Maria Legionis



Maria Legionis

The Voice of the Legion of Mary

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The Madonna of the Book by Sandro Botticelli

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Thank you, The Editor.

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INVITATION

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Saint Paul and Our Blessed Lady

By Frank Duff



Those outside the Church have tended to concentrate on St. Paul as if he were on a higher level than the other Apostles. They seize on the texts of Scripture which tell of Our Lord's calling St. Paul on the road to Damascus and giving him his mission to the Gentiles – about the year A.D. 45. They overlook the fact that each of the Apostles was in his own fashion called individually by Our Lord. The presumption is that St. Paul was placed in a position of superior appointment and in a quasi-independence to St. Peter and the other Apostles: that he took no orders from them. This suggestion is quite unwarranted and Scripture itself refutes it. For instance, when he went to Jerusalem for the first time as a Christian, he found the disciples suspicious of him. They did not know what to make of him. Was he a miracle of grace, or was he what he had always been – a relentless persecutor newly clad in a sheep's fleece?



St Barnabas stepped forward to vouch for him. We are not told from where St Barnabas got his information, but he was able to supply convincing details of St. Paul's conversion and of his genuineness and ardour. That settled the matter. St. Paul was accepted with open arms, incorporated into the apostolic band, and soon afterwards sent off with St. Barnabas for his first missionary journey.

You will note: He was sent by authority. He did not simply march off as he pleased. The two of them were told where to go – just the same as all the Apostles were assigned districts. Moreover, it was Barnabas and not Paul who was at first in charge of the team.

Then later when the two of them returned to Jerusalem in connection with the crisis over circumcision, there was no question of their laying down the law to the other Apostles. Their special function was to describe to the Elders of the Church their conquests and the manner in which the approval of Heaven had been manifested by torrential grace and by visible favours and miracles. This was to prove that God was not insisting on circumcision as a part of Christianity but was pouring out the fullness of His grace without that rite.

A long debate followed at the Council and terminated in the unanimous decision that circumcision was not necessary. This decision was couched in a form which Rome has ever since adhered to in like cases; that is: "The Holy Spirit and We have decided."

Note again: The matter was not settled by St. Paul and St. Barnabas but by the Council.

The next time they were sent forth, that is on St. Paul's second journey, a subtle difference is to be seen: St. Paul had become the senior in the team. Furthermore, it was determined that his special mission was to be to the Gentiles. Here is an exercise of authority over St. Paul which complimented and implemented the heavenly mandate to the same effect.



So much for that contention as to St. Paul's independence!

Another assertion of non-Catholic thought is to the effect that Paul in his Epistles was silent about the Blessed Virgin. That is true, but the inference which is drawn from it is that he knew little about her and that most certainly he did not recognise her as having any role in the Christian system. My whole purpose here is to demonstrate the precise contrary in respect to St. Paul. There were special circumstances which imposed restraint upon him. It was tendency of the time to regard every sublime figure as a god. Paul himself had been the subject of that excess. The paganism which surrounded him during his special mission to the Gentiles presented an assembly of many deities. It was necessary to guard Christianity against any such tendency to turn its leading persons into deities apparently on a level with Our Lord Himself. So, it was imperative to preserve Our Lord in a sort of spotlight of His own, which would entail leaving Mary in the shadow. According as Christianity grew and established its principles, that danger diminished.

Likewise, St. Paul's phrase that Jesus was born of a woman is subjected to a violation. He was asserting the necessary truth that Jesus was truly a man, the Son of a human mother. But the belittling school wants to put on St. Paul's lips the suggestion that Mary was just an ordinary woman and no more than that. I will seek to show that St. Paul's phrase could not have had any such derogatory sense, and that St. Paul must have been chock-full of discernment and appreciation of her – surely no less than, say, Thomas Aquinas, St. Bernard, St. Jerome and others.

Improper capital has also been made of St. Paul's repeated references to the New Adam. It is contended that his omission of references to the New Eve amounted to the deliberate suggestion that Mary had no partnership role with Jesus. But this would be impossible. St. Paul's references to the New Adam must have had in mind all that St. Justin and St. Irenaeus subsequently taught of the New Adam and the New Eve. For they were the disciples and immediate successors of the Apostles: St. Justin was particularly associated with St. Paul. Frequently disciples were found surpassing their masters. Because in worldly matters each man learns and adds; he stands on another's shoulders. But that would not apply in the case of that doctrine of the New Adam and New Eve because it is the basis of the Fall and Reparation; the latter was divinely planned in a precise reversal of the Fall. Mary is as necessary a part of Redemption as was Eve of the Fall. To leave out either Eve or Mary would effect a radical change in the very idea. The Fall and the Redemption would assume a different pattern towards which it is not easy orientate oneself.



Let us speculate for a moment on that position: If Eve did not figure as an element in the Fall, that is if the Serpent had directly caused the ruin of Adam, then Eve would be guiltless. She would not have contributed to the Fall. In that case there is an anomaly attaching to the position of their children which are thus born of a guilty father and of a mother innocent of actual sin. The resulting position is peculiar, blurred, and complicated. It is true that Adam's position as head of the human race dominates and would cause his sin to pass to both Eve and their offspring. But this definitely places Eve in an anomalous position. She is his partner; she is free from culpability, but she is going to be called upon to pay even a greater price than he for the sin which she did not commit. She will bring forth her children in pain and suffering. She will have to pay the penalty in all the other events of life, the struggles, the sickness, all the warfare of a disturbed nature and super-nature.

The more one contemplates that suppositious position, the less one likes it. But one is relieved from all that perplexity by the fact that Eve not only co-operated in the collapse but played an initiating part in it, such that it seems to be made evident that without her the Fall would not have occurred. The Bible narrative makes it plain that Eve was a specific cause of the Fall; then of course enters in that other factor already mentioned, namely, that Adam's participation had overmastering results by reason of his headship of humanity. Man fell in Adam, not in Eve.

At that stage the resulting position becomes simple and comprehensible to our minds. Adam and Eve must be subjected to the consequences of the Fall. True, the race did not fall in Eve, but she led to that fall in the fullest possible sense; that is to the extent that it would not have taken place at all without her incitement. That is what is pictured in the Bible.

It follows that the doctrine of the New Adam requires absolutely the presence of the New Eve beside that New Adam. If St. Paul is deliberately excluding her, then the divine parallel which makes the Redemption an exact reversal of the Fall is being deformed by him. His doctrine in that case does not reflect the exact reversal of the Fall which God intended the Redemption to be.

But to suggest that St. Paul was guilty of a mutilation of the divine idea would be only an absurdity. So, it follows conclusively that where St. Paul spoke of the New Adam, he had present in his mind the absolute fullness of the doctrine. We, poor creatures though we are, can see with absolute clarity that the doctrine of the New Adam imperatively requires that the New Eve be placed beside Him. It would be ridiculous only to claim that we are clearly seeing what St. Paul did not see.

Again, let it be particularly noted that the doctrine of the New Adam is Pauline and not found in the other apostolic books. It would be carrying things to a preposterous limit to suggest that St. Paul, who was its source, who claimed to have been divinely taught his doctrine, did not properly understand it, and that its fullness only came to his immediate disciples like a dawning.

Therefore, apart from other considerations to which I will proceed, it must be accepted that St. Paul's doctrine included the New Eve, that is Mary, the Mother of God and Co-Redemptrix. This Pauline formula or parable based on reality, compresses as if into a nutshell the scheme of reconciliation, and incidentally the relation of Mary to it. It is a Mariology in itself; nothing could be more simple. Yet it is so comprehensive that Chapter 8 of the *De Ecclesia* amounts to little more than the expansion of that nutshell into the grown tree.





Would St. Paul be a little benighted regarding Mary, wanting in appreciation and affection for her, grudging in regard to her? Of course not. St. Paul was not isolated either personally or doctrinally from the other Apostles and Elders. He met them, communicated with them, and worked with many of them, including for instance a couple of years with St. Peter at Rome. The Apostles were a unity. They shared all the Christian doctrine and all their inspirations. A high Protestant authority (Dr. Smith's Dictionary of the Bible) insists that the alleged disagreements between St. Paul and St. Peter did not denote a cleavage of doctrine.

But very particularly St. Paul worked with St. Luke who was St. Paul's most intimate friend and constant companion. He was with St. Paul during both his captivities, firstly in Caesarea of Judea from A.D. 58 to A.D. 60 when St. Luke wrote his Gospel. Secondly, in Rome for two years when he wrote the Acts of the Apostles (A.D. 63). The latter from the thirteenth chapter to the end confines itself almost entirely to the doings of St. Paul. It is quite certain that both of those works of St. Luke, and also the Epistles of St. Paul, would not have been communicated to each other only at the time of writing, but discussed in every word. What St. Paul wrote would have represented the thought of St. Luke, and vice-versa. This has a vital bearing, not completely realised, on St. Paul's attitude towards Our Lady.

Some critics doubt that St. Paul ever saw her. But his contemporary Dionysius the Areopagite knew her personally according to his own statement. St. Paul would have the same opportunities and it is unbelievable that he would neglect them. Mary probably died about the year A.D. 57.

Ukrainian Diary

By Elizabeth Kriss - Austrian legionary on extension work in Ukraine



FEBRUARY 2022

Monday 7

Everything is thrown overboard. My second legionary cannot come. All preparations are therefore invalid and ten unprepared days await me. There is no time for further preparations, the legionaries do not know that I am coming.

Friday 11

Kiev. The new priest, Fr. Paul greets me happily with the words: "What are you doing here when the Americans call off their diplomats? Aren't you afraid?" This is not really a question, but a joyful expression of the common attitude: of course the shepherd stays with the flock, the queen with the legionary, the correspondent with the legionaries.

Saturday 12

Comitium meeting. The Council has remained stable. In the afternoon I try to understand Our Lady's plans to reach the legionaries at these places and to buy the tickets to get there. By night train to Harkow (30 km. from the Russian border).

Sunday 13

Everything is as usual. On the walk to the church I realise that I have to reach the bishop. Where do I get his telephone number? A legionary who used to be his co-worker helps me. The praesidium urgently needs my visit. Although the legionaries are doing their best, they are discouraged. A praesidium without Curia is defenceless. Encouragement to keep the faithful meeting, to use the limited opportunities for apostolate and to think of spreading to neighbouring parishes despite all the difficulties. Now I understand why Our Lady wanted me to see the bishop. But he is not there. So I wrote him a text message asking for a meeting. I would come here again especially for that. In the evening I travel by train across the whole of the Ukraine to Lviv.

Monday 14.

In the afternoon I meet the artist who painted the icon. He kept his word, and so I keep mine: handshake quality is rare in Ukraine. I gladly pay him a surcharge for the galloping inflation. After the evening mass, the praesidium takes place in provisional rooms, but there is a fresh tulip at the simple altar. Mary is loved.

Tuesday 15

In Veliki Mosti (1.5 hours away) there is Holy Mass at 10am with the consecration of the icon. Frank Duff has given permission to the praesidium of the Eastern Rite to use an icon instead of the statue. Apparently war is announced for tomorrow. The church has announced prayer and fasting. Every evening at 8 o'clock the rosary is prayed. I am so grateful to be here, with my people, and not praying from afar. Everything is quiet. The buses are running, people are working, shopping, ... A text message from the Bishop of Harkow. He will not return until Sunday. What now?

Wednesday 16

Calm before the storm. Will the storm break? The storm of prayer in any case. With a wonderful legionary we visit the new parish priest in a parish where the spread is stifled in the corona rules. No one knows what tomorrow will bring. But I have to plan. In the evening I sit with my luggage in front of the railway station. Soldiers are gathering for departure. Will they pray for me there in faraway Austria?

Thursday 17

Arrived in Khmelnitsky - 4 a.m. Everything is quiet. The marching route is gathering people for the journey to Kamenets. My arrival is a joy, but quite short notice.

Friday 18

Breakfast with the Bishop. He knows that the Legion is working well in his diocese. The soon necessary division of a Curia is discussed only in passing. Let us hope it doesn't come to war! Five hours by bus to Rovno. The President of the Curia is already working three weeks double time, but he gladly accepts me.

Saturday 19

The Curia is out of step due to the great distance between the praesidia (one hour each) and the Corona rules of the red zone. The Curia meeting is a meeting of officers in the line-up, but prayer together brings fruitful planning. How can we get the stranded praesidia back on track? Four hours by bus to Lviv. Truck convoys of the military meet us. Fasting and prayer have not yet been cancelled. And yet. Fr. Wolodimir says as we leave: "Our Lady has once again taken Ukraine under her protective mantle and averted the war. Thank you for coming."

Sunday 20

Arrived in Vienna. And then it's another seven hours to home. Thanks to all who are supporting Ukraine in prayer. And greetings to the legionaries in Austria from the legionaries in Ukraine.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE LEGION OF MARY IN KENYA

By Martin Kamba

The happy occasion of celebrating the centenary of the founding of the Legion of Mary on 7th September 1921 gives motive to reflect on the Legion in Kenya - if only for two reasons. First, Venerable Edel Quinn planted the Legion Seed in the country; secondly, she was laid to rest in Nairobi (the capital city) after toiling all over East and Central Africa as the Legion of Mary Envoy. For almost eight years she established hundreds of Legion branches and councils in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Malawi and the far-off Indian Ocean Island of Mauritius.

Currently, there are 26 dioceses organised in four Metropolitan Provinces

These are:

1. Nairobi Province
2. Kisumu Province
3. Mombasa Province
4. Nyeri Province

The first seeds of the Legion on Kenyan soil were sown in Nairobi by Edel at the Holy Family Church (now the Cathedral Church and Minor Basilica) on December 8, 1936; a week later, at St. Peter Claver's Parish and later in St Teresa's Eastleigh where Edel Quinn had set up her base and where she died in 1944. She is buried in the Missionaries' Cemetery, St. Mary's Grounds, Msongari in St. Austin Parish.

In those days, Kenya was under British colonial rule perpetuating racial segregation. The first presidium therefore was for non-natives (Goans and Europeans) while the latter was for natives. It boggles the mind that within four months, Edel managed to bring all races together for the first Acies at St. Peter Claver's Church held on 4th April 1937. Many congregants were in church with a NAIROBI PROVINCE.





Talk of the Universal Motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary! The two praesidia, and many more started by Edel, are continuing with the apostolate. (On personal note, I thank God that for the 32-year stint as a member of that very first praesidium – from 1983 to 2014). Apart from the Senatus, there is a Comitium in Thika and many Curiae attached to the two councils. A great number of priests and religious men and women from Machakos Diocese nurtured their vocations through the Legion: from their parent's membership to their own. Little wonder then that the Legion is very active in almost all 85 of the parishes in the diocese. There are two Comitia each superintending over twenty Curiae spread over vast areas, some exceeding 200 kilometres connected by poor roads. A need to open up three more Comitia has been on the books for the last eight years. Bishop Emmanuel Okombo (now



Emeritus) of Kericho diocese summoned, in November 2018, representatives from all the parishes to Sotik Parish for a three-day intensive seminar on the Legion. He personally attended in the afternoon of the last day. Several praesidia were opened and now there is one Curia. (The President of Concilium Mary Murphy will no doubt remember the assistance she got from him, then a newly ordained priest in Kakamega-under Kisumu, when she was an Envoy in Kenya in the 1970s). There are praesidia in three parishes.

All dioceses in the vast Kisumu Province have the Legion.

There are two Regia at Kisumu and Bungoma. At the inauguration Mass for the latter in February 2021, His Lordship Bishop Joseph Ombanyi of Kakamega Diocese and the Apostolic Administrator of Bungoma Diocese, was assisted by 26 priests, one deacon and two senior seminarians - drawn from five dioceses. The other dioceses sent apologies citing the long distances. The Comitia in this Ecclesial Province are distributed as follows: Kakamega has four; Kisumu, Bungoma and Homa Bay each has three, while Eldoret and Kitale each has one Comitium. Of course these Comitia superintend many Curiae. Lodwar Diocese is the latest frontier to embrace the Legion. In Kitui diocese the Curia at the Cathedral Church requires and gets ready support from the Senatus. Transport nightmares will ease with the new tarmac road network traversing the diocese.





The Legion had some challenges in the Military Ordinariate (then under the Archbishop of Nairobi). The main challenge was frequent transfers, for the Ordinariate spreads all over the country. The current Administrator of the Ordinariate was the president of a Curia in Machakos in early 1980's. Kitale Comitium is committed to give the necessary support. However, the main challenges here are the distances involved between the parishes and, occasionally, insecurity.

KISUMU PROVINCE In Kisii, the Legion is organised under one Curia, down from two due to some challenges which are being addressed. They look into the future with a much hope. In wrapping up on this province, allow the mention of a bishop in the region who is wont to tell the legionaries that he was introduced to the Legion by his grandmother. He would accompany her to the praesidium meetings at the age of ten to twelve years! This Ecclesial Province comprises of eight dioceses. The Legion is to be found in three dioceses: Embu, Meru and Isiolo Vicariate. In Embu, there is a Comitium, Meru has four Curiae.

NYERI PROVINCE plans to open a Comitium in Meru. Isiolo has two praesidia that are looked after by Meru Cathedral Curia. (The Vicariate was carved from Meru Diocese). The other dioceses, excepting Marsabit and Maralal, have no Legion due to historical reasons. Occasional efforts have been made to venture into these territories – there's no giving up! The Legion is active in Mombasa Town parishes (organised under a Curia at the Cathedral Church).

There is another Curia in the South Coast taking care of the Legion in two parishes. The major challenge in the town is recruitment of local Christians. Many are migrant workers from upcountry, susceptible to transfers and retirement. I may also mention at this juncture that one of the young seminarians who accompanied Mary Murphy as she crisscrossed the diocese as Envoy in Kenya is now Archbishop Martin Kivuva Musonde of Mombasa. He has remained a true supporter and promoter of the Legion to this day. There are two praesidia in Malindi, under the care of Mombasa Curia.



MOMBASA PROVINCE In retrospect, the Senatus of Kenya is most grateful to the Concilium Legionis Mariae for the support and, later, for the collaboration witnessed over the years. In between the Envoyships of Venerable Edel Quinn and Mary Murphy, Katherine Dickson, Diarmuid O'Donovan and Joseph Pilendiram were sent to work here. Not to forget the immense benefits

from the 1969 Peregranatio Pro Christo (PPC). The visit to the Concilium by the Senatus officers in October 2016 capped this support. Starting from 1996, the Senatus has organised its own PPCs to Uganda, Tanzania (mainland and the semi-autonomous island of Zanzibar).

Kenya was no exception to the global pandemic. The government banned all gatherings and closed all places of worship in mid-March 2020. Restricted opening of places of worship was allowed in September 2020. In a pleasant support for the Legion by the clergy, reports were received from every corner of the country that Curiae organised for the Acies and Venerable Edel Quinn Mass. What was more gratifying was that the attendance was over eighty per-cent in all places. The situation eased up in the New Year and plans were in top notch for the usual Edel Quinn anniversary Mass at her graveside. This was not to be as the government closed down five counties (Nairobi among them) with high prevalence of Covid-19 infections in March, 2021. The Concilium invited His Grace Archbishop Emeritus Raphael Ndingi mwana'a Nzeki (RIP) in 2007 and was the Main Celebrant and Homilist at Our Lady's Shrine at Knock, Ireland to celebrate Venerable



Katherine Dickson



Diarmuid O'Donovan

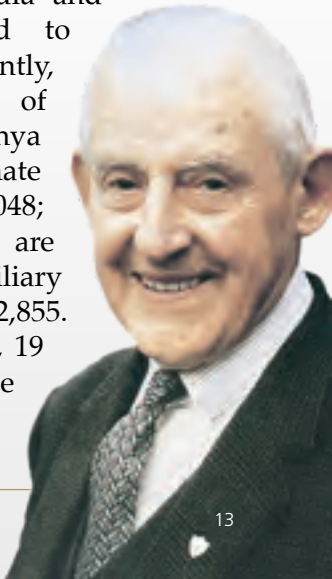


Joseph Pilendiram



Edel Quinn's birthday centenary. The Senatus was/is happy to have carried out assignments, on behalf of the Concilium, to Tanzania from 2004 and to Ghana where the then Senatus President, Consolata Orwa, teamed up with Janet Lowthe in 2015 for the 75th anniversary celebrations since the start of the Legion there. All these (assignments, PPCs) offer learning opportunities to the visitors.

In areas outside the above five counties, Legion councils have already had the Acies and Venerable Edel Quinn anniversary Mass at Curia level, whose climax was in the month of July 2021, where legionaries got an opportunity to follow the live mass aired at Capuchin TV with representation of few members from Immaculate Conception Praesidium and other praesidia and councils attached to Senatus. Currently, the membership of the Legion in Kenya has an approximate number of 49,048; Active members are 46,188 and auxiliary members are 2,855. There are 2 Regia, 19 Comitia, 107 Curiae and 639 Praesidia.



In conclusion, the Legion has, over the years, enjoyed tremendous support from the clergy and religious men and women. We look into the future with expectant hope for their continued support. To paraphrase His Eminence John Cardinal Njue, Emeritus Archbishop of Nairobi, the Legion "has come from far, it is far, it is going far!" Edel Quinn 75th Anniversary Mass Celebration in St. Mary's Grounds, Msongari Laying a wreath at Edel Quinn's Grave on 12th May 2021 led by the spiritual director Fr. Boniface Kariuki and other officers Celebrating Edel Quinn 77th Anniversary Mass at Capuchin Franciscan Friars, Karen, Nairobi - Capuchin TV Senatus Officers visit to Mikinduri to inaugurate the new Curia, Kamunjine which was split from St. Massimmo Curia.

Centenary Celebrations on 4th September 2021 at Holy Family Basicilia, Main Celebrant, His Lordship Rev. Bishop David Kamau Ng'ang' accompanied by Spiritual Director, Rev. Fr. Boniface Kariuku, Senatus President, Br. Geoffrey Mutuma, the clergy and other members. Fr. Boniface shared a cake with His Lordship Rev. Bishop David Kamau Ng'ang' and His Lordship Rev. Bishop David Kamau Ng'ang'. They signed the visitor's book after unveiling the Edel Quin Hall where the 1st Praesidium in East and Central Africa was opened by Venerable Edel Quinn on 8th December 1936.





Homily at Anniversary Mass for Frank Duff

in Pro-Cathedral, Dublin, November 1984

By Fr. Herman Nolan, C.P.



To-day I speak to you as a priest, as a Passionist, as a Dubliner, but in a special way as a legionary of Mary and as one who was privileged to come into close communion with our beloved Frank Duff. Four years have passed, with the length of four long winters, since he left us on a bleak November Day.

I have tried to stand back from the man to see him in perspective. So much has been written about him by eminent prelates and men of letters. So much more is about to appear, from here and overseas, that I need only give you a brief personal glimpse of the man striving to be a saint, for he was convinced that we can be saints: every one of us; the little people no less than the great; and he was convinced that the Legion deserved the title of saint maker.

Stand back from Dublin for a moment. Above the Hell-Fire Club at Kilakee, what lies beneath your feet? A great city open to the sea and to the sky. Howth head to your right, Pidgeon House with its goal-post chimneys. Rathmines church marked unmistakeably by its bright green dome. Ballymun Towers, and over to the left the Phoenix Park with the Wellington monument and yes, there it is on the pale green sward the Papal-Mass Cross white in the morning sun.

There was the theatre of Frank Duff's lifelong drama. There it was that he had his entrance and his exit. At first the infant wheeled into Holy Mass in the Redemptorist Inés in Drumcondra and then the schoolboy pushing his first new bicycle to Blackrock. And then the Civil Servant neatly dressed. And then the earnest deepening of his Faith – daily Communion and a life consumed – by love of Jesus and a thirst for souls. There is the Holy City at your feet. Frank's Via Dolorosa and his tomb.

Thabor is that lovely grassy mound that Frank ascended in the Phoenix Park receiving His Master from the Pope's own hands.

Loyalty to the Holy See had been rewarded earlier in Rome. Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul embraced the valiant soldier and the child of Mary. Two hearts were one. Let that bright Papal Cross be Frank's enduring monument for us all.

'As you are Christians be ye children of Rome.' Beside that bright white cross that other pile of stone looks pale and grey. Wellington at the peak of his power could not have marshalled an army as vast as Mary's Legion, nor could he have evoked its loyalty, that strong cement that binds the Legion's ranks. The loyalty of the member to the praesidium, of the praesidium to its Curia, and so on through the ascending grades of legionary authority to the Concilium Legionis; and to the ecclesiastical authorities everywhere, and finally to the Holy Father.

The green dome of Rathmines Church – Cardinal Cullen's monument to the Immaculate Conception – merits a moment. It marks the restoration of the Queen – the Queen of Heaven to her proper place in the Church in our city, in our hearts and homes. Cardinal Cullen from the heart of Rome revised the title to "Our Immaculate Lady of Refuge." Refuge of sinners is certainly, like Mount Argus, when Frank Duff and Joe Gabbett led bands of soldiers doomed to die in the Great War to find pardon and peace in its confessionals. The Master and apprentice led the way. The dream was born, the layman was let loose in mission fields, the seeds of the Legion were being sown and Rome stood back in wonder and approved.



Dr. Murray merits a moment too. He presided at the opening of this Church dedicated to 'The Immaculate Conception of the Ever-Blessed Virgin.' The building began before the Battle of Waterloo. The incessant beat of marching feet accompanied its beginnings. The pride of our manhood was picked for the Peninsular War. But the greatest battle of all was waged a century afterwards. I do refer to the bullet scarred walls in Cathedral Street which mark sad moments in our history but to the conquest of Bently Place as Frank called it in his book. On his 36th birthday, on the day Matt Talbot dies, Frank had already stormed and conquered every home and nailed his crucifix to the boundary wall of an area that had for a hundred years been held in the grip of the Evil One. He used a chair on a table to erect the Mission Cross. He pointed to the precious wounds of Jesus and cried out with the Apostle: - "You have been bought at a great price, not with gold nor silver but with the blood of a God Crucified. And there was a strange eerie moaning all night long as if from hordes of demons being expelled and people prayed before the Sacred Heart.





Frank was keenly aware that where Christ is not enthroned with His Immaculate Mother there is the Evil One, subtle and cunning and disguised. He has a special place in his heart for those who hide. He was like St. Paul of the Cross, a Hunter of Souls. He spent years chasing souls with letters and visits. Familiar, he was, with Francis Thompson's lines: - "I fled Him down those arches of the years. I fled Him down the labyrinthine ways of my own mind, and in the midst of tears. I hid from Him."

"To those who hide, to the victims of drink and vice, top the dwellers in caves and caravans no one must evade our search lest the gentle Jesus frown upon us."

Coming to the Handbook after a vivid description of the Crucifixion, these words are drummed into the legionary to drive him out drastically in a tireless search for souls.

He was never easy on himself. Even when he got away from the city to the quiet country places, he could not forget entirely the dying to self, that discipleship of Jesus Crucified entails.

Fifteen years ago, he pushed his bicycle over Table Mountain in blinding rain for what he had hoped would be a little holiday, what he called in his letter to me: 'a final fling before going into the tunnel of Winter.' He rode from Rathdrum through the valley of Glenmalure, like a Wicklow chieftain of another era, to the sound of thundering water. Or, like another St. Paul; of the Cross, struggling over the snow-clad Alps he dragged his iron steed over the snow covered bogland within striking distance of Wicklow's highest peak, Lugnaquilla, descending painfully to the swollen river at Immal. He paused at the water for a moment and measured the depth with his front wheel. It was axle deep. He was over eighty years of age, he was exhausted, and the night was pitch dark, but he steeled himself and plunged into and through the river, and on to Donard.



He has written for us these words to help us when we hesitate to plunge into the delicate and difficult work of evangelisation. A legionary service must be one of holding on, of absolute and obstinate refusal to lose heart …

Exactly halfway through the Handbook he leads us into Gethsemane and reveals the bitter cup of suffering He requires of us. Like St. Paul of the Cross, mystical death. "If we be dead with Christ, we shall also live with Him, if we suffer, we shall also reign with Him." That moment of our death in Christ is represented by a Cross, all dripping with blood upon which Our Head has just finished His work. At the foot of the Cross stands a figure so desolate that it seems impossible for her to continue to live."

"A legionary service must be one of holding on, of absolute and obstinate refusal to lose heart ...."

Let us return to finish our review of Dublin City from the hills. It has mushroomed out from the tidy metropolis of Frank Duff's childhood. The houses have crept to the foothills and beyond. Tallaght is vast. Has it been evangelised? Have all those houses been approached by Mary's Legion? Have most been consecrated to the Sacred Heart? A million people flocked out to the Park for the Papal Visit; how many of them go to daily Mass?

How many really reliable legionaries are doing heroic work? This is Dublin's hour of decision, and Ireland's as the Pope said in the Park. Either we evangelise the million people around us or pay the price of "loss of grace, of diminution and decay, even to the extinction of faith." Legionaries, this is your finest hour; the hour of greatest challenge to your Faith and Hope and Love - and courage and perseverance; the hour of widespread unbelief. Immerse yourself into the task that confronts you. Plunge in after the noble band of those who have gone before you in the sign of Faith and who slumber in the sleep of peace. Recruit the young. Increase and multiply and conquer the world. Thousands of your brothers and sisters have laboured and suffered and died because one man took Christ at his word and that man was Frank. "Oh! Do not let labour and suffering so great be wasted."

And never, never, never lose heart. Tá Dia Láidir agus tá máthair mhaith aige. *(God is strong and He has a good mother – Old Irish proverb).*



'Fr. Herman has been described as poet, artist, mystic and prophet. He could turn his hand to mending anything from bicycles, locks, statues, to the crib in Mount Argus where he could carve and sculpt in equal measure.

He became the unofficial chaplain to Frank Duff's cycling group: 'the Sprockets.' All who knew him will remember him with fondness as an optimistic, generous-hearted priest who loved his country, his language, the Legion and his Priesthood, and giving his all, right to the end of his journey, on this earth.'

By Síle Ni Chochláin

Fr. Herman died in Nov. 2009. RIP.



Explanation of Front and Back Covers – *Editor*



Front Cover

'The Madonna of the Book,' or the *Madonna del Libro,* is a small painting by the Italian Renaissance artist Sandro Botticelli, and is preserved in the Poldi Pezzoli Museum in Milan. The painting is executed in tempera on panel. It dates from between 1480 and 1481. In the painting the Madonna is robed in traditional red with a blue cloak while the infant Jesus sits on her lap while pointing to the open 'Book of Hours.'

Back Cover

The picture on the back cover is the painting **'The Presentation of the Virgin at the Temple'** by the Italian artist and 'Father of the Renaissance' Giotto di Bondone. It is a fresco on display in the Arena Chapel in Padua, Italy. It was completed circa 1304-1306.



The painting centers on the story of the Virgin on being brought to the Temple when she was three years old; and to the amazement of everyone she was able to climb unaided the fifteen steps of the Temple. The Virgin is followed by her mother Anne in a red cloak and behind her comes her husband Joachim. The old man with the white beard is said to be Simeon. The Hight Priest stands at the top to receive the Virgin Child. The architecture of the Temple is contemporary fourteenth-century Italian.

You do not have to walk alone ...

By Maneta Ansevica

Mother of Mercy Praesidium, Latvia

It is May 2016, a month especially dedicated to devotion to the Mother of God, when I participated in the celebration of a Holy Mass in the Cistercian Abbey of Marienfeld in Austria, together with the cloistered sisters and parishioners of Maria Roggendorf.

This place was recommended to me by the late + Abbot Bernhard Naber from Altenburg Abbey of the Order of St. Benedict, whom many in Latvia remembers as a benefactor. Father Ildefons, also a Benedictine from the Priory of Maria Roggendorf is the celebrant; the gregorian chants and incense rise up; we are united in prayer.

The celebrant blesses the permanent deacon, the readings of the Holy Scripture resound; afterwards the deacon's homily speaks about the Mother of Christ, about her role in our lives.

The white-haired family man, Deacon Peter Michael Cech, showed the ardor of his love of the Blessed



Mother, when even today I can see in my mind this sermon; when he speaks about God's plan of salvation, about the redemption of the world and asks us to give our answer: to entrust our path of salvation to Mary.

How exactly can we perceive life with Mary and according to her example? How to realise this life? Deacon Michael explains how devotion to the Most Holy Mother is practiced by Catholic Christians as members of the Legion of Mary.

To live completely under the guidance of Mary; to be as fully as possible in the direction of Christ; to be completely at the disposal of Mary in order to know better the Holy Spirit. To be always at the service of the Church; to go out into the world; to transmit the message of Christ to others; to make the world love the Lord our God! The enthusiasm of the deacon cannot leave you indifferent; the words flow so freely and convincingly.

The deacon begins to talk about Dublin, about September 7th 1921, the birthday of the Legion of Mary. It is a lay organisation that witnesses to Christ; that carries out its apostolate on behalf of the Church and under ecclesiastical guidance, with the aim of glorifying God in such a way that humanity may love the Lord even more and His Kingdom may be spread even to the ends of the earth. The path chosen is the everyday path of one's own sanctification, which the Legionary of Mary walks under the guidance of the Immaculata, letting Mary dispose of all that one has and will have in the future, with the goal of glorifying God. Worldly possessions are only troublesome when it comes to spiritual warfare.

So, through the preaching of the deacon I began to know the history of the Legion of Mary, and since that time I have desire to know even more:

They supported me with Legion literature and they also told me about the deacon.

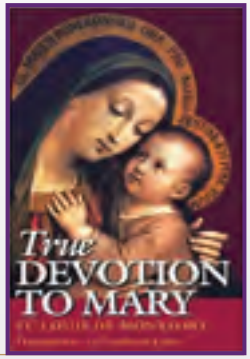
He himself gives testimony not only by his words; he also has been an active member of the Legion for decades; together with his family he publishes books and pamphlets; has founded several praesidia in the prison of that area.

In Latvia, the Legion of Mary was founded in 1994 and one of the active young legionaries, as testified by Msgr. Anton Smelter, became a martyr in our country. Her name was Aija. She gave her life because she was active in service. Through lies, one day her trust was won; it was cleverly planned to lead her away and she was killed.

"With Christ you were buried in baptism, with Him also you were raised, through faith in the power of God who raised Him from the dead." (Col. 2:12 - from the 1st reading on September 7, on the day of the 100th anniversary of Legio Mariae).







Saint Rose of Lima (1586 – 1617)

By Michael Walsh


CONVENTO SANTO DOMINGO

Isabel Flores de Oliva was born in Lima, Peru, then in the Viceroyalty of Peru, on 30 April 1586. Her father Gaspar Flores was a Spaniard and a member of the Imperial Spanish army; her mother, María de Oliva y Herrera was a native of Lima.

Isabel, one of eleven children, struggled with poor health as a baby but soon grew so strong and healthy that she was nicknamed 'Rose' because of her good looks and rosy cheeks.

In 1597 Rose was confirmed by the Archbishop of Lima Toribio de Mogrovejo and at that time formally took the name of Rose (Rosa in Spanish).

It soon became apparent that Rose was no ordinary child. According to renowned English Catholic priest and writer of the lives of the saints Alban Butler, Rose "from her infancy her patience in suffering and her love of mortification were extraordinary, and, whilst yet a child, she ate no fruit, and fasted three days a week, allowing herself only bread and water, and on other days taking only unsavoury herbs and pulse."

From an early age Rose was more interested in religion than in secular matters, and was determined to take a vow of virginity, which was opposed by her parents; they hoped that their extremely attractive daughter would marry into a well-to-do family and be of financial assistance to them. Rose, at this time cropped her hair short, and soon afterwards her father gave her a room to herself where she spent long periods in prayer. She also prayed at a little grotto which she had built, and spent many hours before the Blessed Sacrament, receiving Holy Communion every day- an uncommon practice at that time.

Rose became a vegetarian, mortifying her flesh with hard work and going so far as to rub lime into her hands, pepper on her face and skewer her head with a long pin instead of the roses her mother put there. The object of all this was to turn attention away from her own beauty and focus on God. She cheerfully offered up her suffering, atoning for the idolatry of her country, for the conversion of sinners, and for the souls in purgatory. She continued, however, to remain at home, but lived a secluded life. To do her share in supporting the family, she did needlework and sold the flowers she cultivated at a local market.

When she was twenty years of age, Rose joined the Third Order of Saint Dominic and converted a hut in the backyard of her parents' house into a hermitage where she often went to pray: and is said to have at times experienced ecstasy. She also transformed a room in the main residence into a type of infirmary, where she cared for destitute children and elderly people. She took a vow of perpetual abstinence from meat and continued with her harsh fasting, surviving only on the most basic of foods. Her daily penances and mortifications continued, and she would frequently pray: "Lord, increase my sufferings and with them increase thy love in my heart." Her complete devotion to self-denial and suffering led her to wearing a hair shirt. She flogged herself and slept for only a couple of hours at night so that she had more time for prayer. This routine, plus her work for destitute children and elderly people, continued until the end of her short life.

Rose died on 24 August 1617, at the age of 31. It is said that she prophesied the date of her death. Her funeral, held at the Cathedral, couldn't take place for two days as thousands of people queued to pay their last respects. Already Rosa was venerated to such an extent that even the Viceroy, the Archbishop, representatives of all religious fraternities and many public authorities of Lima attended her funeral. Today her remains are laid to rest in the chapel at the Basilica of Santo Domingo, Peru.



Saint Rose is the primary patroness of Peru and a patroness of the people of Latin America. Evidence of her high esteem is the fact that her image is featured on the Banco Central De Reserva Del Peru, 200 Nuevos Soles Peruvian bank notes; series 2009 - 2016.



Rose was beatified by Pope Clement IX on 10 May 1667, and canonised on 12 April 1671 by Pope Clement X. She was the first Catholic in the Americas to be declared a saint. Her shrine, alongside those of her friends Martin de Porres and John Macias, is located inside of the convent of Saint Dominic in Lima. Many miracles were reported after her death, among them, a story that she had cured a leper, and that, at the time of her death, the city of Lima smelled like roses.

Several places in the New World are named Santa Rosa after this young saint who lived a life of prayer, austerity and kindness towards the poor of Lima.

Saint Rose's Feast Day falls on the 23rd of August.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

By Michael Walsh



The 15th-Century mosaic of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, **also known as Our Lady of Perpetual Succour,** is a popular image, treasured and displayed in multiple homes worldwide as a reminder of Our Blessed Lady's role in salvation.

According to the tradition as published by the Keras Kardiotissas Monastery, the icon was painted by Saint Lazarus Zographos and was known as the Panagia Kardiotissa, due to the depiction of Mary holding the Baby Jesus to her heart. Cristoforo Buondelmonti, an Italian Franciscan priest who visited Crete in 1415, described the icon as being miraculous.

The Archangels Michael and Gabriel, visible in the upper corners, hold the instruments of the Passion: St. Gabriel, in the right corner clasps the cross and the nails. St. Michael, in the left corner holds the spear, the vinegar-soaked sponge, and the crown of thorns. The artist portrays the Child Jesus contemplating the vision of His future Passion. The torment He feels is depicted by the loss of one of His sandals. The icon also conveys the triumph of Christ over sin and death, symbolised by the golden background, a representation of the glory of the resurrection, and the manner in which the angels hold the instruments. The Child Jesus grasps the hand of the Blessed Mother, as if looking for consolation from her as He gazes upon the instruments of His passion. The position of Mary's hands, both holding the Child Jesus as if presenting Him to mankind, signify Our Lord's incarnation, and that He is true God who also became true man.

In iconography, Mary here is represented as the one who guides us to the Redeemer. She also is our Help, who intercedes on our behalf with her Son. The star painted on Mary's veil, centred on her forehead, highlights her role in the plan of salvation as both the Mother of God and our Mother also.

A merchant is reputed to have acquired the icon from the island of Crete in the 15th Century and had it shipped to Rome. During the voyage, a fierce storm arose, threatening the lives of all on board the ship. The passengers and crew prayed to the Blessed Virgin, and survived the journey. On his deathbed, he ordered that the image should be displayed for public veneration. His friend, who retained the image, received further instructions: the Blessed Virgin appeared to his daughter in a dream expressing the desire for the icon to be venerated in a Church between the Basilicas of St. Mary Major and St. John Lateran in Rome. Consequently, it was housed at the Church of St. Matthew, and became known as "The Madonna of Saint Matthew." Pilgrims flocked to the Church for the following three-hundred years, and great graces were bestowed upon the faithful.

After Napoleon's troops destroyed the Church of St. Matthew in 1812, the icon was transferred to the Church of St. Mary in Posterula and remained there for almost forty years. In 1866, Pope Pius IX entrusted the icon to the Redemptorists, who had just built the Church of St. Alphonsus, which is in the vicinity of St. Mary Major. The Holy Father encouraged the public display and veneration of the icon. In 1867, when the image was being carried in a solemn procession through the streets, a young child was cured, one of many recorded miracles.



Prayer to Our Lady of Perpetual Help:

O Lord Jesus Christ, who gave us your Mother Mary,
whose renowned image we venerate,
to be a Mother ever ready to help us; grant we beseech You,
that we who constantly implore her motherly aid,
may merit to enjoy perpetually the fruits of Your Redemption,
who lives and reigns forever and ever.

Amen.

Church of Saint Alphonsus, Liguori, Rome

To this day, the Church of St. Alphonsus Liguori in Rome, which is home to the 15th century mosaic, welcomes pilgrims and visitors to participate in its official weekly Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.



The Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help is celebrated on 27th June.

Poland 1970: My First PPC



By Anni Cech -
former Austrian Senatus officer.

Shortly after my conversion to Catholism, my husband and I came to a Legion Summer School in Dublin in 1970.

One conversation I remember clearly: It was a debate between some officers of the Senatus of Austria and some of the officers of the Concilium. Frank Duff was not present at this conversation. The discussion culminated in the question: "Is it permissible to endanger the inhabitants of a communist country by inviting them to an apostolate or to membership in the Legion of Mary?"

Many younger people of our time can no longer imagine what the "Iron Curtain" of that time signified to us. Any kind of religious conspicuousness had dire consequences in all those countries. Priests who gathered the youth around them were transferred to the border, if not worse. The looming spectre of the time was: "Then you will go to Siberia!" Lay Christians were also intimidated and if there were any brave, courageous lone warriors, they, and their families too, faced consequences.

During these years, Austrian legionaries made heroic efforts to build up the Legion of Our Lady in neighbouring countries. Of course, this was done in complete secrecy and with great caution.

It was at this 1970 summer school in Dublin that we had this conversation and the question: is it permissible to expose the local people to such danger?

At that time I was a new convert, a beginner in the spiritual life, and did not understand many of the lectures and talks that were given. But I observed how the Dublin legionaries behaved: They did not 'talk down' the individual doubting Austrians. On the contrary, they listened patiently to all their concerns and justified arguments and simply stated their conviction with a kind smile, such as: "everyone who is spoken to, has the freedom to say NO, isn't it so? With what justification do we NOT proclaim the Gospel?"

At that stage the PPC (Peregrinatio pro Christo) had only just begun in Austria.

The smiling certainty of the Dublin legionaries made me curious. I was eager to learn more about PPC.

Shortly afterwards, the PPC to Poland took place. My husband agreed that I should sign up because I knew a little English. Our Senatus president at the time and his wife were happy to look after our baby during the day, which we gratefully accepted. After all, beloved Daddy was with her at the end of every day.

It was an Irish group, joined by two Austrian women. I received this apostolate with open mouth and eyes. Michael McGauran, the team leader, had enough to do with us three novices to keep us disciplined. We were the three younger members in the team: Peggy Gleeson, Deirdre Moran and myself. Fortunately, a very open, understanding spiritual director, the late Fr. Sean Moriarty, was a great support to the team leader.

For me as a new convert, it was incredible to realise how Fr. Moriarty loved Our Lady. At that time in Vienna my husband and myself knew only priests from the '68' generation. We were supposed to convince them of the importance of Our Lady in the plan of redemption, but we ourselves had no idea about her. Then I experienced Father Moriarty who spoke so normally of Mary as if she was in the next room!



Father Moriarty and I became friends right away. He was not surprised at anything that happened to me, being a new convert. One example still remains in my memory:

We were doing contact work on the train and met a young man who no longer went to church. After some time he was willing to go to confession to our priest. We walked back through the carriages of the long train to the others to ask Fr Moriarty to speak to the man about confession. However, as my knowledge of English came from a secular background, I knew very little religious terminology. I shouted to the others: "Now please, Pray like hell!!" I had long forgotten that happening, but later the members of that team told me about it.

Nevertheless, in spite of all incompleteness, many great things began happening at that time.

The highlight of our PPC was the the visit to the Bishop in Krakow. We had been given an appointment with Auxiliary Bishop Karol Wojtyla. Cardinal Wyszynski: 'The Primate of the Millennium' was known to us, but the Auxiliary Bishop? It was good to be able to speak with him in English and to my delight he also spoke German. Who would have guessed then that he would one day become the great Saint Pope John Paul!



I would never have dreamed that not only Maria, our baby of that time, but also all our other children would be religiously influenced by him! Our children are the generation of the World Youth Days of this holy Pope.

The TOTUS TUUS of his coat of arms and the Marian lifeline with which our children were brought up in the Legion of Mary began to shape their whole lives.

When we consecrate ourselves to Mary, she can make great things happen. Our children and their friends never missed one World Youth Day in the different countries.

Many of these young people of that time have formed a new generation of Catholic families. "I am all yours my Queen and my Mother." So this TOTUS TUUS brings about a new, apostolic and missionary life. As Frank Duff writes in his book 'The Woman of Genesis': 'It is intriguing to see, that legionaries, who are only average human material, do exhibit that aspect of reaching out after souls.'



A small ten-day PPC group in Poland, 1970, then a communist country, an unknown auxiliary bishop of Krakow ... how can Mary, the Mediatrix of all Graces, not make history after all: even to make the impossible possible! As Frank Duff writes: 'We plunge ourselves into Mary's Motherhood' and Mary's Motherhood is really an infinite thing because God has made it part of His Own Parenthood.

Soon after, a PPC team was formed in Vienna and year-after-year enthusiastic legionaries go on mission journeys to foreign countries at their own expense and proclaim the Gospel.

TOTUS TUUS EGO SUM, REGINA MEA MEA MATER, ET OMNIA MEA, ET OMNIA MEA, OMNIA MEA TUA SUNT."

"I AM ALL YOURS, MY QUEEN, MY MOTHER, AND ALL THAT I HAVE IS YOURS."

A Testimony

By P.Michael Fritz OSB

Spiritual Director of the only Junior Curia in Austria

On September 7, 2021, the Legion of Mary celebrated its centennial. Legion of Mary means: Mary is at work! She calls. She forms and educates. She sends the legionaries to all people in the name of her Son Jesus to proclaim the Gospel to them (Mk 16:15).

I myself have been a member of the Legion of Mary for more than 42 years. After the vocation that is given to all of us in Baptism, the Legion of Mary is my first vocation and my first great love. In the Legion I learned to love Jesus more: in the Most Holy Eucharist, in His Word and in the Holy Church. I was allowed not only to know better the Most Blessed Virgin, but to grow in love for her. I was given a great love for the teachings of the Church and thus for the truth of the Gospel.

In the Legion I tasted the fire and the power of the apostolate. The devotion to the saints became a real treasure for me. And last but not least, the Legion is a school of prayer and virtues - which, however, you have to go to for the rest of your life. The Legion prepared me to become a monk and a priest. Much of what I need in the priestly ministry I learned in the Legion of Mary.

I can truly testify: without the Legion of Mary I would probably not be a monk and priest!

I am eternally grateful to Mary, Mother and Queen of the Legion, for the grace of being her legionary. The Legion has existed for 100 years, but it is young because it is filled with the Spirit of Mary.

The Holy Spirit lives and works in her and because she is part of the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ. And I'm happy to say that I myself have had the privilege of being in the Junior Legion since June 1979, so to say a "42-year-old Junior." And just in case anyone hasn't noticed: I love the Legion of Mary as I love Mary.



Praises of Mary

The Blessed Virgin Mary never departed – not even slightly – from the precepts and examples of her Divine Son.
This was true both in the ecstatic joy she experienced and in the trials and cruel sufferings she endured, which have made her the Queen of Martyrs.
Pope Pius XII

Have devotion to the Holy Name of Mary; ask God for it!
Think of this blessed Name and invoke it often with all the respect and veneration it deserves.
St. John Baptist de la Salle

The whole world is indebted to Jesus for His Passion. Similarly, all of us are indebted to our Lady for her compassion.
St. Albert the Great

Mary, ever Virgin, is a true Mother of Mercy, who disposes Jesus to clemency. As a consoler of the human race, she never ceases to pour out before Him her prayer for the salvation of the faithful crushed by the weight of their sins.
St. Pius V

May the life of Mary, who gave birth to God, be for all of you as instructive as if it were written down.
Come to know yourselves in her and carry out the good works that you have neglected in the past.
St. Athanasius

Entrust to Mary any offering you wish to make to God. In this way, grace will return to its source the same way it came to us.
Certainly, God could give us grace without going through Mary, but he chose not to do so.
St. Bernard



Legion *world news*

AFRICA

Angola: Lubango Regia: Mass was celebrated to mark the Legion Centenary on Sunday 12th of September with His Excellency Very Rev. Dom Zacarias Kamuenho, Archbishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Lubango, presiding. **Lobito Regia** established three new Comitia and reported that some legionaries took part in the activities of the Synod. Yambala Comitium legionaries help the needy, especially the elderly and sick, with the cultivation of their plots of land.

Burundi: The **Senatus of Gitega** was very blessed to be able to continue their praesidium and council meetings and apostolates unhindered throughout 2020 and 2021. They have a total of 44,585 active legionaries.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Senatus of Butembo: Despite the disturbed state of some areas in which many people have been killed, legionaries carry out a wide ranging apostolate which has been blessed with wonderful graces. **Senatus of Bukavu:** Many members died in 2021, including three, who were Presidents of Comitia, for whom prayers are requested. In spite of the lockdown, many Masses were celebrated to mark the Legion's Centenary by many local Bishops in their own dioceses. **Senatus of Kinshasa:** Mass was celebrated in St Mary's Cathedral to mark the Legion Centenary, with auxiliary Archbishop Vincent Tshumbe and all spiritual directors attending. In July 2021 they lost their beloved former Archbishop Mosengo. **Senatus of Kananga:** The Centenary was celebrated with Holy Mass in October by the Bishop of Kananga, Mons. Marcel Basanguka, in the military camp of St Augustine, in the presence of 8,200 Legionaries.

Egypt: The **Senatus of Egypt:** In December the Senatus celebrated the Immaculate Conception; a special service was held for the occasion, led by Archbishop Bakhoum, Patriarchal Deputy for Diocesan Affairs. Fr. Hedeya Tamer the Spiritual Director of the Senatus and several other Clergy, and members of Cairo based Curiae and praesidia attended.

Gambia: Banjul Curia: An Opening Mass for the Centenary took place in the Cathedral on 5th September and there were celebrations on 7th September in St Anthony's Parish. During November and December legionaries had an hour slot each Wednesday on Radio and spoke about the Legion and its activities in various languages.

Ghana: The **Senatus of Accra**: A Triduum for the Servant of God Alfie Lambe was organised, a Mass for his beatification was held on 21st January.

Ivory Coast: Reports show the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Confirmation, Matrimony and Sacrament of the Sick; also the recruitment of catechumens, teaching of catechism and families reconciled.

Kenya: The main work of the legionaries is home visitation with many returns to the sacraments being reported as well as many being introduced to the faith. Prayers were recited in December at Venerable Edel Quinn's grave, and the annual Mass was planned for 7th May.

Malawi: Senatus of Maula: A Mass to launch the Legion Centenary celebrations took place in Maula Cathedral.

Mali: Good apostolic work is undertaken. It is a disturbed country and great heroism is called for on the part of legionaries in carrying out their work.

Mauritius: **Regia of Rodrigues:** Regia meetings are held, but with limited numbers, as omicron virus is still affecting many people. Some members lost their lives to the disease. May their souls rest in peace.

Mozambique: **Beira Comitium:** weekly meetings are taking place and the apostolate has resumed in all parishes. Lichinga Curia: a novena was held in January for the Beatification of the Servant of God, Alfie Lambe.

Nigeria: **Enugu Senatus: Aba Regia** reported 590 adults were received into the Church. **Onitsha Regia:** Umudioka Comitium: Reports include helping 136 couples to wed in the Church. **Jos Regia:** 4,000 legionaries attended the Centenary Mass, the chief celebrant was the Archbishop of Jos. Ikot Ekpene Regia: Port Harcourt Comitium reports preparing catechumens for Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation, 33 couples received the sacrament of Matrimony. **Senatus of Ibadan:** Various Centenary Celebrations took place. **Lagos Regia:** Our Lady of Victories Comitium: Two former members were recently ordained Priests. Our Lady of Help Comitium: Reports on prison visitation showed 72 inmates converted to the Catholic faith, 32 received first Holy Communion and nine received the sacrament of Confirmation.

Senegal: They are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Legion of Mary in Senegal this year.

South Africa: **Cape Town Senatus** met in February for the first time since the pandemic began. A day of recollection took place on the 12th of March. **Matatiele Comitium:** A praesidium organises a Patricians meeting each month with a steady number of attendees.

Tanzania: **Hai Moshi Comitium:** Fr Deudatus Kaunare, the Legion Spiritual Director in the Diocese of Moshi passed away unexpectedly last year. He was a great support to Rombo and Hai Moshi Comitia; may he rest in peace.

Togo: Works undertaken include crowd contact, book barrow, home, auxiliary and hospital visitation, giving catechesis and visitation of orphanages. Among other works the juniors also do crowd contact and try to recruit catechumens.

Uganda: **Uganda Senatus:** Many Centenary Masses have taken place, some with large crowds, Centenary Masses are planned up to August and others have yet to be confirmed.

Zambia: **Lusaka Regia:** Legion Centenary celebrations took place and plans to commemorate 20 years of the Regia in Zambia are underway. **Kasama Regia:** With the easing of restrictions, legionaries organised a 33-day living Rosary Novena for the sick in the Kasama Cathedral. The Theme was Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary. Mass was celebrated on the last day of the novena, 50 sick people attending.

OCEANIA

Australia: **Brisbane Comitium:** The Comitium had a stand at the Ignite Conference for Youth. **Sydney Senatus** received an impressive report from Dili Comitium, East Timor, of their Centenary Mass. A new praesidium started on 12th of May 2021 in the University of Sydney. **Melbourne Senatus:** A new praesidium with eight members started in Mernda. **Perth Comitium** held a Congress.

New Zealand: **Auckland Senatus:** July 2021 was the last meeting. The officers have Zoom planning meetings to prepare for re-opening. East Timor: There are five Curiae, with 35 senior praesidia with 488 members and eight junior praesidia with 150 members.

They visit the prison, orphans and widows. They had a Centenary Mass.

WEST INDIES

Dominican Republic: The meetings of the Senatus of Santiago de los Caballeros have re-started. A number of legionaries died, RIP. A pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Altagracia in Higuey was excellent.

Puerto Rico: The Senatus was meeting up to December 2021. There were no meetings in January or February and most of the attached councils and praesidia are also in lockdown.

Trinidad and Tobago: Most council and praesidium meetings in the Regia are held virtually.

Haiti: A Comitium reporting to the Senatus is involved in a number of activities such as home, hospital, and prison visitation, visiting bereaved families, bringing Holy Communion to sick people and accompanying priests on sick calls.

EUROPE

Belarus: Minsk Comitium: The Comitium has eight directly attached praesidia and seven Curiae. Extension efforts and visitation of praesidia were reported.

Bulgaria: Good efforts are being made to revive praesidia. The Curia celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Legion in Bulgaria.

Croatia: Zagreb Regia Centenary Celebrations were held in Zagreb with Mass celebrated by Episcopal Vicar and four Priests. There was a very big attendance of legionaries and representatives from other lay organisations. Celebrations were also held in Zadar and Osijek Comitia as well as many other places.

Cyprus: Legionaries in Nicosia and Paphos celebrated the Acies Ceremony on the 20th and 25th March respectively. Rev. Sr. Antonio from India died on the 4th of February, R.I.P. She was 96 years old. She was associated with the founding of the Legion in Cyprus and a close friend of former Correspondent, the late Eileen O'Reilly. Nicosia legionaries paid her due respect in the best traditions of the Legion of Mary.

Denmark: The Acies was celebrated on 9th April with Fr. Marcin Gacek presiding. Two new members have joined following their attendance at the Acies.

England: London, Brentwood Regia: Two new parishioners whose initial interest in the Church resulted from a visit of members of a Peregrinatio Pro Christo team were baptised and received their First Holy Communion. In **Central London Curia,** works include home visitation and contact work. **Liverpool Senatus:** Middlesbrough Comitium has set up a praesidium in Hull and Ashton Curia has gained seven new members. **Birmingham Senatus:** Two new praesidia have been set up in Banbury.

France: A praesidium of fifteen members in **Paris Senatus** are assisting with parish duties and attending to and bringing Holy Communion to the sick in their homes. They also reach out to the African community.

Germany: Frankfurt Senatus: Street apostolate is done monthly in Dortmund. A new senior praesidium with four members and a junior with five members have started in Darmstadt. A new praesidium with eight members has started in Sweinfurt.

Italy: Rome Senatus resumed in person meetings in the end of 2021, however due to a renewed spread of Covid discontinued again. They keep in touch with attached councils and praesidia with a monthly letter from the Senatus President. Padua: Since the pandemic began legionaries have volunteered in the hospital supporting doctors and nurses and

recited prayers to Our Lady to enlighten them in their work.

Kazakhstan: Has six praesidia totalling 30 members. Works are organising Holy Hours, and maintaining graveyards.

Lithuania: **Kaunus Comitium:** Most councils are back at meetings. A praesidium of five active members in the Diocese of Panevzys visited the local hospital 23 times during the Pandemic and arranged for the priest to administer the sacrament of the sick to fourteen patients. **Telsiai Comitium:** Centenary Celebrations with Holy Mass were held on 7th and 21st of September.

Malta: **Malta Regia:** Mother of Good Shepherd Curia: works include contacts with tourists and residents of various nationalities. A Curia reports positive feedback from door-to-door apostolate with the statue of Our Lady. Visits were made to the home for elderly priests.

Netherlands: **Amsterdam Regia:** Catechesis is given to a large number of interested Chinese and legionaries are also helping prepare children for First Holy Communion. One new praesidium has been set up. Bishop Van Burgenden attended the Acies in Amsterdam.

Norway: A Curia in **Bergen** has five praesidia attached. In **Tonsberg** the praesidium arranged a gathering of people living alone, at which the Rosary was recited. The legionaries had a meeting with the Bishop on his visit to the parish. In **Drammen** the praesidium does home visitation. Every Saturday a virtual Rosary and Gospel reading takes place with parishioners and participants from other countries. **Konsberg** has a new praesidium.

Poland: **Lublin Regia:** On 7th September legionaries from the Diocese participated in the Mass for the Centenary which was celebrated by the Archbishop and 26 Priests with several hundred people in attendance. Masses of thanksgiving were also celebrated in many of the other Dioceses. **Warsaw Praga Comitium:** A Mass of thanksgiving for the Centenary was celebrated by the Bishop. **Warsaw Comitium:** The main Diocesan Centenary celebrations were held in the Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Warsaw. The chief Celebrant was the Archbishop; many Spiritual Directors, legionaries and others were in attendance.

Portugal: On 7th September 2021 **Coimbra Regia** commemorated the Centenary of the Legion with a time of prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by Holy Mass, presided by Dom Virgilio do Nascimento Antunes. **Funchal Comitium, Madeira:** On 7th November 2021 a Mass was held to commemorate the Centenary, presided by Bishop Dom Nuno Bras. **Ponta Delgada Comitium, Azores:** On the final day of the Year of St. Joseph, the Comitium held a ceremony beginning with a public rosary outside St. Joseph's Church where sixty attended and many were non legionaries. It concluded with Holy Mass.

Russia: A Curia in Siberia has five praesidia. Works include visitation of the sick, assisting the priest at Mass.and church cleaning.

Spain: **Madrid Senatus:** The Senatus bulletin gives a detailed account of what is happening. News of the Centenary Plenary Indulgence fully explained was received with great joy. **Bilbao Senatus:** Returned to meeting in person.

Switzerland: A new English-speaking praesidium has started in Lausanne. Zurich Comitium cares for a Curia in Bergen, Norway.

Turkey: The legionary apostolate includes promotion of the Rosary, helping with the Liturgy, Eucharistic Adoration, visiting sick and elderly in their homes and hospital.

Ukraine: Prayers are requested.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica: Legionaries were very happy to celebrate the Acies ceremony again in person

El Salvador: A Protestant lady, was prepared and received into the Church, soon before she died. A young man with a severe illness was encouraged to go to confession, after a long time he accepted the invitation; he died very grateful to the legionaries. A young Protestant man accepted to become a Catholic, and had his five-year old daughter baptised.

Honduras: **Tegucigalpa Senatus:** The Acies was celebrated in each council and a curia has been raised to Comitium with three Curiae attached.

Nicaragua: Home visitation and street contact are highlighted in a praesidium report to **Managua Regia.**

Panama: The Regia is responding to the requests from a number of parish priests to establish the Legion in their parishes.

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina: **Buenos Aires Senatus:** Alfie Lambe's graveside celebration on 21st January again attracted huge crowds. They included non-stop rosaries in groups at the graveside, Mass in the local church and many street contacts. **Cordoba Senatus:** The Sacred Heart was enthroned in six houses. Legionaries have an apostolate in the 'red-light district.' **Salta Senatus:** To highlight the Legion Centenary there have been many outdoor parades on the streets with Legion banners and pictures of Frank Duff, Edel Quinn and Alfie Lambe. A three-hour symposium promoting Alfie's Cause was done with the help of legionaries in the nine countries where Alfie worked. This was viewed by hundreds from the Spanish-speaking countries. **Corrientes Regia:** Their Spiritual Director, Deacon Jose Antonio Mendez, appointed in November 2019, was heroic in attending all his duties and died from Covid in April 2021, may he rest in peace.

Bolivia: **Senatus La Paz:** The Comitium of Cochabamba reports helping with outdoor Masses. Some praesidia who cannot meet for the moment in the parishes, meet in different legionaries' homes and members of the legionaries' families have joined these praesidia.

Brazil: **São Paulo Senatus:** There are reports of attention being given to the elderly and infirm and making contact with Auxiliary members by telephone. **Belo Horizonte Senatus:** In the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Belo Horizonte the Archbishop Dom Walmor Oliveira de Azevedo presided at Holy Mass on 5th September 2021. The Mass was transmitted live on TV Horizonte, the television transmitter of the Archdiocese, allowing the remote participation of legionaries in the whole State of Minas Gerais.

Chile: **Senatus of Santiago:** WhatsApp groups are used by some praesidia to reach out to the auxiliary members. A new praesidium has been started in Temuco.

Colombia: Works include Sacred Heart Enthronement, statue visitation, street contact in transport hubs and parks, catechesis, Radio Maria programs, visiting the sick, and ecological activities.

Paraguay: **Senatus of Asuncion:** Senatus Spiritual Director Fr. Gennero in an Allocutio spoke about the work and legacy of Fr. Lacey, former Spiritual Director, who continued the work of Alfie Lambe leading to the setting up of the Senatus in 1961. Fr. Gennero recounted serving the daily 7am mass at which Alfie attended wearing traditional local knitted shirts and sandals. He said goodbye to Alfie and Una Twomey the day before they departed Paraguay and told them the news of

his imminent entry to the seminary in 1958. A book has just been published in Paraguay on the life of Alfie. Legion Centenary celebrations took place in the shrine of Caacupé with a Mass on the 28th of November. A large number of legionaries travelled from all parts of the country.

Peru: Senatus of Lima: Works include phone and online contact with families and with the sick, virtual Frank Duff Prayer Groups, sacramental preparation, park rosaries, visiting the sick where allowed and Nazareth Groups. Centenary Masses were celebrated in November by Bishops and Spiritual Directors.

Uruguay: Senatus of Montevideo: The Centenary was widely celebrated with various vigils, Masses, and rosaries. Masses in the various Cathedrals were con-celebrated by the bishops and Spiritual Directors.

Venezuela: The Senatus of Caracas: Various Councils arranged for Mass to celebrate the Legion Centenary. The Spiritual Director of the Senatus, Cardinal Jorge Urosa died from Covid and a few legionaries also, may they rest in peace.

NORTH AMERICA

Mexico: A Comitium attached to Mexico City Senatus reported 480 persons prepared for and made the '33-Day' True Devotion Act of Consecration to Our Lady. A praesidium was set up in a women's prison. All councils in **Merida Senatus** indicate big numbers recruited. Five couples received the Sacrament of Matrimony. It was reported from Guadalajara Regia that legionaries prayed to Frank Duff for a cure for a person with a tumour. The last medical check indicated that the tumour had disappeared. They pray the Rosary with the family in thanksgiving.

Canada: Toronto Senatus: The Curia in Newfoundland organised a '33-Day' preparation for True Devotion to Mary consecration. **Montreal Senatus:** Among the works of one praesidium were distribution of 500 miraculous medals through crowd contact at train stations and some homes and Pilgrim Virgin statue visits. **Vancouver Comitium:** Works include Family Rosary Crusade to 26 homes. Four families had enthronement of the Sacred Heart in their homes.

U.S.A.: San Francisco Senatus: For the benefit of their distant councils, they did a Zoom presentation on the history of the Legion in San Francisco for the Centenary in January. **Boston Senatus:** Among works were praying Rosary at wakes and novenas for deceased, Rosary processions, CCD, book barrow at Church, and crowd contact **Arlington Regia:** An Adult Retreat was organised in April and a Retreat for young adults is planned for July. True Devotion Consecrations are featured in many reports, also planning for Congresses. **Los Angeles Senatus:** They held their first in-person Senatus meeting in February. **Chicago Senatus:** The Korean Comitium has 228 active and 348 auxiliary members. They introduced 22 people to the Catholic faith. The Hispanic Comitium have nine praesidia and two Curiae attached with fifteen praesidia. Visits are made to rehab centres, and calls to sick and to nursing homes. The works in Milwaukee Curia include teaching Religious Education to students of a local Catholic school, street apostolate and visits to a nursing home. **Philadelphia Senatus:** In East Montgomery Curia, as well as the usual works, the legionaries helped organise the 'Quo Vadis' summer camp for young men, discerning a vocation to the priesthood. Harrisburg Comitium, staffed a Legion table at a diocesan women's conference for two days. **Houston Senatus** organised a Peregrinatio Pro Christo to Florida. A Korean Curia reported reaching out to atheists, caring for catechumens, contacting lapsed parishioners and encouraging them to return.

ASIA

Armenia: The Curia has been meeting monthly since it was set up in May 2021 and is working well.

Hong Kong:c The Comitium resumed meetings in October 2021 when regulations permitted. The Annual Reunion was held in December with restricted numbers.

India: The Chennai Regia celebrated the Legion Centenary on 12th of December 2021 at the National Shrine with Archbishop George Antonysamu celebrating Mass with fifteen priests. In his homily he spoke about Frank Duff, the sacrifices of the Legion Envoys and recalled as a small boy attending Legion meetings with his aunt. He values the co-operation and support of the legionaries. **Karnataka Senatus** Centenary celebrations were held on 20th of March 2022, Mass being celebrated by the Archbishop of Bangalore. **Pondicherry Senatus** held Centenary celebrations on 8th of September. Mass was celebrated by the Archbishop and seven priests.

Indonesia: **Malang Senatus:** Semarang Regia, which has 2,500 members, reported holding Zoom meetings with some in person meetings recommencing. **Kaupang Senatus** covers the west coast of Timor. A young legionaries' conference was held in Nela, in the Diocese of Atambua.

Japan: A praesidium celebrated its 1,700th meeting. Another praesidium held a discussion group where believers and non-believers had open discussion on faith matters.

Korea: **Gwangju Senatus:** The Legion of Mary Centenary Mass was celebrated on 8th January at Sanjung-dong Basilica Minor. The Archbishop of Kwangju Diocese was chief concelebrant and 300 attended.cCentenary Masses were also held by Busan, Jeju and Jeonju Regiae. In each case the chief celebrant was the Diocesan Bishop, and large numbers, in one case as many as 2000 people attended.

Malaysia: Kuala Lumpur Regia: Two Comitia held Centenary Masses, on 14/15th and 18th December respectively. The Regia planned to have its celebration on 20th March.

Myanmar: The Acies was held on 26 March in Yangon City with 280 attending.

Philippines: **Cebu Senatus:** Due to the devastation caused by storm Odette in late December, the January and February Senatus meetings were cancelled when the roof of the Senatus house was destroyed. **Mindanao Senatus:** Works include home visitation, prison visitation and catechism classes.

Taiwan: Two new Curiae were established in October, each has full complement of officers and a Spiritual Director. This development was a source of great joy to the Legion in the country particularly as it coincided with the Legion's Centenary.

Vietnam: To mark the Legion Centenary Mass was celebrated by the Archbishop of Ho Chi Minh city at 7 a.m. on 5th of September and by the Archbishop of Hanoi at 6 p.m. on 8th of September.



LEGION OF MARY
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