

# *Maria Legionis*



# Maria Legionis

*The Voice of the Legion of Mary*

Edition 3 of 2022

€1.25c

Cover photo: *The Assumption of the Virgin*  
Mary by Peter Paul Rubens

## PRICE INCREASE

From issue number 2 (inclusive) the cover price will increase to €1.25c per copy. An annual subscription will cost €10.00 per annum, (including postage worldwide).

Thank you, *The Editor*.

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## INVITATION

The Editor and Board of Maria Legionis invite readers of Maria Legionis, and other legion members, to submit articles and other contributions with a view towards publication in future issues of the journal. Ideally, submissions should be made by e-mail attachments (Word Documents or jpg images) to: [concilium@legion-of-mary.ie](mailto: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*.



Published by: Maria Legionis, Presentata House, 263 North Circular Road, Dublin 7, Ireland, Tel: + 353 1 8387770.

Magazine enquiries - e-mail: [marialegionis263@gmail.com](mailto:marialegionis263@gmail.com)

Annual Subscription, incl postage, €10.00 per 4 copies. *Price Increase see above*

Design: MacArt, Dublin, Ireland, Tel: + 353 1 2852508. Email: [macart@indigo.ie](mailto:macart@indigo.ie)

Print: Perigord Group, Damastown Industrial Park, Mulhuddart, Co. Dublin. Tel: (01) 860 1122



# Legion of Mary Extraordinary Meeting

By Nuala Porter  
President North Elphin Curia

An extraordinary meeting of Legionaries was held in Knock on Saturday 4 June 2022.

## The meeting covered the dioceses of Tuam; Elphin; Achonry; Killala; Clonfert; Galway.

The meeting organised by Galway Curia under the auspices of Concilium, was chaired by Fr. Declan Lohan and Phelim Donnelly, Galway Curia. The purpose of the meeting was to engage in talks and discussion on how best to restart with enthusiasm the Legion of Mary mission for members' personal sanctification and for the salvation of souls.



A special welcome was extended to Mary Murphy, President of Concilium. This is the Centenary Year of the Legion and this is very special. We are coming out of a storm.

In a storm some trees get knocked over and the stronger trees survive. This is how it has been for the Legion of Mary in the past two years. This is an opportunity for us to come together

with "Strength in Unity." Open and frank discussion was encouraged among the packed room of Legion of Mary members.

Representatives of each Curia were invited to speak about their respective Curia regions outlining activities and works being undertaken, especially with the impact of Covid in the past two years.

Some Praesidia held their meetings on Zoom during lockdown.

## Strengths and Weaknesses from various Curiae

The Legion of Mary in Galway undertook a survey for the upcoming Synod in the Vatican in 2023. With the guidance of the Parish Priest and Pastoral Council they undertook a pastoral survey in the parish to find out what were people's views on the Church, how they were coping with lockdown and how their faith was affected during this time. All questionnaires were documented and a very comprehensive report was compiled on the findings of same.

## LEGION OF MARY

This is a very impressive piece of work on behalf of the Legion of Mary in Galway.

Most Curia meetings have resumed, with North Elphin Curia reporting an attendance of 80% at their June 2022 meeting.

The President of Comitium spoke of their plans to commence a junior praesidium in the near future, and also said there was a lack of Spiritual Directors in some praesidia.

Suggestion of care packs for First Communion and Confirmation classes. Pack includes a small bottle of Holy Water, Rosary Beads, leaflet on Confession, etc. We can access these through Legion members.

### Speakers

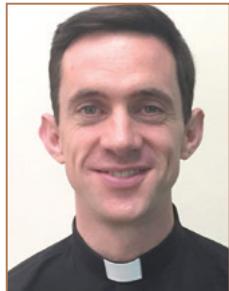
Declan Lawlor Concilium spoke about the publication of Frank Duff's 'Monks of the West' which pays tribute to Irish monks who went out to Europe. Frank Duff said: "The passion and the journey to spread the faith was the Spirit. Previous missionaries were all filled with this overpowering wrestlesness for the Lord. Their Spirit was akin to St. Paul. They were hungry for souls. A little bit of hardship and sacrifice is needed in our work."

This is a new start for us legionaries coming out of Covid. In our time the whole family narrative – the role of mothers and fathers - is all under attack. However, we have the Legion,



we have Our Lady, and we have the Faith to keep us motivated. We also have some great writings from Frank Duff. We have a system but do we believe in it. Are we fully committed to recruiting new members? The truth is we are not as committed as we should be. We need to be less restrictive on the faith practice of new members given the practice of faith is so low at present. With three months' probation, there is plenty of time for Our Lady to work with them while using the system to change them into practicing Catholics step-by-step. Various clubs around the country can be a very good place to recruit new members. St. Joseph is a great guide for recruiting men into the Legion. Members have been on the streets in Dublin week in and week out handing out Miraculous Medals and talking to people. This has proven to be very successful with new members joining up. The idea is to start off simple, then move up to supreme actions, and then to genius actions. Project 300 – working towards recruiting 300 new members in Dublin in the Centenary Year. We are in a David & Goliath battle, but we are fighting for Our Lady. Look at her heart burning with love and the Sacred Heart of Jesus.





Fr. Declan Lohan, Spiritual Director, Galway praesidia spoke. For the Centenary, Galway praesidia wanted to do some project. We were inspired

by the “Mary Days” the Legion were holding in other parts of Ireland. It seemed a good idea to get legionaries and friends together to realise this. This is why we are here today. Our Lady’s hand was at work as this is what she really wants for the Centenary, for us, and for the rest of Ireland. It is very significant also as this is the eve of Pentecost. It is something for us to think about how we as legionaries live the Spirit. Mary’s Spirit who is of God, the Holy Spirit. We all have our eyes wide open to what is happening in the church. Does it matter about the world? We can say here in Connaught we have our eyes open as legionaries and we have such an important role to play. We should not underestimate our role as legionaries in the church in the West of Ireland. It is so important. That comes from the highest parts of the church as to how important the lay movements are at this time in the church’s history, and from listening to people who are here today, I can see that you are the heart and soul of your parishes. Legionaries were always so loyal to the church. We are encouraged in our prayer and we are active. We are ready to roll up our sleeves for the church. How very important is our

movement: I am not aware of any other movement in the West of Ireland that is the same as the Legion. We really have to realise ourselves how important we are. Society is sleepwalking itself into godlessness. We are drifting. How much longer will it be before religion starts to disappear from different places? We don’t need to be weighed down by this, but proud that we hold onto the treasure we have and want to share with others. Remember our Legion Promise “I..... desire this day to be enrolled as a legionary of Mary, yet knowing that of myself I cannot render worthy service. I ask you Holy Spirit to come upon me and fill me with Yourself.” The Legion is not going to grow if we are not convinced that we are doing important work for the Legion. We have a responsibility for the souls of all those in whose areas we work. Don’t ever assume that the priest is not interested in our presence in the parish. Approach the priest and ask him. You may be very surprised at his response. Priests need help too. There is a darkness that is descending very quickly and many people are suffering from this. Now is the time to stay awake and keep our lamps lit in every parish.





We have something great and we want to give it to people. We are honouring Our Lady today. We are in the shadow of her Basilica of the Queen of Ireland. We are doing our duty to her as she is the mother of souls. When this life is over, we will all be united together as brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Mary Murphy, President of Concilium addressed the meeting. Mary was very impressed with the number of people in attendance, full of energy, spirit and enthusiasm for the future of the Legion of Mary Apostolate. Mary paid tribute to Kathleen Donoghue, deceased member who gave great service to the Legion as an active member in Dublin and working in some of the most difficult areas. Some of the things we could consider organising are a Congress or Patrician Meetings.

In this Centenary Year perhaps take an article from the writings of Frank Duff and study it with members. Maybe the Spirit is telling us today that with all the lovely young people in our schools it could be the time for junior praesidia. Fr. Richard Gibbons,

Parish Priest of Knock, speaks highly of the junior praesidium in Knock. Perhaps if every Curia could give time to consider starting up a junior praesidium in their respective areas. This would be ideal. Perhaps we could form men's praesidia out of the different groups like Men's Sheds and other gatherings where men meet and talk. Two legionaries have come from Brazil. They are at present in Portugal doing extension work for a month for the Legion. Let us also think of and pray for our fellow legionaries in the Ukraine. Perhaps we could outreach to people in our areas who have come from the Ukraine, and we may find new members among them. We have the Special Indulgence which closes on the 7th September. However, the Centenary of the Legion will close on the 19th November with the Closing Mass for Frank Duff in the Pro Cathedral, Dublin. Mary recommended we study the Handbook and believe in the system which is holding the structure of the Legion together around the world.

Fr. Lohan concluded the meeting with his blessing and by encouraging members to ask our Bishops to appoint Spiritual Directors in our praesidia. We hope to organise more of these Extraordinary Meetings as this day has been a great success and highlights the need for more regular interaction among members to support and strengthen each other in our Legion Apostolate.

# Holy Rosary at the Barbican-Plymouth

By Adrian Wardle

On Plymouth's historic Barbican harbour, close to where the Mayflower sailed to America in 1620, there is an unusual Stella Maris statue set into a wall on Lambhay Hill by the waterfront.



It was here at 3pm on the first four Sundays in May that members, supporters, auxiliaries and friends of the Praesidium of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, based at Plymouth's Catholic Cathedral, joined together for the public recitation of the Holy Rosary. This was in honour of our Blessed Mother Mary during her month of May.

The Stella Maris statue is, of course, that of Our Lady, Star of the Sea, who is the Patron Saint of all mariners, hence its location just yards from the old Seamen's Shelter. This worn and battered statue was rescued from a lost cargo of marble from a ship which sank off Plymouth.

One of the weekends was Pirates' Weekend on the Barbican and we were joined by one family from a neighbouring parish whose children arrived in their pirate's costumes together with our Cathedral Sisters who are Daughters of St Francis de Sales.

Those who couldn't attend were invited – via notices in our City parishes – to recite five Mysteries of the Rosary in their own homes at the same time. So together, we were able to commend all those who were suffering in mind or body, war or poverty, to the loving care of our Holy Mother Mary.



The young pirates and the Cathedral Sisters at our openair Sunday Rosary in May. (PHOTO: Adrian Wardle)

# Br. Andreas Seidl - an Appreciation

By Elizabeth Ruepp

*The following appreciation was given by Elizabeth Ruepp, President of Senatus Austria, on the occasion of the funeral on 22.04.2022.*

On behalf of the Legion of Mary I would like to say a few words to you.

A sad and yet comforting reason brings us together today: Dr. Andreas Seidl, our legionary brother, has returned home to God, the Heavenly Father. To you, dear Erika, and to you, the relatives, we extend our deepest sympathy in this hour of saying goodbye to Andreas.

At the age of 18, Andreas came to know and love the Legion of Mary. An elderly legionary wanted to visit his mother, told the children present about our community, and when the mother came home, it was clear: "We will become legionaries of Mary"!

For 67 years he served faithfully in the Legion of Mary of our Queen. Here he became a Child of Mary and lived the total surrender to Jesus through Mary in all its ups and downs. Certainly countless times he spoke: "I am all yours, my Queen, my Mother, and all I have is yours!"

With his first wife Hannelore, he

wanted to go on mission. But her mission was not to be in the distance; it commenced in Vienna with the homeless, at the time of his work at the medical school. This led him into parish work while working as a gynaecologist in Grieskirchen. He retired at the age of 60, learned Czech and travelled countless times to Bohemia and Moravia to spread the Legion of Mary.

In addition to the weekly apostolates and the extensions, he still performed many necessary and time-consuming tasks in our organisation: In 1967 and 1999 he was elected President of Senatus Austria for six years each. He was a correspondent for various councils and assisted them in word and deed. The editorial work of the *Regina Legionis* (the Legion magazine) was in his hands for several years and he was responsible for the content.

Br. Andreas was keen to get to know the source of the Legion of Mary in Dublin and its founder Frank Duff. For that reason he organised several trips to Ireland. The extent of his closeness to Frank Duff is shown by the fact that he was invited as a witness in the preparation of the beatification process.

Br. Andreas took Frank Duff's humour with him into his life and often imitated his laughter.

We will keep good memories of his life:

- His loyalty to the church and to the Legion of Mary;
- His kindness;
- His great love for Frank Duff: with tears in his eyes Br. Andreas thanked the young legionary who played Frank Duff at the centenary celebration;
- His openness to new ideas and

apostolates: although the most experienced legionary, he was happy to accept constructive suggestions;

- His faithfulness to the weekly meeting and the assigned work in pairs until old age.

Several publications and books in which he gave voice to Frank Duff, will keep Br. Andreas in our memories for a long time.

Now it is time to say: "may God reward you," Br. Andreas, one last time. We know that you may now join in the eternal Magnificat of Our Lady:

*"My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour."*



## Centenary Mass Celebration at the Cathedral of the Assumption in Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Ireland.

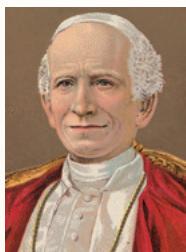


# Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

*(Universal Patroness of the Missions)  
(Doctor of the Church)  
(2nd Jan. 1873 – 30th Sept. 1897)*

By Michael Walsh

Thérèse Martin was born to Louis and Zelie Martin on 2 January, 1873 in Alencon, France. Aged fourteen, she expressed a wish to join her two older sisters Marie and Pauline at the Lisieux Carmel Convent. Thérèse's father Louis reluctantly gave his consent. However, the Carmelites refused her request to join their convent, advising her to return seven years later. Meantime she could seek Bishop Hugonin's advice. The bishop advised against her joining the convent. In November the same year she visited Rome for support with her plans. Catholics from far and wide were visiting Rome to celebrate Leo XIII's Golden Jubilee as a priest.



Thérèse's audience took place with Pope Leo XIII on Sunday, 20 November, 1887. Despite being told on the Pope's behalf that it was forbidden to speak during the meeting, Thérèse pleaded with the Holy Father: "Most Holy Father, I have a great favour to ask



you. In honour of your jubilee, permit me to enter Carmel Convent at the age of fifteen." The Pope replied: "Do what the superiors tell you." Thérèse made a final effort, saying: "Oh, Holy Father, if you say yes, everybody will agree!" He gazed at her and said: "Go, go, you will enter if God wills it."

On New Year's Day, 1888, the Prioress of the Lisieux Carmel told Thérèse, aged fifteen, she would be received into the convent. On 9 April, 1888, she said good-bye to her home and her family, determined to live 'for ever and ever' in the desert with Jesus and twenty-four enclosed companions.

Thérèse worked in the sacristy, cleaned the dining room, painted pictures, composed short pious plays for the sisters, wrote poems, and lived the intense community prayer life of the cloister. Superiors appointed her Assistant Novice-Mistress to instruct the novices of the community.

Regarding this assignment she wrote: 'From the moment I was given the charge of souls, I saw at a glance that the task was beyond my strength, and quickly taking refuge in Our Lord's arms I imitated those babes who when frightened hide their faces on their father's shoulder.'

Thérèse was aware of her littleness. 'It is impossible for me to grow up, so I must bear with myself such as I am with all my imperfections. But I want to seek out a means of going to heaven by a little way, a way that is very straight, very short and totally new,' Thérèse wrote, going on to describe the elevator in the home of a rich person: "I wanted to find an elevator which would raise me to Jesus, for I am too small to climb the rough stairway of perfection. I searched then in the Scriptures for some sign of this elevator, the object of my desires and I read these words coming from the mouth of Eternal Wisdom: 'Whoever is a little one let him come to me. The elevator which must raise me to heaven is your arms, O Jesus, and for this I have no need to grow up, but rather I have to remain little and become this more and more.'" And so, she abandoned herself to Jesus and her life became a continual acceptance of the will of the Lord. It was always a principle with her that 'we should go to the end of our strength before we complain.'

Thérèse saw herself as 'the Little Flower of Jesus' because she was just

like the simple wildflowers in forests and fields, unnoticed by the greater population, yet growing and giving glory to God. She surrendered her life to Christ with the hope that He would act through her, mirroring the words of St. Paul: "I can do all things in him who strengthens me." All things' consisted of almost everything she was called upon to do in her daily life.

All her life, Thérèse had a great devotion to Saint Joseph. She enjoyed close intimacy with God and became known to the world through her autobiography 'Story of a Soul,' describing her life as a 'Little Way of Spiritual Childhood.' She lived each day with a resolute confidence in God. Her motto: 'What matters in life, is not great deeds, but great love.'

Founded 24 years after Saint Thérèse's death, the Legion of Mary embraces much of this saint's spirituality, especially her humility, courage, dedication to duty and doing everything for the love of God, characteristics which are highlighted in the Legion Handbook.



## SAINT THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX

Frank Duff signified his admiration for Saint Thérèse by incorporating aspects of her spirituality into the Legion system with the inclusion of five quotes from her in the Handbook.

**(Ch. 33, Sec.1):** To her other virtues St. Thérèse joined an unflinching courage. It was always a principle with her that 'we should go to the ends of our strength before we complain.' How many times did she not assist at Matins suffering from vertigo or violent headaches! "I am still able to walk," she would say "and so I ought to be at my post." Thanks to this undaunted energy, she performed acts that were heroic.

**Ch. 37 Sec 14):** Then the legion of little souls, victims of merciful Love, will

become as numerous 'as the stars in heaven, and the sands of the seashore.' It will be terrible to Satan; it will help the Blessed Virgin to crush his proud head completely.

**(Ch. 39, Sec. 3):** If you fought only when you felt ready for the fray, where would be your merit? What does it matter even if you have no courage, provided you behave as though you are really brave? If you feel too lazy to pick up a piece of thread, and yet do so for the love of Jesus, you gain more merit than for a much nobler action done on an impulse of fervour. Instead of grieving, be glad by being allowed to feel your own weakness. Our Lord is furnishing you with an occasion of saving a great number of souls.



### *Basilica of Thérèse of Lisieux*

*The Little Flower, died in Lisieux on 30 September, 1897, at the age of 24 years - her last words: "My God, I love you."*

*This great saint, born to Louis and Zelie Martin on 2 January, 1873, in Alencon, France, has left a lasting legacy to mankind by her holiness, example and writings. She is a powerful model of sanctity for people of all ages. Pope Pius X called Thérèse "the greatest saint of modern times."*

*Saint Thérèse never toiled on the Mission Fields, and yet, in 1927 Pope Pius XI declared her: 'Universal Patroness of the Missions.'*

*Her Feast Day falls on 1st October.*

# Joint Legion Centenary Celebration- Dublin & Nairobi



By Mary Walsh

Some 7,250 plus kilometers separate Deansgrange cemetery in south Co Dublin Ireland from St. Austin cemetery, Msongari, Nairobi, Kenya, yet on Sunday 25th September 2021 at 3pm Dublin, 5pm Nairobi, we were simultaneously present, via zoom, at the grave of Edel Quinn in Nairobi and her parent's grave in Deansgrange Dublin. To celebrate the birth of Edel on the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 14 September, 1907, Mater Ecclesiae Curia, in conjunction with the Senatus in Nairobi, collaborated in a joint prayer service with rosary (in English, Swahili and Latin) and Legion prayers. Present at the grave in Nairobi leading the prayers were Dr. Geoffrey Mutuma, President of the Senatus, with his Vice President, Secretary and Vice Secretary. Leading the prayers at Deansgrange were members of the Mater Ecclesiae Curia, with Edel's nephew Tom McCormack and his wife Alison.

We wish to thank John McCormack acting Zoom host for keeping us connected with Nairobi and all those who joined us for this celebration and prayer.

It was truly an extra-special occasion for us to have this first ever joint service in this the centenary year of the

founding of the Legion of Mary. We, in Dublin, are now twinned in a special way with Nairobi, thanks to Edel and her marvellous work in spreading the Legion of Mary on African soil. Edel crammed so much into her short life. Her undaunted spirit, her true devotion to Our Lady, suffering ill health and encountering many obstacles, she accepted God's will and gave her life to His service in Africa. Edel, to quote Cardinal Leon Suenens, "... was like a sunbeam, shining on everyone who encountered her. She kept the thorns of life for herself; the flower and its fragrance she gave to others."

Let us now, in this centenary year, make Edel more known to a young generation who may never have heard of her. One miracle, through her intercession, is required for her Beatification.

***Please give Edel's prayer leaflet to all your contacts.***



# Fostering a Missionary Church in the Parish



*This article, which appeared in Personal Profile by Ruadhán Jones, has been republished by kind permission of the Irish Catholic of 24 March 2022.*

Fr. Declan Lohan, a priest of the Galway diocese, says that he did not appreciate Christ or the Church in the first part of his life. He developed this appreciation over time, first through the Legion of Mary and Youth 2000, and now through his work as a parish priest in Renmore, Co. Galway.

Fr. Declan grew up in what he calls a “typical 1980s Catholic home.” They went to Mass on Sundays, with an occasional trip to Knock sprinkled in. It was not until his later years in university that he developed a greater appreciation for the Faith.

“When I went to university, I spent the first two years wearing myself out on the social scene,” Fr. Declan recalls. “I got tired of that and started to think more of what’s important. I came back to my faith and considered it more as an anchor. I wanted something more. I didn’t appreciate my faith for the first part of my life, but I began later.”

Fr. Declan studied law and having received his degree, took a year out to teach English in China. It was in this unlikely setting that his faith grew.

“The town I was in had a Catholic church. I could see Christians there who practised and who encouraged me. I began to see the Catholic faith in not such a narrow way. I could see it as something universal, something all over the world,” Fr. Declan explains.

“That stuck with me. It was all a process of my faith getting stronger. When I got back to Ireland, I moved to Dublin to train as a barrister. Most people would think that when you leave home – I had been in Galway all my life, excepting the trip to China, until I was 23 or so – that you would become more liberal or whatever with the freedom and what was on offer.

“But at that point, faith had become a fairly solid part of my life. Whereas my friends were doing a typical thing of the nightclubs and pubs, I was going in a different direction.”

That different direction brought him to the Legion of Mary, the lay Catholic apostolate, as well as more regular attendance at Mass. “I was definitely starting to deepen my faith, to take a different direction,” Fr. Declan says.

“The Legion for me was very special. Firstly, it gave me many outlets to meet people. And I loved the mission of the Legion. We did much work visiting homes in the Meath Street and Pimlico areas of Dublin. I did that for over two years. I was involved with the Polish praesidium there as well. It was a really exciting time in Dublin in the early 2000s.”

“I could really understand what the Legion was doing, because I think I could relate to people who didn’t know God, because I had been there myself. I had been on a journey earlier on in my life, and I loved meeting people and being able to introduce them in a gentle way to prayer and the thought of God.”



Fr. Declan spent two years in that part of Dublin, where he met people who knew the Legion’s founder, Frank Duff.

“That had a big influence on me as well, being so close to Frank Duff’s thought and to people who knew him. I think that was a really major influence on me. I really came to see my faith from the point of view of mission, and that this was the future for the Church in Ireland. Because attendance was declining, I could see it in my own friends who had stopped attending Mass.

“If we weren’t missionary, we were going to disappear. I got much joy from the Legion, going on Peregrinatio pro Christi, going abroad to England and France for missions abroad. I was on my own kind of journey compared with the time I was growing up,” Fr Declan says.

Having finished training as a barrister, Fr. Declan moved back to Galway and got involved in Catholic youth group ‘Youth 2000’ as well as the Legion. He believes it was the combination of these two that brought him to his vocation.

“I was spending a lot of time with Youth 2000 and the Legion, just volunteering. Then I became really interested and curious about the priesthood, but not sure. I was 30 by the time I entered the seminary; I had spent much time discerning it,” Fr. Declan says.

“I think I was waiting for God to point me the way. I was very interested in diocesan priesthood. In the Legion I was dealing with ordinary people in parishes. I just loved that and I still do.

“It’s been a joy for me in diocesan priesthood. I got an opportunity to train. I spent two years in the diocesan seminary in France. It was unusual, but it was a great opportunity. The French Church is on the rise to a certain extent.

“It would have gone through what the Irish Church is going through long before us. I found that same idea of mission really important there. I spent two years there and came back to study for another four years in Maynooth.”

Fr. Declan was ordained in the diocese of Galway and his first appointment was to the National University

Galway. A year later, he was posted to the parish of Renmore, Co. Galway, where he still ministers.

“Diocesan priesthood is very people oriented; there’s a great love for diocesan priests. They’re the local priests for people around the country, for weddings, for funerals, for first Friday or sick calls, for hospital visits,” Fr Declan says.

“There’s so much, not to mention the Sunday Masses or the daily Masses. There’s such a range of activity and opportunity to share faith and to bring God into the every-day lives of the people. I love that. I find it very fulfilling. Then there’s the same theme: bringing mission to the parish. In my three years here in Renmore, I’ve brought in that idea a little more strongly.”

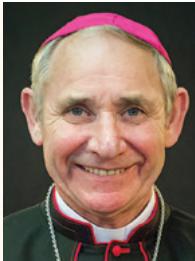


# Homily at Centenary Mass

By Bishop Paul McAleenan

On 4 September 2021

Bishop Paul McAleenan delivered the following homily during Mass celebrating the Centenary of the Legion of Mary at the Church of Our Lady and St. Joseph's, Kingsland, Diocese of Westminster.



It is a pleasure to be with you today to celebrate this Mass. With the words: "The Legion of Mary", very clear memories of my time as a member of the Legion come flooding back. I remember the parish hall where we assembled, the neatly arranged altar adorned with the Vexillum, which I couldn't take my eyes off at my first meeting. At the top of the Vexillum is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit who overshadowed Mary was the same Spirit who came upon the Apostles at Pentecost. Therefore, I was told, the Legion, though dedicated to Mary, is also apostolic, it goes out into the world.

I remember how carefully our weekly apostolic activities were arranged. I remember the Catena, the word means 'chain': each legionary being a link in this worldwide movement.

That made a great impression upon me. And I remember the secret bag. Every legionary knows that the object of the Legion is the sanctification of its members by devotion to Our Lady and with her advancing the reign of Christ. Being a sincere member of the Legion of Mary is a very formative experience.

As we celebrate this centenary and the achievement of the Legion of Mary over those years, we take to heart those words we had in the Book of Ecclesiasticus in our first reading. 'We bless the God of all things, the doer of great deeds everywhere.' We are gathered to do this on this anniversary. Another verse from Ecclesiasticus, chapter 44, reads: 'let us praise illustrious men, our ancestors in their successive generations.'

Our celebration would be incomplete without giving thanks for many outstanding legends of the Legion: Frank Duff its founder, Alfie Lambe, an envoy of the Legion in South America. He spent time in several countries before his death at the age of 26. We remember too an illustrious woman, Edel Quinn, another Legion envoy, who established many praesidia in East and Central Africa before her death at the age of 36.



When Frank Duff entered the hall at the Second Vatican Council, 2,500 Bishops rose to applaud him, recognising the profound contribution he had made to the mission of the Church by enabling and equipping lay people to participate in spreading the Gospel. That is an attractive aspect of the Legion; its dedication to act as a servant of the Church and of the parish. Organised as it is at a local level, all legionaries have the opportunity to participate in the Church's mission.

Aware that the sainthood to which we are called could be achieved only by having a concern for our neighbours spiritual and social welfare, Frank

Duff provided, through the Legion, a means through which all members of the Church could be sanctified.

Love of Mary in its fullest sense requires one to be apostolic. The Legion connects its devotion to Mary with evangelising action, loving Christ. It never confined devotion to prayer and pious practices only. Proclaiming Christ's love for us, bringing Christ to the world in imitation of Mary, explains the Legion's purpose. And so, Pope John XXIII said of the Legion of Mary that it "presents the true face of the Catholic Church."



Every army needs leadership, tactics, encouragement and all members of the army needs equipment with which to arm themselves. The equipment of a legionary as you know is the rosary, not a weapon which causes injury but a means for bringing us close to Mary and Jesus. The rosary has kept the faith alive in so many places when there was no priest to celebrate Mass. It is the means by which we bring to life within ourselves that Spirit of Mary which wishes to serve Christ and present him to the world.

With each Ave we proclaim that Mary was full of grace. We can be full of many things, even full of ourselves. Mary was full of the love of God, within her there was room for nothing else.

As the Apostles in the Upper Room, so legionaries keep Mary's company in prayer and outlook so that the Spirit which animates will inspire and direct.

Today we speak about outreach, the activities of the Legion for the last one hundred years perhaps did not enjoy that term but that is precisely what they did by visiting homes, prisons, hospitals, bringing hope. The pioneers of the Legion realised that there were many opportunities for lay Catholics to live their faith. Among the qualities of the Legion which are to be admired is that it was never a closed-in body, only for the select few. It deservedly has a reputation for inviting membership, making efforts to increase membership so that as many as possible could be involved in its mission.

When legionaries undertake their active work, they do so in pairs. That always reminds me of the first apostolic mission when Jesus sent out 72 disciples, not individually but in pairs to support and encourage each other. Your work too is apostolic; it can never be undermined. You do not know the good you do; a word we speak inspired by the Holy Spirit can have an effect that we do not know about in this world, but has an impact on the life of another.

Our Lady, and Frank Duff and Alfie Lambe and Edel Quinn all knew they needed God. Having faith in him, allowing his will to be central in their lives, they became holy. They needed God; God also needed them. We too

know we need God. We should reflect sometimes that God also needs us. How else will his grace, goodness and love reach those who need it?

There was a time when the Legion was the main, if not the only parish group through which lay Catholics could express their faith by prayer and also by particular structured activity. There are now many parish organisations, each is unique. It is acknowledged however that the Legion of Mary has a special and exalted place in the history of the Church. It has a particular role, encouraging the laity to unite with Mary and inform the world of her Son's love for them.

As you celebrate these 100 years, I congratulate you and I thank you for all you do for your parish and the Church. May Mary, Mother of the Church, intercede for you and bring blessings, encouragement and enthusiasm to your praesidium.



# Allocutio

By Fr. Michael Creedon  
(First Spiritual Director of Concilium)



*In the Legion we are called and helped to grow in holiness and in the desire to save souls.*

All of us are familiar with the idea of vocation as it applies to the priesthood or the religious life. Those are special vocations. Scripture says about the priesthood that “no one takes this honour upon himself but only when called to it by God.” But all of us have a vocation to be apostles and to be holy. We are called to that by God. That calling comes to us by our baptism. We can fulfil this calling in many ways and through many different organisations: One of these is the Legion of Mary. In the Legion we are called and helped to grow in holiness and in the desire to save souls.

Pope John Paul II to the Legion of Mary states: “Your proper vocation as lay people is the vocation to be a leaven in the People of God, a Christian inspiration in the modern world, and to bring the priest to the people, is eminently ecclesial.”



Cardinal Riberi

Cardinal Riberi, formerly Apostolic Delegate to missionary Africa and later *Internuncio* to China, commented: “The Legion of Mary is apostolic duty decked out in attractive and alluring form; throbbing with life so that it wins all to it; undertaken in the manner stipulated by Pope Pius XI, that is, in dependence on the Virgin Mother of God; insistent on quality as the foundation of membership and even as the key to numerical strength; safeguarded by plenteous prayer and self-sacrifice, by exact system, and by complete co-operation with the priest. The Legion of Mary is a miracle of these modern times.”

**Quote from the Legion Handbook:** “This is the essential idea of the Legion apostolate. Lay it will be in bulk of membership, but working in inseparable union with the priests, and under their captaincy, and with absolute identity of interests.

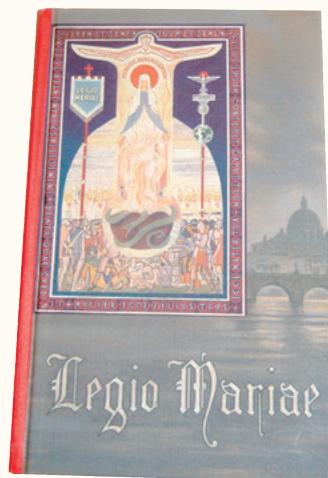


It will ardently seek to supplement their efforts, and to widen their place in the lives of men, so that men, receiving them, shall receive him who sent them."

The growth of what is usually designated the Lay Apostolate is a special manifestation of our modern days, possessing - were it for no other reason than the numbers concerned - infinite potentialities. Yet, insufficient seems the provision for this giant movement. When one looks upon the multitude of beautifully conceived Orders which cater for those who are able to abandon the world, the contrast with the form of organisation thought good-enough for those who are not so circumstanced, is very striking.

On the one hand, what intensity and exact science, making the most of the material! On the other, how elementary and superficial is the provision made! The system calls, indeed, for some service from its members, but it forms for the generality of them little more than an incident in the week's round, and it hardly even endeavours to play a more considerable part. There must be a higher conception of it. Should it not be the staff of their earthly pilgrimage - the very backbone of their whole spiritual life? Undoubtedly the Religious Order must form the pattern for workers in common and other things being equal, it may be taken that the quality of the work done will improve in the

measure that there is approximation to the Order idea. Still, this brings with it the difficulty of determining the exact degree of rule which is to be imposed. Desirable though discipline is in the interests of efficiency, there is always the danger of overdoing it and narrowing the appeal of the organisation. The fact must be borne in mind that the object in view is permanent lay organisation, not something equivalent to a new Religious Order, or which would eventually drift into becoming one, and of which history is full of instances. The aim is this and no other: the drawing into efficient organisation of persons living their ordinary life as we know it, and in whom the presence of various tastes and pursuits other than purely religious ones must be recognised. The amount of regulation attempted should be no more than will be accepted by the average of the class for whom the organisation is intended, but it should certainly be nothing less.



**Footnote - Michael Walsh.** Fr. Michael Creedon was a curate in St. Nicholas of Myra Parish, Francis Street, Dublin, replacing Fr. Michael Toher in that parish.



Fr. Toher

Fr. Toher was Spiritual Director of the first praesidium. The reason he did not automatically take on the duty of Concilium Spiritual Director was that he had gone to Mexico to join up with the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit.

Once the Legion began spreading outside of Dublin in 1927, the Concilium, which came into existence as the 'Curia of Dublin', was established and Fr. Creedon was appointed Concilium Spiritual Director and held that post until his death.

The first Concilium meetings took place in Myra Hall, No. 100 Francis Street and moved from there to the Carmelite Hall, Whitefriar Street in about 1940; from then on it met at other locations. During his long service to Concilium, Fr. Creedon gave many talks to legionaries and allocutios to Concilium. He contributed to the compilation of the Legion Handbook: Chapter 11, Sections 2 and 4 - 'An Intensely Ordered System'; 'The Primary Obligation' - pages 69 and 71; Chapter 37, Section 5 – Visitation

of Hospitals, including Psychiatric Hospitals' - page .237; Chapter 40, Section 2 – The Legion must direct itself to the Individual Soul' - page 311.

His overall contribution to the Legion was invaluable during its foundation years and beyond. The Legion owes a great debt of gratitude to Fr. Creedon who remained Concilium Spiritual Director until his death. May he rest in peace.



Myra House

# Private Revelations

By Michael Walsh

Countless so-called ‘private revelations’ have taken place down through the years, some of which have been recognised by the authority of the Church. They do not belong however to the deposit of the faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ’s definitive Revelation, but to live more fully by it in a certain period of history. Guided by the Magisterium of the Church, the *Sensus Fidelium* knows how to discern and welcome in these revelations, whatever constitutes an authentic call of Christ or his saints in the Church.

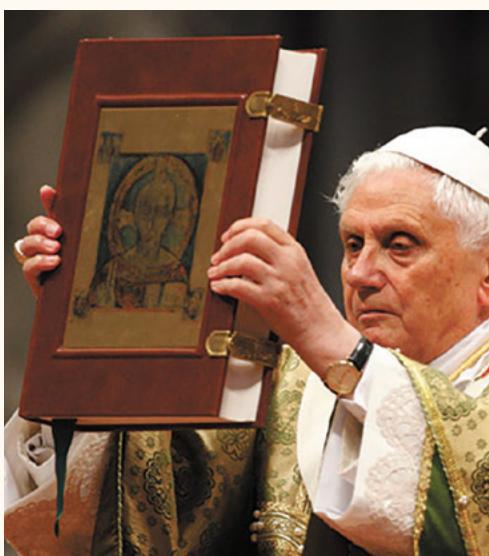
Christian faith cannot accept ‘revelations’ that claim to surpass or correct the Revelation of which Christ is the fulfilment, as in the case in certain non-Christian religions and in some sects which base themselves on such revelations.

Private revelations have two sources: The first is the mysticism of people who have been canonised such as St. Margaret Mary, St. John of the Cross, St. Catherine of Sienna or St. Faustina. These individuals would have been very advanced in the Spiritual Life.

Pope Benedict XVI commented on private revelations in his 2010 apostolic exhortation, *Verbum*

*Domini* (The Word of God): “Ecclesiastical approval of a private revelation essentially means that its message contains nothing contrary to faith and morals. It is licit to make it public and the faithful are authorised to give to it their prudent adhesion.” (No 46).

Pope Benedict continues: “A private revelation can introduce new emphasis, give rise to new forms of piety, or deepen older ones. It can have a certain prophetic character and can be a valuable aid for better understanding and living of the Gospel at a certain time; consequently, it should not be treated lightly. It is a help which is proffered, but its use is not obligatory”.



# The Priesthood

by St. John Vianney

From 'The Little Catechism of The Curé of Ars'



"My children, we have come to the Sacrament of Orders. It is a Sacrament which seems to relate to no one among you, and which yet relates to everyone. This Sacrament raises man up to God. What is a priest! A man who holds the place of God – a man who is invested with all the powers of God. "Go," said Our Lord to the priest; "as My Father sent Me, I send you. All power has been given Me in Heaven and on earth. Go then, teach all nations.... He who listens to you, listens to Me; he who despises you despises Me." When the priest remits sins, he does not say: "God pardons you"; he says: "I absolve you." At the Consecration, he does not say: "This is the Body of Our Lord;" he says, "This is My Body."

St. Bernard tells us that everything has come to us through Mary; and we may also say that everything has come

to us through the priest; yes, all happiness, all graces, all heavenly gifts. If we had not the Sacrament of Orders, we should not have

Our Lord. Who placed Him there, in that tabernacle? It was the priest. Who was it who received your soul, on its entrance into life? The priest. Who nourishes it, to give it strength to make its pilgrimage? The priest. Who will prepare it to appear before God, by washing that soul, for the last time, in the blood of Jesus Christ? The priest – always the priest. And if that soul comes to the point of death, who will raise it up, who will restore it to calmness and peace? Again, the priest. You cannot recall one single blessing from God without finding, side-by-side with this recollection, the image of the priest.

Go to confession to the Blessed Virgin, or to an angel; will they absolve you? No. Will they give you the Body and Blood of Our Lord? No. The Holy Virgin cannot make her Divine Son descend into the Host. You might have two-hundred angels there, but they could not absolve you. A priest, however simple he may be, can do it; he can say to you: "Go in peace; I pardon you." Oh, how great is the priest! The priest will not understand the greatness of his office until he is in Heaven.



If he understood it on earth, he would die, not of fear, but of love. The other benefits of God would be of no avail to us without the priest. What would be the use of a house full of gold, if you had nobody to open you the door! The priest has the key of the heavenly treasures; it is he who opens the door; he is the steward of the good God, the distributor of His wealth. Without the priest, the Death and Passion of Our Lord would be of no avail. Look at the heathens: what has it availed them that Our Lord has died? Alas! They can have no share in the blessings of Redemption, while they have no priests to apply His Blood to their souls!

The priest is not a priest for himself; he does not give himself absolution; he does not administer the sacraments to himself. He is not for himself; he is for you. After God, the priest is everything. Leave a parish twenty years without priests; they will worship beasts. If the missionary father and I were to go away, you would say: "What can we do in this church? there is no Mass; Our Lord is no longer there: we may as well pray at home." When people wish to destroy religion, they begin by attacking the priest, because where there is no longer any priest there is no sacrifice, and where there is no longer any sacrifice there is no religion.

When the bell calls you to church, if you were asked: "Where are you going?" you might answer: "I am going

to feed my soul." If someone were to ask you, pointing to the tabernacle: "What is that golden door?" "That is our storehouse, where the true Food of our souls is kept." "Who has the key? Who lays in provisions? Who makes ready the feast, and who serves the table?" "The priest." "And what is the Food?" "The precious Body and Blood of Our Lord." O God! O God! how Thou hast loved us! See the power of the priest; out of a piece of bread the word of a priest brings Christ on the altar. Someone said: "Does St. Philomena, then, obey the Curé of Ars?" Indeed, she may well obey him, since God obeys him.

St. Teresa said that if you see a priest, you should say: "There is he who made me a Child of God and opened Heaven to me by holy Baptism; he who purified me after I had sinned; who gives nourishment to my soul." At the sight of a church tower, you may say: "What is there in that place?" "The Body of Our Lord." "Why is He there?" "Because a priest has been there, and has said Holy Mass."



# History of the Legion of Mary in Cameroon

By Fr. Benjamin Guy Minyem

Founded on 7 September 1921, in Dublin, the Legion of Mary received its first apostolic blessing on 16 September 1933 from Pope Pius XI. In 1929 after listening to Brother Frank Duff, Pope Pius XI declared: "This thing comes from God."



As we can see, the prophecy of Pope Pius XI came true here in Cameroon in November 1947. Mgr. Pierre Bonneau

had just been consecrated Bishop of Douala following the death of Mgr. Mathurin Le Mailloux. On his return from a leave during which he had a stay in Dublin, Father René Favron informed Bishop Bonneau of his meeting with the Legion of Mary. On 6 November 1947, during a retreat and at the request of his bishop, he shared his knowledge of the Legion of Mary with the entire presbytery. At the end of this, Fathers René Favron and Bernard Coudray undertook the establishment of praesidia of the Legion of Mary in many dioceses: Douala, Yaoundé, Nkongsamba, Eseka.

The first members are mature men and women, but many more women who have a Marian devotion. Poorly known, the Legion of Mary is considered a brotherhood of prayers intended for the elderly solicited for the recitation of the rosary. It will be necessary to wait until the 1970s to see the true face of the Legion of Mary revealed, its greatness, the power of its action and its influence, because for those who do not know it, in the Legion of Mary it is the Virgin Mary herself who is at work. In the 1990s, the Legion of Mary expressed itself with much more vitality. She shines everywhere.

The first praesidium was established in 1947 at the Cathedral of the Apostles Peter and Paul in Douala.



In Yaoundé the same year, two praesidia were created simultaneously in the parish of Mvolyé.

The first Curia was established in Yaoundé at Mvolyé in 1948 with two praesidia, and the second Curia in Eseka in 1950. The first Comitium was established in Yaoundé in 1952, and the second Comitium was established in Eseka in 1953.

Between 1962 and 1963, a delegate from Dublin visiting the Yaoundé Comitium, dissolved it for poor functioning and lack of apostolic activities as provided for in the Handbook. Then in 1966, Concilium relaunched a Pre-Comitium in Mvolye. In 1968 the Pre-Comitium of Mvolye was elevated into a Comitium holding its meetings at Notre Dame des Victoires Cathedral in Yaoundé.



In 1954, the three praesidia of Douala gave birth to the first Curia of Douala, installed at the cathedral and attached to the Comitium of Eseka the same year. This Curia of Douala was erected as a Comitium in 1960 and

was named 'Mary Mediatrix of All Graces.' In 1997, during its 50 years in Cameroon, the Legion of Mary of Douala was erected to Regia and had for president Br. Simon Pierre Biyihah Bidjeck with eight Comitia, fourteen Adult Curiae, one Junior Curia, and ten attached praesidia.

In 2000, the General Chaplaincy of the Lay Apostolate decided to set up a national coordination office for the Legion of Mary composed of two officers from the pro-Regiae of Yaoundé and the Regia of Douala. The Concilium agreed to the decision of the bishops.

The effectiveness and importance of the movement in Douala earned the appointment of a Diocesan Chaplain, and the erection of the Regia of Douala.





Map of Cameroon

In 2002, seeing the immense work that the Regia was doing through the reports drawn up by the Regia Mediatrix of all Graces of Douala, the Concilium decided to erect Douala into a Senatus.

In 2006, the Douala Senatus coordinated the activities of one Regia, seven Comitia, fifteen Curiae and seven attached praesidia and had as president Br. Simon Pierre Biyihia Bidjek, vice-president Br. Mathieu Ndjoku, secretary Sr. Elise Diem à Seyi, treasurer Sr. Roselene Agbor.

From 13 to 27 July 2006, Brother Eddy Evers and Sister Mary Bretouss, both delegates of the Concilium, accompanied by the office of the Senatus visited all the structures of the Legion of Cameroon (Praesidia, Curiae, Comitia, Regia and Senatus). At the end of their visit, this office presented its concerns to the delegates of the Concilium. Among these concerns were the erection of the pro Regia of Yaoundé to a Regia and the

creation of a Regia in the diocese of Bertoua. On their return to Dublin, they confirmed in a correspondence addressed to Brother Simon Pierre Biyihia then president of the Senatus, that his council coordinate the activities of the Legion of Mary on a national level and erected the pro Regia of Yaoundé to Regia.

From 2012-2018, the Douala Senatus coordinated the activities of two Regiae, ten Comitia, twenty seven Curiae, ten attached praesidia and all the councils of Chad.

In 2016 the Bishops of Cameroon appointed the very first National Chaplain of the Legion of Mary in the person of Father Benjamin Guy Minyem.

Currently the Legion of Mary in Cameroon has 7,653 active members, 1,464 auxiliary members and 1,118 junior members - for a total of 10,235 legionaries. It is established in all the dioceses of Cameroon.

# England - Mary's Dowry

By Raymond Mulrooney

In modern times there has been a renewed interest in recalling the great tradition in England of honouring Our Lady in a special way as the 'Dowry of Mary'. Recently the English Hierarchy has rededicated the country to the Virgin Mary under the title of the 'Dowry of Mary'.

The word 'dowry' (from the Latin *dos*, meaning 'donation') signified the donation accompanying a bride. In medieval English law, however, the meaning is reversed - a husband would set apart a portion of his estate designated for the maintenance of his wife, should she become a widow. Those who consider England 'Mary's Dowry' take it in that sense - that, historically, England has been 'set apart' for Mary in a way that no other country has been.

How did this devotion originate? The widowed wife of Richeldis de Faverches of Walsingham had prayed for a way in which she could honour the Blessed Virgin. One night in the year 1061 the Virgin asked her to build a replica of the House of Nazareth. The Virgin wanted the reconstruction of the house because she wished to



commemorate the Annunciation and to assist those who sought her help.

This places the event in the reign of one of the last Anglo-Saxon Kings, Edward the Confessor, who reigned from 1042 to 1066. King Richard II, in 1381, formally dedicated England to Mary in a ceremony at Westminster Abbey. Until the Protestant Reformation, many kings of England continued this devotion to Mary—including Henry V, who supposedly raised the battle cry at Agincourt: "Our Lady for her Dowry; St. George and St. Edward to our aid."



Remains of the 11th century Holy House of Nazareth



In 1531 King Henry VIII renounced Catholic authority in England and established the Church of England - the Anglican Church - as the sole ecclesiastic authority under his rule. At the expressed order of Henry, the Shrine of Walsingham and Slipper Chapel were destroyed, and the defenders of the shrine executed. Despite this, English catholics have maintained a fervent devotion to Our Lady of Walsingham throughout the centuries. After Catholic Emancipation in 1829 the shrine at Walsingham was re-consecrated. Today there is an Anglican centre there; joint Anglican and Catholic pilgrimages are organised, and the shrine has become a centre of unity among all Christians.

In World War 11, the Legion of Mary had become a prominent Catholic movement in England's darkest hour. During the Battle of Britain, its members served the community in bomb shelters, forgoing their safety and their family attachment. Many Legion groups were formed among the military services, helping to bring

comfort to those putting their lives in danger to defend their country.

In more recent times, the Legion of Mary has led the way for acceptance of the role of the laity in the Vatican Council and continues to made a remarkable contribution for laity to find a place in the life of the church. All it needs to succeed is for clergy to continue to accept and support its desire to serve the parish community and to express it in service to Mary's mothering of her son Jesus in all the elect.



Our Lady of Walsingham

Perhaps, the Legion of Mary will again play a prominent part within the Catholic Church in England, as a response to fulfilling this revival of England as the Dowry of Mary.

# Praises of Mary



The most holy Heart of Mary is the treasure of holiness, the furnace of Divine Love, the throne of all virtues, and the sanctuary of the Trinity.

May that Heart be forever blessed and celebrated throughout the universe.

*St. John Eudes*

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In Mary's name, I say this to each one of you: "She loves you, each and every one of you. She loves you very much. She loves you at every moment and without any exceptions."

*St. Maximilian Kolbe*

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We have recourse to Mary in prayer because she is by the side of God's throne as Mediatrix of Divine Grace.

Most acceptable to God by worthiness and by merit, Mary is more powerful than all the Angels and Saints in heaven.

*Pope Leo XIII*

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The Blessed Virgin Mary is like a mother who has many children. She is always busy going from one to the other.

*St. John Vianney*

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O faithful soul, imitate the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Enter into the temple of your heart in order to be spiritually renewed and obtain forgiveness of your sins. Remember that God looks at the intentions behind our works rather than the works themselves.

*St. Lawrence Justinian*

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In the interior life and in the apostolate, let us always work with Mary. For then everything becomes easier and more certain, quicker and more delightful.

*St. Louis Grignion de Montfort*



# Explanation of Front and Back Covers

— *The Editor*

## Front Cover-

The Picture on the front cover is ***the Assumption of the Virgin Mary*** by the Seventeenth-Century Flemish artist, Peter Paul Rubens. In the painting we see the Virgin Mary being borne aloft by a choir of angels towards the Heavenly light, while underneath the Apostles are gathered in awe around the empty tomb. On 1 November 1950 in *Munificentissimus Deus*, Pope Pius XII declared a Dogma of the Catholic Church. The dogma declares that the Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into Heavenly Glory. The painting is currently on display in the Cathedral of Our Lady, Antwerp. The Feast of the Assumption is on 15 August.



## Back Cover -

The picture on the back cover is the painting ***The Assumption of the Virgin*** also by Peter Paul Rubens. It was painted circa 1626. The Virgin Mary is clothed in a red dress with a flowing blue cloak and is being lifted aloft in a stream of heavenly light by a choir of angels. The painting is now on display in the Boston Library, Massachusetts, USA.



# Legion world news



## ASIA

**Hong Kong:** Four new praesidia were established in various parishes. In January 2022 Covid restrictions were re-imposed, and meetings reverted to Zoom.

**Indonesia:** A Comitium attached to the **Jakarta Senatus** reported that legionaries recited the prayer for the beatification of Frank Duff for two fellow legionaries who were ill and they made a recovery. The Senatus has asked for more information. Legionaries in **Kaupang Senatus** are delighted to be back with physical meetings. Fr. John Paul Udjani SVD has been appointed Spiritual Director. **Malang Senatus** held a virtual meeting for Spiritual Directors. Extension features in the minutes with reports of senior and junior praesidia being set up.

**Japan:** The **Osaka Senatus** received a report from Star of the Sea praesidium, Imaichi Church, established for 40 years. They currently have seven members, Works include church cleaning and helping with the liturgy. They assist at funerals, a work they were able to continue during the pandemic.

**Korea:** At the February meeting the **Seoul Senatus** announced its intention to publish a book on the Venerable Edel Quinn. It is hoped that legionaries will be inspired by her life. Reports to **Gwangju Senatus** show many works being undertaken with good results including Baptisms and returns to the Sacraments. One report mentioned regular street apostolate resulting in returns to the Sacraments. Other reports show the recruitment of many catechumens.

**Malaysia:** The **Kuala Lumpur Regia** celebrated the Legion Centenary on 20 March 2022. In Sarawak, **East Malaysia, Sibu Comitium** has thirteen Senior and six junior praesidia. They celebrated

their Centenary Mass on 7th September. One of the attached Curiae conducts meetings in Mandarin, while Brunei has Chinese, Filipino and English Curiae attached.

**Philippines:** April saw the first face to face meeting of **Bicolandia Senatus** in two years. An attached Comitium reported works included visits to the jails, homes, market stalls, also praying at wakes and funerals and teaching catechism to children. The Spiritual Director Fr. Xavier Amoroso of the Holy Rosary Major Seminary Curia attended the April meeting and he has now been appointed the Senatus Spiritual Director. All reports to **Western Visayas Senatus** featured home visitation. Catechism is taught in state schools. An Exploratio Dominicalis project resulted in many baptisms and conversions. Some praesidia and Curiae in **Mindanao Senatus** has returned to full participation. One praesidium teaches Catechism, does First Holy Communion preparation and assists the priest with the anointing of the sick. **Northern Philippines Senatus, Manila:**

In Metro Manila on 18th June, 131 male legionaries took part in the first conference for men. It was suggested to them to hold another for non-legionaries. Other works reported were Jail visitation and legionaries teaching catechism to housemaids in the lobby where they work. In the **Regia of Lipa** a junior curia officer joined the Congregation of the Institute of the Incarnate Word, and in Pasig Comitium a former junior took First Vows as a novice in the Holy Spirit Congregation. Each month in 2021 webinars were held online and also a prayer message from ten Archbishops for the centenary was recited.

## SOUTH AMERICA

**Argentina:** 'As the Morning Rising' is the name of the full-colour Legion magazine, with local and world news, of the **Senatus of Buenos Aires**. Reports on apostolic works show non-Catholic contacts are told about the Mass and invited to attend. Immigrants from Haiti are prepared for the sacraments and taught Spanish. A Mission tent was set up in a city centre plaza. To remember Alfie Lambe's 90th birthday a street procession took place to his grave. This is a full-day programme with all day rosaries and contacts and ending with Holy Mass in the local parish church. Two new books relating to Alfie's work in Paraguay and Uruguay were launched on that occasion. All meetings of the **Senatus of Cordoba** are now in person again. A praesidium reported visiting their auxiliary members, reciting the Rosary with local families, reciting the Rosary before daily Mass and doing home visitation. In the **Senatus of Salta** during the pandemic legionaries called out to the people: "we have the priest and the altar in the plaza, come to Mass with your chair" To counteract non-Christian customs during Halloween, the legionaries organised a fancy-dress party with children dressed in robes and habits of different well-known saints. Tucuman's Archbishop is Spiritual Director of the Regia. He was a junior legionary and active member before being ordained a priest. A praesidium in the **Regia of Corrientes** reported that its members go to the Shrine of Itati on the 16th of every month and they invite non-legionaries to accompany them. Other apostolates include public rosaries in various communities and districts and reaching out to tourists. The **Regia of Rosario** celebrated the Centenary of the Legion in the Shrine Basilica Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary, with a great attendance. Today they have eight praesidia, five Curiae and three Comitia directly affiliated to the Regia,

and practically all the apostolates have been resumed, including prison visitation.

**Bolivia:** The Comitium of Potosi, attached to the **Senatus of La Paz**, has a new praesidium in formation. Visitation of the barrios has recommenced and families are delighted to see the legionaries again. The legionaries have started a Family Rosary campaign.

**Brazil:** The **Senatus of Fortaleza** restarted in May with only a small number of people due to many sick members. They are preparing the Acies for August, a Retreat in September and for a Comitium in Marco-Ceará. In the **Senatus of Salvador** one Curia organised a spiritual retreat for children and for youth and adolescents at risk. The attached Regia of Aracaju organised a spiritual retreat for the legionaries and the community. **Senatus of São Paulo:** Some councils reported visitation of homes and bringing Holy Communion to the sick and elderly. The Regia in Campo Grande reported a new praesidium set up in a Military Hospital. The Regia in Cuiabá reported 2,577 visits to families and weekly contact in a public square with people on drugs. A Comitium in Mogi Guacu reported an Evangelical family of mother and children receiving the sacrament of Baptism and other sacraments. One Curia reported holding catechism classes online weekly in 2020 and 2021.

**Chile:** In the **Senatus of Santiago** a new Curia is being set up in Iquique, the most northern part of Chile on the border with Peru. During the month of May legionaries did a huge crowd contact in the city-centre plazas promoting May devotions. During the month of July the Senatus prayed to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Patroness of Chile, to increase the number of active legionaries.

**Colombia:** The Regia based in Arma, attached to the **Senatus of Medellin**, is a very active council, doing much extension, visiting the sick and holding retreats. From 24th to 26th

March they celebrated a Marian Triduum and the Acies ceremony. In the **Senatus of Bogota** There is much mention of Centenary Masses. Typical apostolates are street contact, public rosaries in parks, catechesis and junior groups, reaching out to the bereaved, counselling pregnant women and presenting their own programs on diocesan radio channels and on Radio Maria. There is an ecological apostolate based on Laudato Si. They participate in parish social activities visiting the elderly, sick and alone, and encouraging reception of the sacraments. A prison praesidium prays the Rosary with prisoners and uses a "Five Minutes of Prayer" booklet to evangelise.

**Paraguay:** The Legion in Paraguay has 50,000 members, including 15,000 auxiliary and 300 junior members. The Legion in the Seminary of Asuncion had 77 members present at the Acies celebration. Devotion to Alfie Lamb is strong and they celebrated his 90th birthday anniversary on June 24th in Asuncion and also attended the Buenos Aires event. The Senatus organised a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida, Patroness of Brazil.

**Peru:** In the **Senatus of Lima** during the pandemic telephone contact was very popular, reading the daily Gospel and commenting on it, and praying the daily Rosary with families. As a result of these activities, many new members have joined the Legion and there has been a surge in auxiliary membership. Some notable apostolates include art workshops with youths to promote the faith, encouraging co-habiting couples to marry and evangelisation in colleges, universities and institutes. The correspondents worked very hard during the pandemic, encouraging and liaising with their councils.

**Uruguay:** In the **Senatus of Montevideo** a praesidium of youths has started street contact and receives a very good reception while a

Curia has commenced prison visitation. A Peregrinatio Pro Christo was planned for the town of Minas in July.

**Venezuela:** Meetings of the **Senatus of Caracas** are back to normal. A new Curia with five praesidia was set up recently. Public Rosaries are recited weekly in public parks. Jail visitation and home visitation are being undertaken again. Two praesidia prepare and facilitate RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) courses.

## EUROPE

**Austria:** A Curia attached to the **Senatus of Austria** organised the consecration to Jesus through Mary; legionaries and non legionaries participated. Peregrinatio Pro Christo was undertaken to the Ukraine, Munich, Hamburg, Salsburg, Lourdes, Medjugorje and upper Austria. Many good contacts were made, and returns to Confession after many years were reported. The **Hallabrun Comitium** reported Salsburg Curia established a new praesidium. For the 500th meeting of **Innsbrook Comitium** the legionaries have re-started street apostolate. The Korean praesidium has resumed meetings. The apostolate of another praesidium includes an outreach to street girls and their families.

**Belarus:** **Minsk Comitium** reported a new praesidium was recently established. The apostolate of a praesidium with nine active and fourteen auxiliary members includes distribution of Miraculous Medals and Catholic Literature, contact work near the hospital, organising the living Rosary and many church activities..

**Croatia:** Great efforts are being made by **Zagreb Regia** to bring the Legion to new parishes. The annual Legion Pilgrimage to the Island of Solin took place in November with 800 in attendance. The Spiritual Director of the Regia and twenty Priests concelebrated Mass

## WORLD NEWS

Zagreb East Curia has eight praesidia and a Junior Praesidium of twelve members. Their annual reunion had an attendance of 70. A praesidium of nine members approached a neighbouring parish for permission to start the Legion. A praesidium in Zagreb reported an apostolate to children who gather near the Church. From visitation, three people received the sacraments after a long time. **Zadar**

**Comitium** reported a couple were prepared for the sacrament of Matrimony. Contact work is done in cafes and ferries. They have a Nazareth group of twenty children. Contact with parishes in Slavonski have been made with regard to setting up praesidia. **Split Comitium** reports visitation of homes, hospital, care homes and visitation with the Pilgrim Statue is done. Returns to the sacraments of 34 people were recorded.

### Czech Republic: Prague and Olomouc

**Comitia:** The Acies was held. small praesidia are being supported and efforts to recruit and extend the Legion are reported.

**Hungary:** Report covers March and April Regia meetings. March meeting took place during their annual Winter School.

**Latvia:** The first Comitium meeting since lockdown was held in April with almost all praesidia now functioning. Some praesidia reported that they are again doing home-to-home visitation, visiting the sick and doing street contact.

**Lithuania: Kaunas Comitium:** The Spiritual Director of the Comitium in a recent allocutio encouraged legionaries to organize and go on retreats and to read the passage in the Handbook on retreats. Every week nightly adoration is held at the Shrine of our Blessed Lady and this is promoted on home visitation. In all reports, promotion of the Miraculous Medal and Frank Duff prayer were reported. In **Telsiai Comitium** the Curia of Mazeikiai recruited five new members; six persons returned to

the faith, one after 50 years. Also two people returned to the church and Confession. A patient, who never went to church, received the Sacrament of Penance and Anointing before he died, R.I.P. Praesidia took active participation in the parish life, even in pandemic conditions, practising all devotions and helping the parish priests; legionaries also kept in touch with auxiliaries by phone.

**Moldova:** Chisinau Curia with seven praesidia are making efforts to revive two of its dormant praesidia.

### Poland: Warsaw Praga

**Comitium** reported helping the elderly to receive the sacrament of reconciliation, and making and distributing Rosary beads and Miraculous Medals. The legionaries also look after abandoned graves. Reports from a Curia show eighty Miraculous Medals were distributed and helping the sick and housebound and many other works of service were undertaken. The **Warsaw Comitium** covers Warsaw Archdiocese and five other dioceses north of Warsaw. The apostolate includes organising the Rosary and Adoration in parish churches; promotion of the Miraculous Medal and works of service for the sick and housebound. An important work of the Comitium is the editing of the Legion Bulletin published for Polish legionaries, 5000 copies, two to three times a year. All Bishops in Poland receive a copy. The Annual Reunion was held in January with a simple meal followed by a talk on Cardinal Suenen's book on the Legion Promise. The reports of the praesidia attached to

**Lublin Regia** and its Curiae and Comitia show that the legionaries are engaging in a very good programme of works including an outreach to Jehovah Witnesses and to those living in non sacramental relations. Three adults were brought to Confession and Holy Communion. The Seminary praesidium has nine members.

**Romania:** In **Satu Mare Regia** celebrations to mark the 100 years of the Legion were held by some Comitia and Curiae. The main celebration was held in the Cathedral in Satu Mare and a report is awaited. The apostolate in one Curia is cleaning the Church, singing at funerals, participation with Radio Maria and bringing people to church. A praesidium of ten members and 372 auxiliaries reported inviting people to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

**Slovakia:** In the **Comitium of Zeliz** the apostolate focused on work in the Church, the Parish and the Cemetery. **Trnava** Curia with five praesidia does street apostolate and visits a local prison.

## AFRICA

**Angola:** The **Benguela Senatus** celebrated their 14th anniversary on 23 April 2022 and 771 legionaries attended Mass to mark the occasion. The chief celebrant was Bishop Dom Antonio Francisco Jaka, The Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Daniel Gomes Spiritual Director to the Senatus. It was a joyous occasion giving members strength and confidence for the year ahead. **Luanda Senatus:** The 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Legion of Mary in Angola on 28th October 1951 was celebrated on 31st October 2021. Two Curiae were raised to Comitium, two senior praesidia and one junior praesidium were set up. An Apostolic Journey was undertaken to Nambuangongo / Bengo during which people were invited to Sunday Mass and young people and adults were accompanied to the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation. The January 2022 minutes mention the death of a legionary sister, Luguinga Kahenga, aged 110 years. May her soul rest in peace.

**Burundi:** In the **Senatus of Burundi**, Rokundo Comitium in the Archdiocese of Gitega,

reported encouraging people to return to the Catholic Church and also to the Legion, promoting Sunday and daily Mass. Consolation and intervention services were carried out, ranging from suicide prevention to the building of houses for those in need.

## Democratic Republic of Congo:

Apostolic work undertaken in the **Senatus of Butembo** includes: Visits and support to the sick, widows, orphans, the elderly, war refugees and prisoners; children are taught catechism and many were baptised, made First Holy Communion and received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Protestants were converted to Catholicism. A large number of divorced couples renewed their vows. Peace was restored to quarrelling families, and several people with a drink problem restored to sobriety. Houses burnt down by bandits were rebuilt by Legionaries and given back to their owners. Exchanges with people of different religions on the Word of God and the Rosary brought understanding. Bishop Sikuli Melchisedek gives great support to the Legion of Mary and encourages young people to become members. He advises them to follow the example of Frank Duff, Edel Quinn and Alfie Lambe. Abbé Jacques Bagendabanga has been appointed by the Archbishop of Bukavu as Spiritual Director of the **Senatus of Bukavu (Bikiri Amini)** Works include: Visits to the sick in their own homes and in hospitals, also to the bereaved; visitation of ex-members, as a result of which 74 have returned; visitation to widows, orphans and prisoners, counselling alcoholics and addicts and catechising of children for the sacraments. Some 80 couples in conflict were reconciled. The celebration of the centenary of the Legion was a cause of great joy and uplift to legionaries. In the **Senatus of Kisangani** works include outreach to the youth to participate in preparation courses for Baptism and other Sacraments;

contacting and encouraging people who are in the sects, with a view to their conversion to the Catholic faith; aiding families who are divided to be reconciled; bringing spiritual aid to patients in hospital and to the homeless. **Senatus of Kananga: Bukavu (Mater Ecclesiae):** Works include cleaning and care of churches, accompanying families of the bereaved to cemeteries, visitation of prisoners and recruitment of new members, both active and auxiliary.

**Egypt:** The **Senatus of Egypt:** The Coptic Catholic Patriarch in Egypt attended the Acies in Cairo. Efforts are being made to establish more praesidia in Cairo. A three-day annual conference/gathering is planned for July, the theme of which is 'The Contemporary Marian Mission in the Communion of the Holy Spirit.'

**Gambia:** All praesidia in **Banjul Curia** were permitted to resume their weekly meetings. A new praesidium of eighteen members was established. The Legion's once a week radio programme was extended to end of Sept 2022.

**Ghana:** In the **Senatus of Accra**, a project involving 37 legionaries resulted in establishing a new praesidium of 24 members. Queen of All Saints Curia, Madina, is undertaking visitation to revive dormant praesidia. **Kumasi Regia** reports visiting many homes, hostels and halls. The Regia organised several events to celebrate the Legion Centenary, including a Mass on 7th September.

**Lesotho:** A praesidium of eight members had a 100% attendance over a sixteen-week period. They report visiting 486 families. Another praesidium visits a prison and a hospital.

**Mauritius:** Meetings of **Rodrigues Regia** have resumed. They have sadly lost some active members who died from the disease, including Jeanne Francois, ex-president of the Comitium of Port Louis. May their souls rest in peace. Main works include formation of

youth and organising pilgrimages and rosaries to holy places and grottoes of Our Lady. They celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Legion with many Masses of thanksgiving in different areas. To mark the fourth anniversary of the youth praesidium, a special Mass was organised for them in Rose Hill, where they gave witness to their joy of membership.

**Mozambique:** Weekly meetings have resumed in **Maputo Regia**. A celebration is planned for 7th September with the presence of the Archbishop of Maputo. Legionaries in **Quelimane Comitium** participated in a Radio Maria program, where they talked about the Legion of Mary's history, spirituality, apostolate, and Frank Duff. Reports include 251 new members, 212 of these recently took the Legion Promise. **Tete Comitium** organised a pilgrimage to the Shrine at Zobue in May and many legionaries participated. Holy Mass was celebrated by the Bishop of Tete, Dom Diamantino. **Beira Comitium** is working on extension and a new praesidium was established. Due to the pandemic, no centenary celebrations took place in 2021; celebrations are being organised for this year. The Acies is expected to take place in August. The Spiritual Director, a Spiritan priest, expressed great joy and gratitude for the communication with Concilium. He asked for help and support to reorganize the Legion in the Diocese. **Lichinga Curia** are planning Centenary Celebrations. **Nampula Curia** established two new praesidia.

**South Africa:** The **Senatus of Cape Town** is planning to celebrate the Centenary later in the year. Works include praying the Rosary at wakes and funerals and in the homes of the sick and housebound. A praesidium organised a retreat where the Rosary was prayed on the beach. Reports to **Matatiele Comitium** show home visitation and praying the Rosary with families. One praesidium holds *Patricians* meetings.

**OCEANIA**

**Australia: Melbourne Senatus:** A successful Summer school was held in February. Albury and Wodonga Comitium held a Rosary crusade starting with Mass in the cathedral and stopping at four churches to recite the Rosary. In **Sydney Senatus** a 33-day Preparation for the Total Consecration started on 12th July, via Zoom. The Vietnamese Curia organised bereavement assistance during the lockdown. Northern Suburbs Curia started a new praesidium in Chatswood. In Auburn-Bankstown Curia they had eight baptisms reported. A praesidium in **Brisbane Comitium** promotes the Legion online and does welcoming tours of their Cathedral. The Comitium will now become affiliated to the Sydney Senatus.

**New Caledonia: Noumea Comitium** reported to Melbourne Senatus. They have eight Curiae on the mainland and one on Wallis Island, which has a junior praesidium attached.

**New Zealand:** Reports to **Auckland Senatus** show works include bringing Holy Communion to the sick and elderly in hospital and rest homes, and Rosary and statue visitation. Juniors help with the hospital visitation and monthly Mass with their senior members. Five members of the Senatus visited Wellington Comitium during April and May and helped with recruiting. Some twelve parishes were visited and five priests and parish secretaries were met. Contacts were made after Mass and fliers were distributed.

## Mount Anville Convent

*By Fr. Herman Nolan C.P.*



Sunday silence of the place  
 Tall granite walls brown brooding hills  
 The Convent stands stone still.  
 Wide lawns in shade of cedar boughs  
 Deep crowding laurels hiding walks  
 For evening strolls with God.  
 Within these walls beneath those trees  
 In slumbering mould  
 My soul grew still.  
 Mount Anville made me -  
 Oh! my childhood years  
 I must be going now -  
 Too much remembering might bring  
 Too many tears.



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