

Truly, Truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. J 12:24

1907  
Born Kanturk  
Co. Cork

On the 18th of September 1907  
four days after her birth on the feast of

**“The Triumph of the Cross”**

Edel Mary Quinn died with Christ in Baptism  
in the Catholic Church of St. Mary  
in Castlemagner, Co. Cork.



1908  
Clonmel,  
Co. Tipperary

1909

1910

1911

1912



This plant was nurtured by loving parents  
and teachers who realised from the very early  
stages they had here someone special.

She was in the care of the Loreto nuns in  
Clonmel up to the age of six in 1913.

1913  
Cahir,  
Co. Tipperary

Mr. Quinn’s work now brought the family  
to Cahir in Co. Tipperary, where, on the  
feast of the Ascension - June 1st 1916 -  
Edel having received forgiveness for her sins  
in the Sacrament of God’s Mercy; made her  
first contact with her “Bread of Life” when she made  
her 1st Holy Communion wearing a crown of  
edelweiss - the noble flower of the heights.



*Rest in His presence, and my Guardian  
Angel will adore him for me.*

1914  
A Divided  
Europe

1915  
A Divided  
Europe

1916  
1st Holy  
Communion  
Cahir,  
Co. Tipperary

*“Of ourselves we know not what we desire, but the Paraclete will teach us”*

1917  
Confirmation  
Enniscorthy  
Co. Wexford

Her heart is undivided amidst a divided  
Europe and an Ireland in turmoil. It was in  
Enniscorthy that at the age of 10 again with  
the Loreto nuns that Edel takes her next step  
towards her beloved. For her Confirmation she  
took the names Eucharistia Joseph.

*“We all have to fight Satan, you as well as me. On  
the day of our Baptism, we become children of God;  
and on the day of our Confirmation, we became  
soldiers of Christ and you know that the soldiers  
duty is to fight his country’s enemies.  
To children in Mauritius,*

1918

1919  
Tralee  
Co. Kerry

The family moves again this time to Tralee in Co. Kerry, new faces  
and friends new challenges, this will be the pattern of Edels life.

*“My life is always like this, as soon as my work becomes really interesting and that  
I have made real friends, I must break away and face again the unknown”  
She said this with tears in her eyes (1940).*

1921  
Legion of Mary  
Founded

Ireland was a divided country in April 1922 when she left again to face new horizons as a  
boarding student in St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic School, Upton Hall, Wirral, Merseyside.

1922  
A Divided Ireland.  
Sent to school in  
Upton, Cheshire,  
England

1923  
Returns to  
Tralee



But Edel’s heart was united with Jesus, Mary  
and Joseph, her advisory counsel. She was  
good at her studies and games and captained  
the cricket team. She played the piano and  
was an accomplished dancer. She was also an  
enthusiastic member of Our Lady’s sodality.



Even before leaving Upton in Oct 1923, due  
to a reversal of family fortune; Edel had  
renounced the world.



# EDEL

When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near he said to his mother" woman behold your son!" then he said to the disciple "behold your mother!"

1924  
Seventeen YO  
Leave Tralee  
for Dublin

Christmas 1924, the family moved to Dublin where we find them living in a flat at No. 22 Trafalgar Terrace, Monkstown, Co. Dublin.

1925  
Monkstown,  
Co. Dublin.  
Secretarial  
School

Edel is required to take secretarial courses in Potters College in Dun Laoghaire and Rosses in Dublin and find employment to supplement the family income.



She successfully obtains a post working for an importer of building materials at Tara Street Dublin, which was very convenient because of the home and work being near the train stations.

1926  
Working as  
Secretary,  
Dublin

1927  
Age 20  
Marriage  
proposal



She attended 7am daily Mass, fasting in Dun Laoghaire or Blackrock, and a number of Masses on Sundays in Monkstown Church. Attending Benediction in the afternoon and often again at 7pm in St.Teresa's Church, Clarendon St.



1928  
Joined  
Legion of Mary

Edel was a member of Clarinda Park Tennis club. She also played golf and enjoyed going to private parties to dance and play the piano.

She belonged to Loreto Social Club. This catered for young girls. She enjoyed taking an active part in the club and composing and producing plays and operettas for the girls gave her great joy.



About this time a friend introduced her to the Legion of Mary, which had been founded in 1921. Edel was in her early twenties.

1929  
Considers  
Vocation

1930  
Apostolic  
activity

1932  
Struck down  
with TB

Edel immersed herself in legion activities, her employer Pierre had fallen in love with her and proposed marriage, she explained to him that she had decided to become a Poor Clare Nun so life was very full. But that was not to be either, in February 1932 the year of the Great Eucharistic Congress in Dublin; at the age of 25 she was diagnosed with Tuberculosis and for 18 months was a patient in Newcastle Sanatorium, Co. Wicklow.



1933  
Convalescence  
in Monkstown

1934  
Rejoins  
Legion of Mary

The shadow of the cross, which had been there, became more pronounced

1935  
Vice President  
Junior praesidium  
Blackrock

The doctors told her they could do no more for her and gave her 2 years to live. So she signed herself out and resumed employment and her legion work in 1934.

"Sufferings are precious."

She is made vice-president of a praesidium for junior nurses in Temple Hill Blackrock. No doubt she was able to give them some practical advice as well as looking after their spiritual welfare. When she was in Newcastle one of the patients died and the young nurse on duty came to Edel for help!

In the Summer of 1936 she does extension in England and in the Autumn goes to Africa



MARY

"Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church"  
Colossians 1:24.

1936  
Leaves  
for Africa

A call came from South Africa for help and it was reasoned the change of climate would suit Edel. She jumped at the chance. But before that could be arranged. The Bishop of Zanzibar asked that she be sent to his area and it was agreed that she should go to East Africa instead.

She arrived in Mombassa on the feast of St. Columbanus - Ireland's greatest missionary to date. This delicate woman was about to bring about fundamental change in missionary technique. She made Nairobi, the Capital of Kenya, her base. The Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Riberi supported her by writing to each of his districts recommending her apostolate. But she still had to overcome many difficulties of travel and language.

1937  
Starts  
Legion of Mary  
in Kenya

1938  
Contracts  
Malaria  
in Zanzibar

1939  
A divided world

Her belief in the system of the Legion of Mary was total.

1940  
Visits  
Mauritius

She succeeded in overcoming all obstacles of class and ethnic difference, and they were many and varied; to mobilise the laity in the service of the Church under Our Lady's banner. After Kenya, in February 1938 she returned to Zanzibar Tanzania and then in July she is in Uganda.



1941  
Illness prevails

1942  
Six months in  
Johannesburg  
Hospital

1943  
Returns  
to Nairobi

Only at the end of this year did she show any signs of the illness that was to end her life. After a brief rest, when the whole world was divided; and her heart as undivided as ever, she set sail for the Island of Mauritius. Because of wartime shipping she returns through South Africa. Her next destination was Nyasaland now Malawi.

In 1941 after four and half years of arduous travelling and organising legion counsels in five countries of varying different cultures and languages she had a complete physical collapse. She spent six months in a sanatorium in South Africa. While she was there she could only receive Holy Communion once a week, she said, "That gave her an idea of what hell would be like!"

1944  
Dies in Nairobi,  
age 37  
Buried in  
St. Austins  
Cemetery

She returned to Nairobi obviously very ill, but continued to work as long as she could for another year.



On the morning of her death, May 12, 1944 her diary shows details to be dealt with and she had plans for a trip to an Irish convent to rest. Even on her death bed in the care of the Sisters of the Precious Blood, (what a beautiful touch of her beloved)

1957  
Beatification  
process begins

1994  
Pope John Paul II  
declares Edel  
Venerable

To Mother Arsenia she asks;  
"Mother Mother, what has happened to me?  
I am very ill, Is Jesus coming?"

She received The Sacrament of the sick, kissed the crucifix, murmured the name "Jesus, Jesus."  
And the Master heard her call and took her to Himself.

Mgr. Riberi who saw at close hand Edel's work in East Africa, wrote - The working of the Legionaries, like an army arrayed in battle under the leadership of Mary Our Queen, is something so inspiring and strengthening that we can hardly think of anything better.



As inter nuncio to China he urged the Columban Fathers to utilise it before the communists took over the country. So successful was the Legion in forming the lay Catholics that even when Mao had rounded up, imprisoned or killed all the priests; the church was still thriving. Mao declared The Legion of Mary public enemy No. 1. Thousands of Chinese Legionaries perished for their Catholic faith.



Edel's cause for Beatification was introduced in 1957 by the Archbishop of Nairobi.

Pope John Paul II declared her Venerable in 1994.

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