher Legion leadership, a Curia was established to coordinate and supervise the six praesidia.

The Curia has demonstrated commitment by consistently sharing its monthly minutes and reports, which allows the Senatus to monitor progress and provide remote mentorship.

Current Challenges

While the initial establishment phase was successful, the progress in Ethiopia has stagnated somewhat since March of last year. The number

of praesidia remains the same as when they were first established.

It is therefore evident that direct follow-up visits and intensified extension work are necessary to strengthen existing praesidia and facilitate the establishment of new ones.

Encouragingly, the extension mission has attracted significant interest within Ethiopia. Three additional bishops have formally invited the Senatus of Uganda to establish praesidia within their dioceses.

Unfortunately, due to limited time and other constraints it has not yet been possible to respond to these invitations.

The Senatus remains hopeful that, with God's help and improved financial capacity, these invitations will be honoured so that the Legion apostolate may continue to spread within the Church in Ethiopia.

The Senatus of Uganda has successfully made significant strides in strengthening and expanding the Legion of Mary in South Sudan and Ethiopia. However, the mission requires continued follow-up visits, intensified formation, and additional financial support to sustain the progress already made and to respond to invitations from other dioceses. With continued commitment, prayer, and the grace of God, it is hoped that the Legion of Mary will continue to grow and become firmly established within these countries, contributing to the evangelising mission of the Church.

THE VISITATION: MARY AND ELIZABETH



At Ein Karem in the hills of Judah
Elizabeth and Mary meet
Zechariah's wife bows low to greet the Virgin
As she replies: MAGNIICAT.
Some thirty years from then
Their sons will meet by Jordan's River
The Prophet baptising the Messiah
John will lose his head for Truth:
The Christ, His Life, for Love.

Anon.

‘On Mission with Mary’

Young Adult Conference 2025

By Áine Blake

The Deus et Patria annual Catholic conference for young adults aged 18-40 was held on Saturday 30 August in De Montfort House in Dublin.

A total of 116 people attended, of whom 31 were legionaries and 85 were non-legionaries. The theme of the conference was ‘On Mission with Mary.’ The two main talks on this theme were given by Fr. Michael Kennedy PP in Lattin, Co. Tipperary who has long been involved with the Legion of Mary, and Sr, Mary Magdalene an American religious sister of the Dominicans of St. Cecilia based in Limerick.



A diverse selection of workshops covered the topics of iconography, faith and media, and music. Recordings of these are all now available on the Deus et Patria YouTube channel.

We heard powerful testimonies from legionaries Martin McManus, Kateri Jones and Robert Bradley. We were also given a brief address by Concilium President Declan Lawlor. A lunch-time tour of Frank Duff House was of interest to many, as was the opportunity to pray in the Regina Coeli chapel.

In the afternoon we moved to St. Mary of the Angels Church on Church Street where there was Eucharistic Adoration with music and the opportunity for confessions. Mass was celebrated with Fr. Declan Lohan giving the homily. The singing by Dominican religious brothers of Gregorian chant and familiar hymns greatly enhanced the liturgy.

A post-conference social carried on into the night and proved a great opportunity for mingling and making friends. Feedback from attendees was very positive. Please God this conference will have given them encouragement in their faith and will have inspired them to embrace the mission God has for them, with the help of Our Lady.

Annual Mass for the Servant of God Alfie Lambe



Homily by Fr. Bernardo De Nardo

Your excellency Mons. Mariano Montemayor Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland;

Fr. Tony O'Shaughnessy Parish Priest; legionaries and friends present here and following us online.

We are gathered here today to remember and honour the life of a young Irish man who decided to follow Christ to Mount Tabor, like the apostles today, to enjoy the fullness of His glory, to be transformed by Him and then to go out and proclaim it to everybody.

Alfie Lambe decided to be holy at a very early stage in life and thought that his path to achieve it was through the vocation to religious life. However, God had other plans and illness prevented him from pursuing his vocation, but having decided to take up his cross to follow Christ, he accepted the suffering which that meant, and not knowing what was ahead, he fully trusted God's providence.

Almost immediately God showed him his new vocation. After leaving the Christian Brothers, he joined the Legion of Mary in Tullamore. In his praesidium he found not only consolation but new possibilities for saving souls, which is the main and only purpose of any baptised person who has committed himself to holiness. He fully embraced the legionary vocation and abandoned himself into the hands of Our Blessed Mother for her to guide him wherever she might need him.

The interventions of Divine Providence led Alfie to move to Dublin; he joined the Morning Star and dedicated his life to the Legion. Being closer to Concilium and Frank Duff, gave him the vision of the universality of the Legion of Mary. In those days the Legion was growing in Ireland and more praesidia and councils were being founded. Alfie was entrusted with the task of helping with the formation of these new branches; a task he accomplished travelling across Ireland. He excelled in that work and Frank Duff saw

in him the qualities that an Envoy required, and so Alfie was appointed as such to extend the Legion in South America.





Along with Seamus Grace and trained by Joaquina Lucas, he started to move all over South America with the mission of establishing praesidia in parishes, dioceses and entire countries. In a very short time, he learned Spanish and Portuguese. I cannot imagine how happy he must have felt, seeing how the providence of God was showing him that his vocation was to be an apostle of the Legion of Mary, an Envoy who would travel across the entire subcontinent to spread the Gospel and to form others to do the same.

The legionaries and the clergy loved him. His charism and love for Our Lady made him win thousands of new members to the ranks of the Legion who continue today working for the salvation of souls.

Suffering was once again going to be asked of him, and he was not going to say no to the Lord. Alfie was diagnosed with an illness in 1958 while he was in Argentina, extending the Legion, organising new higher councils and training many legionaries to work in extension. Alfie went to Heaven in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on the 21st of January 1959, Feast of Saint Agnes.

Providentially, today we are gathered in the Church of Saint Agnes, and we are all honoured and blessed to have this Mass presided by the representative of the Holy Father to Ireland who is from Buenos Aires.

What do we learn from Alfie's life? What is his legacy? What is our task?

The first and most important is that holiness is for everybody; it does not matter what is one's specific vocation, we are all called to be holy from the moment of our baptism. Alfie is a perfect example of this conviction.

It is also very important to recognise the interventions of God's providence in our lives, and trust, as Alfie did, to be able to understand that sometimes we don't see clearly, but if we let ourselves to be led by it, even in moments of darkness or confusion, we will see the results afterwards.

From Alfie's life and example, we learn what the Handbook of the Legion of Mary says regarding the suffering in the Mystical Body of Christ: "Every Christian should be made realise that he cannot pick and choose in Christ" (Chapter 9, point 3). If we want, like the apostles today, to go up to meet with the Christ of Joy and Glory, we will. But along the way, either up or down, we will also find the Christ of pain and sacrifice.

Alfie's legacy is his life: the example he left, the letters he wrote, the praesidia and councils he formed, the people he trained.

Our task is to get to know him by reading about his life, by asking about him from those who knew him and finally by imitating his virtues.

What's the specific task of legionaries?

First of all, the same ones just mentioned, and a few more.

We must be convinced that the Legion system will lead us to holiness as it led Alfie; that conviction will make us naturally realise of the need to extend the Legion. To be able to do so we must persevere in Legion membership; we must know and love the Legion more.

We must be aware that the extension of the Legion is going to happen if we make it extend, like Alfie did, here in Ireland and then in South America. Therefore, dear legionaries, go to your next-door parish and try to establish more praesidia; go to your neighbouring diocese and found the Legion where it is not yet established. But not even that, do not put limitations to the intervention of God's providence and go to other nations and get the Legion started there, like Alfie did. We are all blessed to be members of the Legion of Mary because someone commenced it before us, and we must bless others in the future by doing the same for them today.

Finally, we all legionaries must work for Alfie's canonisation, by distributing his prayer card, asking for favours and miracles and report them to Concilium when granted. If we want Alfie to be canonised, we must work for it. We gathered here today to ask God for his canonisation; well, we must make our best effort in order to achieve that. In a quotation in the Legion of Mary Handbook Saint Thomas Moore says: "The things I pray for, Dear Lord, give me the grace to labour for."

It's wonderful to be together today to reflect on this young legionary's holy life that is an inspiration. Every time we gather as the family of Christ for Holy Mass, we feel a little bit like being in Mount Tabor contemplating Jesus in his divinity, and we would love to stay here forever. Peter also wanted to be with Jesus for ever up there in Mount Tabor, but Jesus sends us, like he sent his apostles then, to proclaim His words and Love to the whole of creation.

Prayer for the Beatification of the Servant of God Alfie Lambe

O God, who by your infinite mercy inflamed the heart of your servant, Alphonsus Lambe with an ardent love for you and for Mary our Mother; a love which revealed itself in a life of intense labour, prayer and sacrifice for the salvation of souls, grant, if it be your will, that we may obtain, by his intercession, what we cannot obtain by our own merits. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen

The Legion of Mary Visit the Parana River Islands



By Noel Lynch

Chapter 40 of our Handbook gives a list of places to visit. These include the vast wastes, the icy wastes, the dense jungles, the dismal swamps, etc.

Legionaries from the dioceses of San Isidro, Argentina, do home-to-home visitation on the many islands in the Rio Parana River. The photos show their Spiritual Director Father Fernando and legionaries going from home-to-home. A tractor and trailer is used to reach those difficult parts of the islands. Every soul is contacted. Catechism classes are given to the many children.

This is a work that legionaries can do anywhere. We can look for those places who never get a visit from the Catholic Church; places where new praesidia can be started to reach every single soul.

Further up the Rio Parana river the secretary of the first Curia of Barranqueras, Chaco, Argentina lives on an island in a lagoon on the island of Santa Rosa. Every year the procession for Santa Rosa is done by boat on the river. This is also done by legionaries in Paraguay and Argentina on the same river. Everyone who has a boat takes part in these processions. The statues of Our Lady of Itati and Caacupei are in the first boat of the processions.









Visitors to Concilium April 2026

By Miriam McKane Secretary Concilium



President of Zagreb Regia Iva Pavkovic makes a presentation to Concilium, received by President Concilium Declan Lawlor

Concilium welcomed visitors from Zagreb Regia

Concilium welcomed visitors from Zagreb Regia to the Concilium meeting on Sunday 19th April 2026. As part of their celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Legion of Mary in Croatia, Iva Pavkovic, President of Zagrab Regia, led a group of 40 legionaries in pilgrimage to Ireland. The group included Rev. Fr. Thomislov Magić, Spiritual Director to Zagreb Regia, and Rev. Fr. Don Šime Perić, Spiritual Director to Zadar Comitium.

In our photograph *(above)*, Iva presents a Gift of a hand-made Pag Lace Cross to President Declan Lawlor who accepted it on behalf of Concilium. In her address, Iva said they were very pleased to be here, on what has been a very emotional visit, and one of which they had only ever dreamed. President Lawlor thanked Iva for travelling with fellow pilgrims and said we all share in the Grace of their visit. On the morning of departure, the legionaries were privileged to have their two Spiritual Directors celebrate Mass in Regina Coeli Hostel, and later visit the grave of our founder Frank Duff, where they prayed for legionaries in Croatia and around the world.

Visit by Fr. André Tanaboon Poonphon, Thailand.

During his visit to the Legion of Mary in Dublin, Rev Fr. André Tanaboon Poonphon, Assistant Spiritual Director for Bangkok Senatus, spoke of the great honour for him to stand before the venerable assembly of Concilium. He made a presentation of the Relics of Blessed Nicolas Bunkerd Kitbamrung, Priest and Martyr, who died in prison for his faith during a period of anti-Catholic persecution on 12th January 1944. He also presented the gift of a hand painted plate with Legion of Mary Tessera. President Lawlor accepted the Relics and Gift on behalf of Concilium. He thanked Fr. Tanaboon for his research on the History of the Legion of Mary in Thailand, which he undertook in preparation for the Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Legion of Mary in 2027. Fr. Tanaboon gave a Blessing to Concilium with the Relics of Blessed Nicolas and said he carries back the living flame of the Spirit of the Legion of Mary to Bangkok under the guidance of Our Blessed Mother – Ave Maria.





Legionaries from Zagreb Regia Croatia attending Concilium on Sunday 19 April 2026

Peregrinatio Pro Christo Project to Helsinki



By Veronica MacNeece

Introduction

Number of people contacted 264. Miraculous medals accepted 75. Prayers for peace accepted 70. Ikons with prayers (in Finnish) accepted 51. Prayers for Faith accepted 24.

Daily Timetable

08.00 - Morning Prayer
09.30 - Legion Meeting
10.45 - Apostolate in Helsinki
13.30 - Lunch
14.30 - Apostolate in Helsinki
18.15 - Evening Prayer / Mass
20.10 - Prepare Reports / Spiritual Discussion
22.00 - Night Prayer

With the blessing and encouragement of Bishop Raimo and Parish Priest Fr. Rafal, the support of the local Stella Maria praesidium and supported by the prayers of legionaries and friends in Finland, Ireland and Scotland, our team of eight legionaries arrived at St. Mary Parish in Helsinki on 14th July 2025 to begin a ten-day Peregrinatio Pro Christo project in the city. This project was organised by the Senatus of Scotland of which I am the Vice-President and project team leader.

It is not easy adequately to report the experience of those days, the warmth of the welcome we received: the profound atmosphere of prayer and reverence in St. Mary's Church, the participation of the crowded congregations in the liturgy, the many moments of Grace, joy and laughter, the exhausting heat.

At the first meeting we reflected on why we were in Helsinki, who were the people we may meet and the message we wished to share with them. The importance of a gentle, respectful manner of approach together with a clear explanation of who we were and what we wished to speak about we realised was very important, together with an awareness of the importance of dialogue.

As we set out, two-by-two to meet with people in Helsinki our approach was along the lines of "Paivaa! do you understand English? May we speak with you?" We continued to explain who we were (Catholics) and that we wished to speak about two things: the

existence of God and His great love for each person.

Experiences

People were friendly and many were willing to speak. Most people who spoke with us did not have a belief in the existence of God. We met with Orthodox and Lutheran Christians and with people of Moslem faith. Conversations were lengthy, some lasting over an hour. Many meaningful dialogues took place.

Among those met was Tuula *(all names used are pseudonyms)* a Lutheran lady who was on her way to the doctor and was anxious about a procedure she would be getting. When one of the legionaries was able to offer her reassurance about this as she was a nurse, Tuula relaxed and told the legionaries about her worries in the relationship with her mother. Being a woman of prayer, when Tuula heard that before meeting her the legionaries had prayed to be guided to the people God wished them to meet, she wept tears of joy, thanking and hugging them and accepting a prayer for peace saying: "This prayer will be precious for me and my mother."

Svetlana was on her way back to Estonia and felt her meeting with the two legionaries came at the right time. She has no faith and was willing to speak about God's existence and his great love for her. On seeing the Ikon picture and then a miraculous medal, she acknowledged "Maria – the mother of all mothers." It was explained that Maria looks out for everyone as she wishes to bring everyone to Jesus her Son. As the conversation continued, the legionaries spoke with Svetlana about the Holy Eucharist and several times she told them she was very open to "this message."



Ben from Netherlands was visiting three Scandinavian countries and although Catholic he was not really committed. One of the legionaries asked if he may share his own experience of coming from agnosticism to faith in God after asking "God if you exist, please give me the gift of faith" and then waiting for God's response which came over a year later. "Funny I meet you." Ben told them that he had been in Gothenburg where "I met people like you who wanted me to visit them in their hometown near Oslo and I did visit them." These people asked Ben to pray with them that God would give him a sign. Being uncomfortable about praying with them, Ben said he would do this privately. The legionaries suggested to Ben that perhaps his meeting them was a sign. Ben accepted a prayer for faith and was offered and encouraged to wear the miraculous medal. When told that many people were praying for this project and perhaps the meeting

was not by chance, he agreed and left pondering what has happened.

Tapio was sitting on the park bench when the legionaries approached him and he responded to the request to speak with a beautiful smile. He believes in God and said "There is a direct link between Adam and Eve and Jesus" and spoke of Helsinki as "a soul-less city, Satan is alive and well." Having spoken for quite a time, Tapio asked the legionaries what they had to say. When they explained their mission in Finland, he said he had been considering Catholicism; Tapio is disappointed with the response of The Lutheran Church in the face of evil. A discussion followed on our personal response to the world and about not being overly concerned about the behaviour of others, we can only change ourselves. Tapio accepted a miraculous medal, a prayer for peace and the address of St. Mary's church.

Katri was sitting on the park bench reading a book when two legionaries approached her, "Yes" she was interested to talk. Born in Finland of a Finnish father, and a Filipina mother who was Catholic, she was brought up with no faith. Katri was searching for faith but felt she had been postponing her search in some way. She had been in Australia during the Covid period and felt the need to go into a church but did not do so. The legionaries shared with her a friend's story of coming to faith and Katri asked them about each of their faith journeys which they shared with her. The legionaries explained that many people were praying for their mission and that they believed God wanted this meeting; they explained that they felt God reveals himself to people in the right way and in the right time for that person. Katri said this meeting was what she needed. She was shown a miraculous medal and advised Maria would help Katri find Jesus. Katri asked if she could take two photos with the legionaries as she wanted them to remind her of this meeting. She also took a photo of the address of St. Mary's Church and email address of the local legionary. Katri may be returning to Australia, but it was explained she will find The Catholic Church there and was encouraged to go along. Katri hugged the two legionaries warmly and left feeling uplifted with a prayer for faith, a prayer for peace and a miraculous medal.

Li was enjoying a visit to Helsinki when he met two legionaries in the flower garden of the park; originally from China, he now lives in Stockholm. He does not have a religion but believes that all religions are about God and about encouraging people to do good and he thinks that is good. He has been in the church with friends for occasions and likes the peace there "It is good for the mind and also the music is good." Li was very friendly and wanted to engage with the legionaries; when

asked if he believes there is a creator he said "Yes." When the legionaries said "Would you speak to the creator, we call speaking to God, the Creator, prayer" he responded. "I see people praying in the movies (reverently demonstrating this) but I do not know how to pray." The legionaries explained prayer as a conversation with God, opening our minds and hearts to God, speaking to Him and listening to Him speak to us deep in our being. Li was pleased when the legionaries offered to pray with him, sitting very still as they prayed Our Father over him and asking God to let him know how to pray. He was delighted to receive the prayer for peace (in English). "This is good." When the miraculous medal was taken out and Maria was mentioned he immediately said "the mother of Jesus." All looked at the Cross of Jesus and the two hearts, symbols of love and told Li Maria is someone who will help you to pray. "On the internet how can I get Catholic?" Li asked. He was advised to ask what Catholics believe but was strongly advised to speak to his Catholic friends in Stockholm. As the three parted Li seemed animated saying "I feel cleansed."

Stella Maris, the Legion of Mary praesidium in St. Mary's parish is a relatively new group. It was a joy for the team to meet with the members, the warmth of the welcome we received, the vitality and enthusiasm of Fr. Marti and all the members; the heroic nature of the apostolate they undertake filled us with admiration. Legionaries from this praesidium were eager to work with the team. The desire to deepen their commitment as legionaries in a three -hour training session filled us with new heart, joy and gratitude.

The team offers a heartfelt, "Thank you" to Bishop Raimo, Fr. Rafal and the parishioners of St. Mary's, to the local legionaries and to all our Finnish friends who shared with us testimonies of their journeys to the Catholic Church.

The team wish to say "Thank you "to Fr. Michael for making the project a retreat experience for all the legionaries.

The only way we can express our gratitude to the Lord and His Mother for the experience of Peregrinatio Pro Christo in Helsinki is to say with all our hearts:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen



Outreach Programme to Aylesbury 2025

By Mary Philpott

Up until seven months ago, I used to walk regularly through our local cemetery praying the rosary, especially during November.

I reasoned that all people who had passed away now know the singular Truth about the existence of God, and His Love and Mercy in sending Jesus to live and die among us, saving us. I ask these holy souls each day to let me know what they would do if they were living with my God-given-talents in today's world.

I found that listening to the holy souls, as well as praying for them, gave me an understanding that we simply need to be ready and prepared to do all that God asks of us. As a result, I became convinced that I should do what I could to organise a team to Aylesbury, a rapidly growing town in Buckinghamshire, UK.

I approached Canon John the parish priest; he was very much in favor, but he was concerned about accommodating the team. Parishioners found it problematic to find space for visitors, and many did not live close to the town center.

I eventually found two houses, close together and close to the town center, which had just enough bathrooms for a team of twelve members. The houses also did not need payment until a week before moving in. This was ideal.

I thought that I would be able to help the team members with transport, cooking and shopping, and of course working with them. However, this did not happen for a variety of reasons.

By early August the Aylesbury legionaries and the team members were all safely in their posts; the team moved into their houses and the work began. It was all an answer to prayer.

Canon John found out that the team were having snacks rather than proper meals together, so he arranged that a local restaurant gave them all a simple hot meal each evening, which ensured they had the strength to do the hugely demanding work. They never wasted a moment of time, and there was a beautiful team spirit.

Aylesbury is a large town now (60,000 and growing), and there are many Catholic families moving in with little or no connection to the parishes. The team helped so much by working door-to-door in the new estates, at last connecting people to their local

Catholic community, the sacraments, the schools, and most importantly the priest. The whole town is now looked after by two full-time permanent priests. It seems close to hopeless.

However, the welcome given to the legionaries by the contacts they met was warm and it seemed that people were waiting for their visit. The full report is inspiring; not surprising as the team knocked on circa 3,000 doors, leaving a contact leaflet at the homes where there was no reply.

Because the Project was such a wonderful success, the team leader Pat Breen called Our Lady 'Untier of Knots' as it was she alone who had brought such a wonderful team spirit to the legionaries.

There was one particular contact in the report that interested me.

The team contacted a lady *(I will call her Clara)*. Clara was a widow, having lost her husband *(I will call him Callum)* several years ago.

The team encouraged Clara to come to the Friday evening Mass at the end of the project; she spoke there with Canon John, so she at last has a link with our Church. I pray for her all the time.

I cannot help but think that Callum was one of the holy souls urging me to get a team for Aylesbury last November. He could see how much was at stake for his dear wife, and Our Lady was at hand to help. ⇢



While I was reading 'Miracles on Tap' (giving an account of the early days of the Legion), I was struck by so many parallels.

In both cases: The problems seemed unsurmountable, but taking one tiny step made them possible. At so many points, it seemed best to give up, but perseverance and sacrifice worked a solution every time. The final project was so much Our Lady's gentle work. Every legionary's heart glows with the memory, and both Aylesbury presidia have gained several new members.

One contact met has enrolled in the parish RCIA course.

This is what Frank Duff saw as the miracles promised by the Lord: Miracles of Grace are not where God "does what we suggest," but when we do not impede the flow of God's Healing Grace into this wounded world of ours.

I have one request for which I am asking: that our legionaries continue to grow in their confidence in a direct apostolate. It is so difficult to face out into the dark winter days and evenings, working for the Lord and his Blessed Mother. However, I remember working on Outreach in the cold Winter last year, and people seemed more responsive when they saw our pinched faces and shivering for them.

I feel very much that legionaries should put themselves physically present in pairs where there is the greatest need and then allow Our Lord to use them to speak about the church, the sacraments and Our Lady to those with whom Our Lady chooses to put them in contact.

Answer the following Questions and win €50

Q1. Where did Frank Duff receive his Secondary Education?

Q2. What was Frank Duff's preferred mode of transport?

Q3. What well known Legionary had a liking for strong tea and cream cakes?

Q4. Who was the former slave who became a well-known and dedicated legionery in Africa?

Q5. In which decade did the Maria Legionis commence publication - 1930's 1940's 1950's?

Answers to: Maria Legionis, De Montfort House,
Morning Star Avenue, Brunswick St., Dublin 7, D07 VA03, Ireland.

Report on the Inauguration of the Regia of Tororo, Uganda

By Senatus of Uganda

Following the gracious permission from Concilium, the Senatus of Uganda was blessed to inaugurate the Regia of Tororo on the 11th of October 2025.

The raising of Tororo Comitium to Regia status marks a significant milestone in the growth of the Legion of Mary in Uganda, establishing the third Regia under the supervision of the Senatus. The Regia of Tororo will oversee Legion work in the Ecclesiastical Province of Tororo, covering the Archdiocese of Tororo and the dioceses of Moroto, Kotido, Soroti, and Jinja.

Preparation

In the months leading to the inauguration, officers of the various Comitia, Curiae, and praesidia within the province were taken through congresses and leadership trainings to ensure strong administrative and spiritual grounding. Dr. Emmanuel Obbo, Archbishop of Tororo, encouraged all legionaries to attend and participate fully in the inaugural celebrations, which were planned to express deep Marian devotion and unity.

The celebrations began on Friday, 10th October 2025, with a 4.5-kilometre Marian Rosary Procession from Agururu Catholic Parish to Uganda Martyrs' Cathedral, Nyangole in Tororo. Thousands of legionaries and Christians joined in prayer, hymns, and reflection, symbolising the spiritual journey of the Legion in Eastern Uganda.

The evening featured inspiring talks by spiritual directors and senior legionaries, followed by Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The solemn atmosphere of prayer set the tone for the next day's main event.



The inaugural Mass on Saturday was a magnificent celebration. The main celebrant was His Grace, the Most Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Obbo, Archbishop of Tororo, who was joined by 25 priests, 20 religious sisters, and 15 religious brothers. The event received live coverage by Radio Maria and Uganda Catholic Television, and thus amplifying its reach. A total of 4,600 people attended, comprising 2,750 legionaries, 1,550 friends and Christians, and 300 invited guests. The attendance of eight Comitia, seventeen Curiae, and twelve praesidia demonstrated great support from across the new Regia.

In his homily, the archbishop expressed deep affection for the Legion of Mary, recalling his own formative years as a junior and senior legionary. He urged all legionaries to:

- *Remain prayerful and imitate the humility and obedience of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*
- *Listen to the voice of God as Mary did at the Annunciation.*
- *Embrace the new dawn of evangelisation by strengthening youth involvement, as 'the youth are the future legionaries.'*

He also pledged to work closely with Regia officers and the bishops of all dioceses in the province to strengthen cooperation and apostolic outreach.

The New Regia: Structure and Scope

The Regia of Tororo will supervise the Legion's work across the entire Tororo Ecclesiastical Province, which covers:

a) Eight Comitia: Jinja, Kamuli, Mbale, Budadiri, Budaka, Bududa, Koloin, and Dabani.

b) Two Curiae: in Abim and Kotido.

The Regia will also oversee and organise praesidia in the vast and challenging territories of Moroto and Kotido, with a specific mandate for extension work in Moroto, Kotido, and Kapchorwa.

The Regia will hold its meetings on the fourth Saturday of each month at Agururu Catholic Parish.

Scan the QR code to view the full event or the following link.

https://www.youtube.com/live/-xCg8Pk5vrk?si=3fkFr8m_VBc_PrMZ

The inauguration revealed several key lessons:

- Preparation and training before elevation strengthen administrative and spiritual unity.
- Hierarchical support is crucial: The active participation and encouraging words of the archbishop and several of the clergy provide immense spiritual and moral authority, essential for the Regia's future success.
- Youth engagement is vital for sustainable Legion growth.
- The Power of Public Witness: The Rosary procession was a powerful tool for evangelisation, visibly planting the seeds of faith and Marian devotion in the community.

The Senatus of Uganda extends its deepest gratitude to Concilium for its guidance and support, which made this historic event possible. We congratulate the legionaries of the Tororo Ecclesiastical Province and are confident that, under the mantle of Our Lady, the Regia of Tororo will be a centre of dynamic force for evangelisation. We continue to seek the intercession of Mary, Our Mother, for the continued growth of the Legion in Uganda.

God bless you all.



AFRICA

ANGOLA: A Mass was celebrated in April to commemorate the 17th anniversary of the **Senatus of Benguela** attended by 525 legionaries together with the Spiritual Director. In May, a meeting for officers was held, and attended by 237 legionaries. The topics discussed were: "Mariology, Future Leadership, and the Liturgy." The meeting concluded with the celebration of Holy Mass. Works undertaken include encouraging people to return to Mass and receive the sacraments, as well as visiting the elderly and sick in their homes and hospitals. **Senatus of Luanda:** Mass is celebrated monthly on the 7th of the month for servant of God Frank Duff. The Senatus initiated a project for all praesidia to conduct monthly Exploratio Dominicalis within their areas. Works include cholera awareness among the population, catechesis for all ages, visits to the sick, prisoners, and absent members, assistance at wakes, outreach to non-Catholics, and bringing Holy Communion to the elderly and infirm. They also promote participation in Mass and Patricians' meetings, recruit new members, support marriage regularisation, visit children in shelters, engage with people on the streets among other works.

CABO VERDE: Recommendations, following the visit to Concilium in Dublin by officers of the Cabo Verde Regia, are being faithfully implemented. A productive meeting was held with Cardinal Dom Arlindo Gomes Furtado to discuss collaboration for the growth of The Legion of Mary. Fr. Lourenço Faria Rosa was appointed as the new Spiritual Director. Efforts continue to promote Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary, with meetings held to prepare legionaries for it. Works carried out in the spirit of True Devotion to the Nation (TDN) include teaching sewing, embroidery, and reading and writing. Visitation of people suffering from addiction, and street contact apostolate are carried out also. An Exploratio Dominicalis project was carried out, during which 30 families were visited and 20 children were enrolled in catechism classes.

GHANA: **Senatus of Accra:** Councils organised very successful Brown Scapular Investitures in July. A headmistress in one of the schools requested for Rosaries to be shared with the students on campus. Frank Duff prayer meetings are organised monthly by many councils. Mother of Christ Regia, Kumasi reported that they presented Spiritual Bouquets to newly ordained priests at their first Thanksgiving Masses.

LESOTHO: Works in the **Senatus of Lesotho** include visits to elderly people, teaching children their prayers, preparations for the sacraments and regularising marriages. Legionaries are concerned for people involved with drugs.

MOZAMBIQUE: The **Maputo Regia** has been working to assist its attached councils in the southern part of the country. Monthly visits are made to prisons and hospitals. They assist in children's catechesis and lead prayers at funerals. They organised collective weddings, and there were many returns to the sacraments. On September 8th, they celebrated the Nativity of Our Lady, the Legion's 104th anniversary, and its 66th anniversary in Mozambique, with about 4,000 legionaries attending. The Regia also organised a pilgrimage to the Marian Shrine in Namaacha on October 11th and October 12th.

SOUTH AFRICA: **Senatus of Cape Town:** In October,

several public Rosaries were held, including a live-streamed Rosary Tableau. The Southern Cross magazine featured an article on the Legion of Mary. Works include home and hospital visitation with prayer cards and holy water, visiting elderly people and people who have been bereaved, praying and offering assistance at wakes, and welcoming new parishioners. Four people began the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), and a senior member retired from active membership after sixty- five (65) years of service. The junior praesidium has eight active members. **Matatiele Comitium:** A praesidium reported visiting homes to encourage people to attend Church. They also encourage children to participate in parish activities such as being altar servers, joining the choir, along with encouraging their return to school, and perseverance with studies as appropriate. Members also visit hospitals to pray with, and for, the sick people. They teach catechism and assist in liturgical work to help ensure that people receive the sacraments. As a result of their efforts, 30 people received the sacrament of Baptism, 40 children received their First Holy Communion, 53 children were confirmed, and ten individuals joined the Catholic Church. They also organise retreats for parishioners.

ZIMBABWE: Isogodoni Comitium: A two-day annual retreat was held recently. The Legion Anniversary celebration was a great success, attended by legionaries from Pietermaritzburg, Durban Deanery and Mariannhill Deanery. Harare Curia had a recruitment drive in which five people expressed an interest in joining the Legion of Mary.

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA: Adelaide Comitium, attached to **Melbourne Senatus,** organised a Marian procession with 1,000 people attending. Flyers are distributed at the central market at Easter and Christmas in an effort to reach out to young people. Perth Comitium manned a stall at the World Youth festival. They work making and supplying Rosary beads to the Aboriginal chaplaincy.

Nauru Curia in the Pacific has nine senior and four junior praesidia. Three new praesidia have been established and one of the works carried out is teaching religion in state schools. Two Comitia in the **Kiribati Islands** reported. One has 60 senior praesidia and 17 junior praesidia. They visit people who are sick and housebound, people suffering from disability, and a hospital where they pray the Rosary with the patients.

Sydney Senatus: Vietnamese, Indonesian and Korean Councils reported. Works include visitation to the sick, housebound, hospitals, home visitation, and contact work in the park and in the city. Public Rosaries are conducted in May and October. A new praesidium has been established in the seminary.

A visit to Dili Comitium in **East Timor,** was very fruitful. There are five Curiae attached. A visit to the **Solomon Islands** is to happen soon.

NEW ZEALAND: The Senatus had a stand at the recent Divine Mercy Conference. The Korean Comitium in Auckland has 15 senior praesidia and one junior praesidium. A new praesidium comprised of eight legionaries has been established. Works include after-care for the newly baptised, and journeying with four people who were baptised following the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) course. Auckland junior Curia has five praesidia. Along with seniors, they visit children in hospital. An Exploratio Dominicalis project carried out

by senior members resulted in one person expressing interest in the Catholic Faith being followed up and referred to the parish priest.

The praesidium in the **Cook Islands** is doing well. Nukualofa Curia in **Tonga** held their Acies with 25 attending and a recent Retreat was attended by nineteen legionaries. They had a visit from Senatus to assist with extension and recruitment.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: The **Madang Senatus** has one Regia, ten Comitia, six Curiae and eight senior and three junior praesidia, one of which is in the Divine Word University. 364 lukewarm and fallen away Catholics were visited and encouraged to return to Church. 210 youths were prepared for Holy Communion. 40 newborn babies were blessed and anointed with oil by the priest, while the legionaries counselled the parents about the right family planning. 52 women engaged in prostitution were visited, and 35 youths addicted to pornography were counselled. The correspondent for Concilium is Sr. Liza in Manila. She and others visited Papua New Guinea recently to attend a conference and engage with officers in Senatus and attached Regia.

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA: The apostolate reflected in the reports to **Costa Rica Senatus** highlights the follow up with families whose homes were consecrated to the Sacred Heart, nurturing their spirituality and prayer life

NICARAGUA: A Congress, organised by **Nicaragua Regia,** took place some months ago. It had a very good attendance and since then the Regia is showing great signs of progress and enthusiasm. The Year of Hope was promoted and encouraged in many parishes.

PANAMA: A new praesidium was founded in the **Panama Regia** Curia area. Reports list the following activities: Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes, book barrow apostolate, street contact, prison visitations, and contact with auxiliaries.

SALVADOR: The **Senatus of San Salvador** held a Peregrinatio Pro Christo in five parishes during a two week period in a very abandoned remote area. The parish has been revitalised, 1,769 homes were visited, and many new praesidia were established. A young Japanese man was received into the Catholic Church after two years preparation and a Mormon has requested the sacraments.

CUBA: The monthly Comitium meeting was held in December. Despite problems there was an air of positivity and the meeting was encouraged to have confidence and trust in Jesus and Our Blessed Mother.

WEST INDIES

HAITI: Recruiting is ongoing and two new praesidia were started in one Comitium. Among other works, are an apostolate to lapsed Catholics, protestants, homebound and grieving families, works of service and catechesis.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: Extension has resulted in two new distant praesidia with ten and seventeen new members. In September, the Regia held an online meeting with officers from Barbados, Grenada, Antigua, Dominica and Guyana. The Regia led a junior Peregrinatio Pro Christo to Grenada in August.

NORTH AMERICA

USA: Arlington Senatus: Thirteen members carried out a Maria et Patria type project in Nashville, staying with Nashville legionaries, who joined

them in the door-to-door visitation. They also had an extension weekend in Kentucky. They recruited 25 active legionaries and have opened an English and Spanish speaking praesidium. **Boston Senatus:** A comprehensive 2024 annual report was submitted to the Archbishop. This showed 1,251 active members and 2,685 auxiliaries. A praesidium helped ten people in preparation for reception of the sacrament of Baptism. In New Haven, legionaries contacted hundreds of people at the annual oyster festival. A praesidium in Harford Comitium started a "street evangelisation table" in Winsted. **Chicago Senatus:** Detroit Regia reported on crowd contact and booths at state fairs and Irish festivals. The Joliet Spanish- speaking Curia organised its first Marian Congress with 250 people attending in addition to four priests. In Minnesota, a praesidium co-ordinates a weekly Rosary with the inmates in the Stillwater Prison. **Houston Senatus:** A praesidium held an Exploratio Dominicalis, during which many homeless people were contacted, in downtown Dallas. Other highlights were hosting a Catholic Information Table at the East Texas State and making 600 contacts at the Pasadena Strawberry Festival. There is a new praesidium in Belize City. **Los Angeles Senatus:** Congresses appear in every Council report. Juniors are making a comeback. Extension always features in the minutes. One Curia recently reported having 12 Patricians groups. Eight Frank Duff prayer groups featured also. One praesidium mentioned carrying out apostolate to homeless people **New York Senatus:** A local praesidium of ten members reported Pilgrim Statue visitation, book barrow apostolate, Exploratio Dominicalis, promotion of True Devotion to Mary and a Public Rosary at Grand Central Station. Reports were also taken from a Korean-speaking Curia, a Korean-speaking Comitium and Buffalo Comitium. **Philadelphia Senatus:** The English and Spanish versions of Maria Legionis are being printed. Reports highlight book barrow apostolate is being carried out on streets and in a church annex. Juniors are starting. One junior group brings Our Lady's Statue into classrooms for grades 3-6. San Francisco Senatus organised a well-attended gathering that had the theme, "Mary Mother of Hope", based on the Encyclical "Hope does not disappoint". Five Spiritual Directors attended. Presentations were available in English, Korean and Spanish. **Miami Regia:** The four praesidia reporting had an average of nine active members doing a range of works including visitation of elderly, Pilgrim Virgin Statue Visitation, and Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes. Two recruiting drives were undertaken. Nine of the Councils reporting highlighted extension efforts being made. The Regia visited Curiae in Jamaica, The Bahamas and Atlanta.

CANADA: Toronto Senatus: The 2025 census shows 1,838 active members plus 225 on probation and 8,075 auxiliary members. A team of eight carried out a weeklong Senatus visitation to New Brunswick Curia providing officer training and a parish census with the assistance of two local legionaries. About 20% of contacts were practising Catholics. They also visited the praesidium on Prince Edward Island. Newfoundland Curia, with four attached praesidia, is gaining members. Archbishop Hundt gave the talk at their Jubilee Pilgrimage. **Montreal Senatus:** Quebec Comitium closed post covid and Sherbrooke Curia is much reduced in size. There are two ongoing extension efforts. A pilgrimage was organised to mark the Jubilee Year. Edmonton Comitium: A praesidium conducts a weekly lay liturgy in nine senior

homes, bringing Holy Communion to 150 people there. The two English- speaking Curiae in Calgary were visited. **Vancouver Comitium:** The 2025 Census shows 994 active members and 2,664 auxiliaries. Post-Congress, improved efficiency and participation was noted in one Curia. Due to the Concilium visit, Korean translation was provided at some Comitium meetings.

MEXICO: Monterrey Regia, recently affiliated to the Guadalajara Senatus, reported an increase in members and praesidia. There are currently 93 new members and two new praesidia. Legionaries visit one prison and permission has been requested to visit another prison. A Comitium, attached to **Medellin Senatus,** reported 500 sick persons confessed and received the sacrament of the sick. Eight new praesidia have been established. 1,100 homes were consecrated to the Sacred Heart, 32 persons returned to the practice of the Catholic Faith and 22 couples married in the Catholic Church. The Comitium of Cuernavaca, attached to **Mexico City Senatus,** set up three new praesidia including one junior group. A praesidium in Central Mexico speaks the Otomi language, which is spoken by about 300,00 people. About 2,000 legionaries went on the annual pilgrimage to the Basilica of Guadalupe in September.

EUROPE

BELGIUM: The works of a praesidium in Brussels Senatus at the Sacred Heart Basilica, include bringing nursing home residents to Mass, and evangelisation in the park surrounding the Basilica when possible.

CYPRUS: The Legion of Mary in Cyprus celebrated its 34th anniversary in Nicosia on 26th October 2025. Legionaries from Limassol and members from the new praesidium in Larnaca, entitled Our Lady of Grace praesidium, joined for the celebrations.

DENMARK: There is a praesidium at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Copenhagen and it has nine members. They haven't had any contact with any Council for many years. They are a Filipino praesidium who engage in some visitation and are very involved in the parish.

ENGLAND: A praesidium in **Brentwood Regia** revisited a total of thirteen homes with lapsed Catholics following Peregrinatio Pro Christo in their parish. Through legionaries' effort, a mother and son were baptised, received their First Holy Communion and were confirmed at Easter 2024. The sister joined the Legion of Mary and took her Legion promise. A non- Catholic husband of a legionary was also converted and became a devout Catholic. A retired Salvation Army pastor, 85years old, who was visited regularly by legionaries, left a message for his daughter- before he died- to contact the parish and thank the Legion of Mary for visiting him. **Brentwood East Curia:** A praesidium holds weekly Rosary clubs at two primary schools during lunch time. It also holds a weekly lunchtime Eucharistic Adoration and Rosary Service at the local secondary school. A member of this praesidium met a lady after Mass, who had never been in a Catholic Church before. She has now begun the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults course in the parish. A young mother, contacted through door-to-door visits, is also attending this course. Southwark Comitium: One praesidium at South Wimbledon knocked on over 1,000 doors in six months and called back on thirty of them. A man came up to a legionary at Mass - it was August 15th, Feast of the Assumption. He said, "I am now a Catholic. I went to RCIA classes in a nearby parish. You

called at my door." Legionaries carry out street contact and distribute Miraculous Medals in the Lewisham town centre. They bring contacts into the church to show them Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Junior works include distribution of Miraculous Medals and Rosaries at First Holy Communion Masses, helping at Sunday Mass in the church and altar serving, and leading the Rosary in Church on First Saturdays. **Central London Curia:** A Call to Arms Conference was held which was well organised and well attended, including members from other Councils and seems to have been very successful. A praesidium was down to one member but with help from another praesidium now has nine active members, and one probationer. Works include apostolate in the red-light area occasionally, crowd contact, prison ministry, monthly Night Fever events, and care of people who are homebound and sick. **Liverpool Senatus:** A praesidium started a junior praesidium with eight active members and three auxiliaries. Another praesidium reported twelve people are participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults course. Manchester Comitium: There are currently twelve praesidia and two Curiae attached. A praesidium in Salford has eleven (11) active members and ten (10) auxiliaries. Two (2) members are catechists. Prayers requested for Fr. Pat Deegan, Parkinsons diagnosis, for miraculous healing through the intercession of Servant of God, Frank Duff. **Birmingham Senatus:** A variety of works have been undertaken by affiliated praesidia which includes visiting the sick, online Bible reading group, crowd contact and a Legion of Mary stall.

GERMANY: Legion of Mary stands were held at the Munich Bennofest and in Altoetting. Monthly vigils of reparation and regular Patrician meetings were also held. A new praesidium has started in the Diocese of Hildesheim, the first in 30 years. An Indian family with two sons has taken up active Legion membership in Usingen. Young legionaries participated in a Rosary making demonstration. 30 legionaries attended a Peregrinatio Pro Christo Conference/weekend in Einsiedeln, Switzerland.

GREECE: A praesidium in Thessaloniki has four members. They assist the praesidium in Agapit. Members visit a woman with a daughter who is paralysed and bring Holy Communion to them. They distribute Miraculous Medals to children preparing for reception of the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The praesidium in Giannitsa holds its meeting in Albanian since all the members are from Albania. The praesidium in Rhodes has four members.

MALTA: The **Malta Regia** celebrated its 1,000th Regia meeting in September with the celebration of Mass before the meeting. Four Peregrinatio Pro Christo projects were organised this year in Birmingham, Rome, Sicily and Lourdes. In Birmingham, a single mother with her children, along with another adult wanted to be baptised. Two priests and a Deacon took part in Lourdes. The project in Rome was carried out by seven legionaries including a priest. They knocked on 245 doors leaving leaflets regarding Mass and the Rosary at homes where no response was received at the door. Gozo Comitium organised a successful week-long Maria et Patria project.

THE NETHERLANDS: Amsterdam Regia: A public Rosary was recited on Dam Square and the weekly Rosary on Google meet is getting good numbers. The English speaking praesidium is having their monthly Patrician meetings. One praesidium organised a block rosary and

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