

Maria Legionis



The Assumption
of The Blessed Virgin Mary

Maria Legionis

The Voice of the Legion of Mary

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

Hard copies of articles, marked 'Maria Legionis', may be sent to: Legio Mariae, De Montfort House, Morning Star Avenue, Brunswick Street. Dublin 7. *Thank you, The Editor.*



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Giving an Egg and Getting an Ox in Return

*By Declan Lawlor,
President Concilium*

When the President and Secretary of the Legion were in Rome recently Cardinal Farrell said that Pope Francis wanted to thank the lay movements for their work in evangelisation and that is why he remained so long with us. Each member can be confidently assured that the Legion work done is endorsed by the Pope and the Mystical Body of Christ is in operation.

However, Cardinal Farrell frankly said that without the lay movements there would be almost no evangelisation. In his Diocese in Dallas, he had 1.5 million people with 75 priests and four retired nuns.



He honestly admitted that a poor job was done in evangelisation.

They built 10,000 seater churches and that was not a good idea. Interestingly, he said that the Church would be built up only by 'personal contacts' and simple events. Very legion like.

To hear what Pope Francis spoke about Synodal Values such as the need to be (1) Thinking with God ..(2) Avoiding Exclusiveness and (3) Achieving Humility was very similar to Frank Duff essays and writings from the Handbook.

To hear an emphasis on personal contact and simple events as a way of building the Church was very informative. Again very Frank Duff, but also at another level it was an open admittance that things are not satisfactory.



There was very strong endorsement of the Legion of Mary in the visit to the Vatican. It commenced with the President of the Legion of Mary reciting the Prayers of the Faithful at the special Mass in St. Peter's as requested by the Vatican Dicastery to the Pope's comments in his speech, to lay movements and Cardinal Farrell's 'personal contacts' comments, and then the President and Secretary meeting the Pope and presenting him with the Legion of Mary Handbook

Can it be said that the Holy Spirit was encouraging the Legion members to keep fighting the spiritual battle with greater intensity in 2024?



Ireland 1974

Some 50 years ago Frank Duff wrote an essay called 'The Faith the Nation: Principals of Survival'. (This was five years before the 1979 Pope's visit.) Br. Duff was very critical of the Irish scene. He said 'drinking was a deluge and crime was on the increase' with little or no respect for law and order.

He said we were delivering no better than 'respectable paganism' and we would be doing so much better if our 'religion was real.' He felt that the Irish had a 'mechanical goodness' about them but he believed there was no real depth of faith. In this essay he spoke about the French situation 200 years previously where the mask slipped and revealed under the surface a hatred for religion. Could the same happen in Ireland? he asked.

In 1974 he prophetically queried was Ireland on a 'similar slippery slope' where the vast majority of people could walk away in the future?

You might correctly ask why am I raising this question?

Firstly, it illustrates the prophetic insights and outlook that Brother Duff had when religion was supposedly at its height but secondly he saw storm clouds gathering in 1974 and under the surface that things were not good.

He wasn't interested in back-slapping and societal narratives keeping things on track. He wanted to see real efforts of evangelisation for the Love of Christ as he specifically requested, and not because the neighbours would approve. He says that our model of Church was really for a simpler time. A rural area or town with a Church in a rural setting with little outside influences. Respect for family respect for Church etc., was standard.

However, he said that the 'wolves and robbers would come in the future' and all the sheep would be scattered. The sheep would 'not be tough enough' to withstand the religious challenges they will have to face. Their religion needed to be real if the sheep were going to withstand the attacks.

He also said that there would be so much anti-Catholic propaganda in the future that the 'future man would have to be inoculated from the modern germs.'

Frank Duff understood the importance of religion for peace of mind and peace of soul. He could foresee the mental health problems into the future as religion was so seldomly practiced.



Summary

So in accordance with our baptismal duty it is clear the lay people all over the world need to be active in their faith. The stark admission of Cardinal Farrell regarding evangelisation suggests a business in serious decline or a team constantly in relegation zones. So how are we going to improve this situation, as we have a duty to do so?

I'm going to bring you back to what Br. Duff said about 'toughening up the sheep or inoculation from the modern germs'.. in order that we don't individually fall down that slippery slope or alternatively that we can crawl back to the top.

This is vitally important as the Legion system set out in the Handbook is our roadmap to get us to Heaven. This is also how you become toughened up or inoculated from the modern germs.

So what do we do?

One suggestion is that you become a privileged soldier of Mary in the Legion of Mary. As Br. Duff says the "legion is not about giving but it's about getting." We give Our Lady 'an Egg and she gives us an Ox in return.'

The Handbook says 'Our Lord needs our help to carry out his work of sanctification and salvation 'but he needs our help.'

The Legion system and the sacraments working together hand in glove is how we survive the open-air prison of prevailing narratives or undermining sneers. This is the Ox that you receive in return.

The Legion membership bestows us grace as we live out our baptismal calling and apostolic duty. There is also the much needed Fraternity or Fellowship in these times and gives us like-minded people on the pilgrimage of life.



We know Our Lady has appeared in Guadalupe, Lourdes, Fatima and Knock.

She as a Mother is calling all of her children back to her son, Jesus. She is also asking her children to help her and move into action to work for the Mystical Body. She is the Woman in the Book of Genesis standing on the serpent's head but she still needs our help to evangelise the world.

Reflecting on the Rome comments and the Irish slippery slope:

.... we can see the absolute non-negotiable need for the laity or the Legion to get out into the highways and byways ...talk to people...make contacts follow them up put on an event ..

.....that is really a thrilling adventure in which every person needs to be involved, as you were each made for this.

Once we empty ourselves and put ourselves into the work, Our Lady and the Holy Spirit will use us for their purposes. There has never been a better time to devote ourselves to Our Lord and Our Lady.... They need apostles

If you don't at least try and give her the egg, how can you expect to get the ox in return?

Meeting with the Dicastery

By Declan Lawlor,
President Concilium

Concilium received an invite from the Dicastery for Laity Family and Life for their annual meeting of New Ecclesial Communities and Lay Movements for their June 2024 meeting.

Declan Lawlor Concilium President and Miriam McKane Concilium Secretary attended on behalf of Concilium.

It was a chance to meet the Dicastery regarding our Statutes also and to meet the Congregation for Causes.

The theme of the meeting was "Mission and Synodality."

In the morning there was a very special Mass in St Peter's celebrated with Cardinal Kevin Farrell who is the prefect of the Dicastery for Laity Family and Life. He is originally from Dublin and is the Pope's appointed camerlengo (chamberlain) which is an office of the Papal Household that administers the property and revenues of the Holy See.



We had met him at previous meetings and he was always welcoming to his Irish counterparts.

The Mass was celebrated in the architecturally significant altar dedicated *Cathedra Petri* - Chair of Peter, made of oak and later encased in bronze and gold and completed by the Italian-Renaissance sculptor and architect Lorenzo Bernini.

As we looked at Peter's Chair and the Vatican keys adorned with statues and the stained-glass window in bright yellow signifying the Holy Spirit, we were transported to the transcendent. We prayed and contemplated the mysteries of the faith and thought of our founder Frank Duff meeting other popes and the deceased legionaries and martyrs to whom Rome was of huge significance.

The Dicastery had asked the Legion of Mary to read two prayers of the faithful in English, and we were honoured to do so.

From Saint Peter's basilica we moved to the conference centre next door where the Pope addressed the attendees.

He gave a very important talk on synodal virtues and named three.

1. *Thinking with God...* not the world but God must be invoked by all lay members of the legion.

2. *Avoiding Exclusiveness...* as the Legion asks all Catholics to become active there is no place for 'Holy Huddles.'

3. *Achieve Humility...* Again, the Handbook has a significant section on humility and crushing the serpents head imitating Our Lady.

It is clear therefore that synodal values are very close to Legion values,

Cardinal Farrell spoke about the thanks due to the lay movements as they were doing most of the evangelisation work in the Church today. We saw this as an important endorsement of the laity and the mission of the Church as implemented by Br Duff.

Both Concilium officers met the Pope personally and each received a rosary bead from him also.

We presented him the Spanish version of the Handbook for his consideration. He was very thankful for same.



Declan Lawlor Concilium President meeting Pope Francis



Miriam McKane Concilium Secretary meeting Pope Francis

For each of us it was a surreal and heavenly moment meeting Pope Francis. After this we went back into St. Peter's to pray for all the legionaries worldwide.

We prayed at the Tomb of Pope Saint John XXIII who declared that *"The Legion of Mary was the true face of the Catholic Church."*

We then prayed the rosary at the statue of Saint Louis Marie de Montfort impressively guiding us all from a high place in St Peter's basilica and hopeful high place in heaven.

A memorable day where the Holy Spirit sought to inspire all Legion members worldwide.

The New Evangelisation



*Immaculate Heart of Mary Praesidium, Limavady
Our Lady of Zion Curia*

Evangelising is the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists to evangelise. This is a core statement from Saint Pope Paul VI on the landmark encyclical, “Evangelii Nuntiandi” (1975).

The Pope begs us to remember that the Church not only evangelised others, but that she begins by evangelisation herself. Conversion is the truth of evangelisation – the sort of process that changes minds and hearts. If the Church exists in order to evangelise, one expects that it would be a priority at every meeting and assembly. In that encyclical the Pope appeals to society, stressing that the faith contributes to needs in everyday life.

Frank Duff in starting the Legion of Mary with the help of St. Louis Marie de Montfort’s writings and through fervent prayer was enlightened to evangelise the society of 1921. The idea of lay apostles was then a new one. The Legion was met with some suspicion and opposition from various quarters. However, Pope Pius XI, the Pope of Catholic Action, expressed his approval saying:

“This thing is from God.”
(Taken from Frank Duff ‘Irishman of the Century’, by Fr. Philim ODC).



Frank Duff depended completely on Mary when starting the Legion. He was inspired to send legionaries to do the Church’s evangelisation work.

Then in 1975 Saint Pope Paul VI wrote the apostolic document *Evangelii Nuntiandi*. Pope Francis in 2013 wrote his first encyclical ‘The Joy of the Gospel on the Church’s Mission of Evangelisation in the Modern World.’

No wonder that St. Pope Paul VI invited Frank Duff to the Second Vatican Council in 1965.

If Br. Duff was with us today, he would be fully committed to the New Evangelisation. We would hear him say: “Jesus Christ must be proclaimed everywhere. He is our Light and our Salvation.”



Dominicans 800 years in Dublin and Special Connection with the Legion



By Fr. Terence Crotty O.P.

The Legion of Mary was honoured and celebrated as part of the Dominican 800 celebrations in Dublin in July of 2024.

The Dominican Order of Preachers held a night of thanksgiving to the Legion of Mary for what the Legion had done for them especially in the last 20 years.

Fr. John Harris provincial of the order spoke on the special connections and thanked the Legion at this special evening .

He listed the vocations that came to the order from the Legion - especially noting the contributions



of ex-Concilium officer with responsibility for Ireland and now vocations director Fr. Colm Mannion.

Our loss was their gain but as it's all part of the mystical body then we are all benefiting.

Fr. Terence Crotty gave a very interesting talk on all of the various other Dominican connections especially concerning Frank Duff and the Second Vatican Council period to the present day.

This event was kindly organised by Fr. John Walsh who was keen to highlight the special relationship. He did so by organising and presenting to the Legion a beautiful portrait of Edel Quinn commissioned by Fr. Anselm Moynihan who was also postulator of Edel's Cause. He was a devoted Dominican to Edel and wrote a biography on her life.



Fr. Walsh also highlighted the seat in Saint Saviours in which Edel prayed, in the same section every day on the left-hand side of this Dominican Church.

When the renovations at headquarters are completed we will display this painting with great pride and acknowledgement of this wonderful Dominican support for the Legion.

Brother Lawlor thanked and acknowledged this spiritual connection where the Catholic hub of Legion on Morning Star Avenue is closely aligned with the Catholic hub of Dominick Street.

These connections are vital in times of ever increasing secularism and mental health despair; so we all are sustained in fellowship to “keep our line as on we march with Mary.”

St Dominic pray for us

Our Lady of the Rosary
pray for us

Venerable Edel Quinn
pray for us

EXPLANATION OF FRONT AND BACK COVERS



We pronounce, declare and define it to a divinely revealed dogma that the immaculate Mother of God the ever- Virgin Mary having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into Heavenly glory.....

Given at Rome, at St. Peter's, in the year of the great Jubilee, 1950, on the first day of the month of November, on the Feast of All Saints, in the twelfth year of our pontificate.



The picture on the back cover is Our Lady Spouse of the Holy Spirit. The pious custom of referring to the Holy Spirit as the spouse of Mary is a symbolic expression of Mary's perpetual virginity and the virgin birth of Jesus. It is not meant in a literal manner but rather in terms of Mary's singular devotion to God and unique relationship to the Trinity.

The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is on 15 August.

Senatus of New Zealand Legion of Mary Pilgrimage to Motuti, Hokianga 2-3 March 2024

*By Br. Mark Gaspirini
Assistant Treasure of Senatus/Vice President of
Cause of Our Joy Praesidium Te Atatu*

Our pilgrimage to Motuti a Catholic Maori (indigenous people of New Zealand) settlement about five to six hours north of Auckland this year was filled with joyous anticipation as it was our first time back after four years.

Our last trip there was in March 2020 just 10 days before our nation locked down, and at the time the pilgrimage had an air of expected trepidation about it. Motuti and its surrounding area is the cradle of Catholicism here in New Zealand. The first Mass in our land was said in this region just a few kilometres down the road. Bishop Pompelier was New Zealand's first bishop and is buried at the little Church bordering the Marae. The Marae is a Catholic Marae or traditional gathering hall and the people who live in this area are mostly Catholic.

In a sense, once we turn off the main highway we have entered into another world. The Marae is about an hour and a half further on from the highway and this slice of rural New Zealand is quite a culture shock to us city folks. Nothing there has changed much in decades and part of its rustic charm

are the many derelict buildings and vehicles we passed along the way.

The pilgrimage proper started before dawn on that first Saturday in March. We bussed and car-pooled our way along the 5-6 hour trip that was ahead of us; many prayers and rosaries were said and many wholesome discussions were had in preparation of our arriving.



On arrival we were officially welcomed with a powhiri, (a formal Maori ceremony) onto the Marae. Our hosts were gracious and humble, and very happy to see us again. Our programme was a little different this time around. Our Spiritual Director Father Andrew Matthew was unable to be with us; however we were fortunate in having two young priests fill-in for him, Father's Consedine and Eteuati.

Taking advantage of this opportunity we put them to work, each gave a talk; one talk was on the Hail Mary and the other was on the Seven Sorrows of Mary. They also heard many confessions during the reflection time. We packed so much into the twenty-five hours that we were there. Mass on Saturday afternoon at the Marae and again on Sunday morning at the Church. The Stations of the Cross on Saturday afternoon around the Marae and also on Sunday on our way to the Church, (1 kilometre along the road.) A Saturday night Rosary Procession with Our Lady's Statue, once again up to the Church. All night Eucharistic Adoration in the Church which finished with Benediction. In the early afternoon on Sunday, after receiving a packed lunch we travelled back to Auckland; again praying and discussing all the way home; no doubt spiritually richer for the experience.

There are three words to describe Motuti - Spiritual, Cultural and Historic.

In the Legion of Mary fashion – we prayed, and we prayed – there and back. Gentle instructions before we left – “From the time you leave home, you are on the retreat.” Not long after arrival at Tamatea Marae, and soon after Karanga/Powhiri, and long before Kai, we had Mass. We prayed inside the Whare and on the Marae grounds, and we prayed on the way to the Church and inside the Church.

Together we prayed the Legion prayers



inside the Whare, while each one of us went to Confession, in the open air on a chair. There was the Stations of the Cross and the Rosary, and nobody told us how far we had to walk – one step after the other – until we arrived.

One priest gave reflections, firstly on ‘Prayer’, and then the other priest on ‘The Sorrows of Mary.’ Legion prayers we did not forget, and all-night rostered Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ending with Benediction in the morning and later – Mass. And all that was a lot of prayer!

Culturally, we were wrapped in the arms of the local whanau. With spotless everything – we were greeted with so much Aroha! Can still smell and taste that bacon soup, and the local Kanuka Honey. Reminders everywhere that we were at their Turangawaewae – their Stamping Place!



All night on the foam, lined up with almost seventy others, probably isn't everyone's 'cup of tea,' with kids coughing and babies crying, and the odd bit of snoring here and there. But that is all part of being there, and getting a taste of the real thing - a home away from home.

Historically speaking, you couldn't do better than an ancient Church on a hill, sharing the space where the locals' ancestors sleep. And a coffin under the Altar that they raised for us all to view. In its gold and red glory, Bishop Pompallier came from afar. He was much loved, and loved the place so much, that he got to be here forever - and he said the first Mass.

And a caretaker is needed, and the role filled with such a caring Religious Sister - you could see your face in the polished Church floor - just before you knelt to pray.

You couldn't help but feel and smell and experience the history there.

Well, it might be a long way to Motuti, but you won't forget it in a hurry, and you won't forget that prayer is the very core of the Legion of Mary.

-See you there, next year -

*By Sr. Anne Brigid, Secretary,
Our Lady of The Southern Cross,
Northcote Praesidium, Star Of The Sea
North-West Auckland Curia*

Report on Legion of Mary Motuti

Despite the long and winding Brynderwyn detour, everyone made it on time to the powhiri at the Tamatea Marae. Joan and her team extended a hearty welcome as always, followed by Mass celebrated by Fr. Eteuati Milo SDB and Fr. Consdeine (Tino) Fuiava MF. Br. John was an inspiring leader as he meticulously guided us from start to finish, diligently keeping to the schedule.

Members of the different praesidia mingled enthusiastically as they had the delicious afternoon refreshments in the wharekai and prepared for the stations of the cross on the marae grounds where various members volunteered to narrate at each station and walk in spirit with Jesus on his journey to Calvary.





Later, everyone gathered in the marae and was eager to assimilate Fr. Milo's tips on praying effectively, despite the heat, and later Fr. Tino taught us how to say the Our Lady of Sorrows rosary. Almost everyone went to confession to our two priests who patiently sat outside the marae for over an hour. After the evening meal, the candlelight rosary procession from the marae to the Church under the canopy of the purple night sky was a reflective experience.

Our Blessed Mother glowed purely in the candlelight as she led us and we followed reverently. Once in the Church, the Blessed Sacrament was exposed and we were rostered to keep vigil prayerfully all night. It was inspiring to see so many of our youth praying fervently and willing to help whenever needed. Fr. Doyle was sorely missed and it was surely his empowerment of the youth that has garnered such a wholesome youth involvement. The night at the marae was restful and rejuvenating. After lights out the conversations trickled to a respectful silence that was soon replaced with a gentle orchestra of snoring.

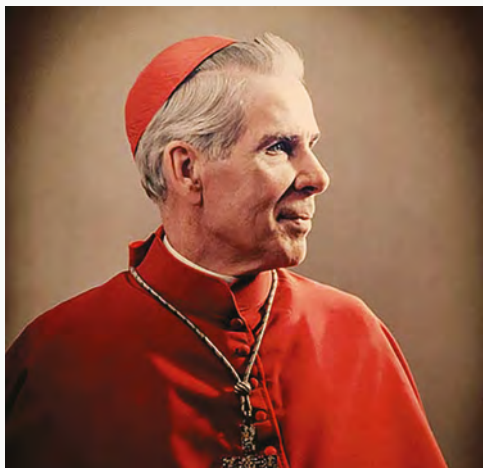
Sunday began with our Legion prayers, breakfast, and emotional farewells to Joan and her dedicated team. The youthful dances and singing by the Panmure praesidium lightened our hearts as they were performed with such delightful grace. Our young photographer, Elise, was always ready to capture memorable moments with her camera. We hoped she will be included in the photos as she selflessly clicked away. The stations of the cross from the marae to the Church was a sad experience preparing us for the final Mass concelebrated by Fr. Milo and Fr. Tino. As always, the pilgrimage ended with group photos and the pick-up of packed lunches. The goodbyes from the legionaries were warmer, having gotten to know each other over the weekend and had a ring of hope as everyone enriched in their spirituality wound their way around the Brynderwyn and back to Auckland.

*By Sr. Noela Dsouza – Correspondent
for Christchurch Curia.*

The Legion of Mary

As spoken of by Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

(Speech given at the Annual Council Officers' Meeting in Rochester, N.Y.)



You are the only organisation in the world today that ever anticipated the Vatican Council. The only one! You just go through your works and see how far ahead you are of the Council and with the Church. You are Pre-Council, Pro-Council, and Post-Council.

First you are a lay organisation devoted to the apostolate, though the apostolate was reserved for the clergy. So you swept back about 20 centuries. Read over the list at the close of the Epistle to the Romans, members of the Legion of Mary, so that you will see that you have brought up to date the apostolate of the early Church. Also, in the Acts of the Apostles, it is

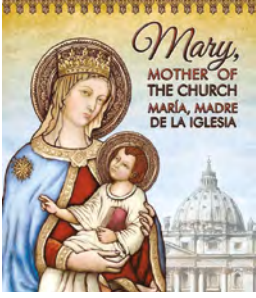
in the third Act whereby the Church becomes established in a certain house; first a catechist works among the group and finally the Church itself. That is the first way you anticipated the Vatican Council.

The second and more important still is that you belong to the out-ministry. We priests belong to the in-ministry.

That's not what God intended, but that's what happened. We wait for people to come to us and we build bigger rectories. We are failing because we are an in-ministry, waiting. You were from the beginning an out-ministry, commissioned to do the same sort of thing as Our Blessed Lord did - walking up and down alleys.

Third, you anticipated it even in relation to the Blessed Mother. This may seem strange but it's true. Your service is dedicated to building up the Church. It's not just merely the devotion to Our Lady, it's a devotion to Our Lady as the Mother of the Church. At the Council, we voted on the question of whether or not to give a new title to Our Lady.

Our Lady has many as you know. It was decided not to give her another title.



Two weeks later Pope Paul read his Encyclical Letter on the Blessed Mother as the 'Mother of the Church.' We gave her a new title. That's the Mother you love and who is your patroness.

You are a small group - you have to be. Remember this! The Holy Spirit never works with the majority: only with minorities. You are the only present effective apostolate that we have in the world.

My good legionaries, this is what you are. From what I have told you, you know how much esteem and affection I have for you. I say you have anticipated the Vatican Council - the future apostolate of the Church, and you are only at the beginning, just the beginning. Pray often to the Holy Spirit that your zeal will spread and that others will have the courage to do it. I consider it an honor, really an honor, to be in the midst of you.

Just as sometimes oil gets outside of a bottle by osmosis, so too, by being near you, I hope to get some of your spirit.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross

The title of 'Southern Cross' derives from the constellation of stars seen only from the southern hemisphere. Mary is the Help of Christians as she leads all people to her Son. She is our help and our advocate.



Legion Visit to Nepal



It was a Spirit filled visit to Nepal by two of our Mumbai Legionaries - Sr. Cassina and Sr. Shalina. They travelled from India on the 9th of May 2024 and returned back on the 21st May.

The legionaries in Nepal are simple and spiritual and have great love for Mother Mary. They live a humble and hard life. They have multiple problems: most of them work on farms or small industries, some struggle with their mere livelihood. The sudden earthquakes, rains and changing weather conditions make it all the more difficult for them to lead a normal life. In spite of all these difficulties, they offer their selfless services to the Church and the Legion.

The Mystical Rose Curia – Nepal consists of three praesidia in Kathmandu at Dhobighat, Godavari and Banyataar. They also have three isolated praesidia at Urlabari and Damak in Eastern Nepal and one Junior praesidium in Banyataar convent for the underprivileged boarding school girls who come from distant remote villages to the city for education.

They are taken care of by the Sisters of Charity in the convent. They have regular Legion meetings and are very attached to the Legion of Mary group and love for Mother Mary. They have

a membership of 17 young girls. They take up weekly work within the convent helping the weaker students in studies, helping the younger kids with their in-house work of cooking, cleaning, gardening and conducting the rosary daily at the chapel. They also help the sisters in the convent in arranging the chapel and preparing for Mass. Thus bringing them closer to God and deepening their faith.

Our visit was focused on the consolidation of the existing praesidia. Building future leaders – teaching and training them with the Legion system.

The Nepal Curia consist of around 55 legionaries in all. Future and current officers were trained.



We made a visit to east Nepal that is Dharan, Urlabari Damak. In Dharan we met the members where the Legion was existing in the past but presently not functioning due to lack of leadership. However a training was given on the Legion system and as assured by the parish priest, they will restart as per the system. Families were visited in a couple of villages. The aim being to build a bond of love and care and also to recruit them for the Legion. Damak praesidium was also given a training on role and duties of officers; they began fresh with a new Spiritual Directress and other officers.



Bishop Paul Simick of the Nepal Vicariate, gave us a warm welcome and encouraged us to continue

spreading the Legion of Mary in other parishes. He helped us reach out to Daran a far flung parish in East Nepal. It was a great blessing to be in his presence and learn more about the Nepal community.

We received full support from priests, nuns and other religious, they made our work easier and burden lighter. They were happy to learn that the Nepal legionaries were visiting the catholic families, old and sick, interfaith couples, prison ministry, Institute visit and conducting rosary faithfully in parishes. The Spiritual

Directress of the Curia Sr. Jilleola offered 100% support; she attended all the meetings and waited patiently during the trainings.

The weather was not always pleasant, difficult roads and transportation was not easy to find. Yet in all of this we found that our Heavenly Mother walked before us, making way for every work; she was our Guiding Star especially when situations seemed difficult and impossible.

We, the Legion of Mary members of Mumbai Senatus will continue our yearly visits to Nepal and expand the Legion as far as we can and help them grow stronger in faith and love for our Mother and work together for the greater glory of God.



Legion's Tribute to a Dedicated Spiritual Director

By Veronica McNeece, Legion of Mary, Scotland



Fr. Des Broderick's lifelong devotion to the Legion of Mary began shortly after his ordination in 1952 when he was appointed curate at St. Teresa's in Possilpark, with the late Fr. John Conway as parish priest.

Among the duties assigned to him was attendance at the weekly meeting of the Legion of Mary on a Monday evening.

Fr. Conway had been a curate in St. Peter's Parish when the founder of the Legion of Mary, Frank Duff, visited Scotland from Dublin with

the intention of establishing the first group of the Legion outside of Ireland. On 26th April 1928 the first meeting took place and he saw at first hand how worthwhile it could be in a parish.

From the very beginning, Fr. Des was attracted by the atmosphere of the meetings: the praying of the Rosary, the reporting of the work that had been undertaken since the previous meeting and especially the commitment of the members.

Fr. Des continued to attend the Legion of Mary meetings and he threw himself wholeheartedly into the spirit of the Legion, seeing and serving Christ in others in union with Mary, as the Legion operates.

He immersed himself in the activities of the Legion within the parish and throughout the diocese, and with the junior Legion and the Sancta Maria Hostel.

As the Legion apostolate developed and legionaries became more committed to reaching out in a spirit of faith and friendship to all, Fr. Des would join them in visitation to places such as the Isle of Skye.

While on a Peregrinatio Pro Christo (travelling for Christ) Fr. Des would sacrifice a couple of week's holiday each year in order to join teams of legionaries on their missionary work in Amsterdam, Haarlem and various parts of Finland.

For the whole of his long and devoted priesthood Fr. Des would give spiritual direction to legionaries, and in 1977 he was appointed by the Bishops' Conference of Scotland as Legion national spiritual director, an appointment that was to continue for 30 years.

It is not easy to put into words all that the Legion of Mary was to Fr. Des and all that Fr. Des meant to all the legionaries whose lives he touched. His radiant smiling face, the twinkle in his eye, his hearty laugh, his sense of humour, his love of hearing "your story" and his gentleness are treasured memories.

It's significant that Fr. Des went to God on Good Shepherd Sunday as we all saw his likeness to "The Good Shepherd" whom he loved, served and imitated during his long and blessed priestly life.

A man of deep faith and a deep life of prayer, he was totally open to the Holy Spirit and committed to anything that he believed were for the good of all; never giving himself credit for any of the good-news stories which were plentiful.

His love of God and His Blessed

Mother were an integral part of his priestly life. As a spiritual director, Fr. Des was full of wisdom and reassurance, thanking God in all circumstances and never failing to reassure you, making you feel precious to God, gently inviting you to go deeper in faith but always with great humility. He was a humble man and would readily acknowledge whenever he felt he had not got things correctly.

It is not possible to write about Fr. Des without mentioning his blessings. He always gave you a profound personal blessing that made you feel so at peace.

Born in Glasgow in 1924, Fr. Des Broderick passed from this life just days before his 100th birthday in 2024.

We thank God for the blessing that Fr. Des Broderick was to the Legion of Mary in Scotland. May his gentle soul rest in peace.





Eucharistic Celebration on the 80th Anniversary of the Death of Venerable Edel Quinn

*Compiled by: Anastacia Ndungwa
and Anastacia Mwova*

The Senatus of Kenya commemorated the 80th Anniversary of the death of Venerable Edel Quinn on 11th May 2024, the day before the anniversary.

Legionaries and other faithful, amidst the torrential rains that had caused devastating floods in Kenya, even to the extent of having reopening of schools in the second term postponed until further notice gathered for the celebration at St Mary's School playground in Msongari, Nairobi. When legionaries started the Edel Quinn Novena on 3rd May, one of the intentions was to pray for good weather, having the confidence which she had. The day was now here with us, bright and sunny!

A few thousand came mostly from Nairobi. This was because of travel restrictions due to the heavy rains. In attendance too, were pilgrims from Dar-Es-Salaam and Uganda (en-route to Mombasa). The legionaries from Senatus of Uganda were to make a pilgrimage later in the month as the Mass coincided with their national census.

Fr. George Omondi CSSp, the Parish Priest at St. Austins Catholic Church welcomed all to the Mass. In attendance were pilgrims, en-route to Namugongo Shrine in Uganda on foot for the Uganda Martyrs celebration on June 3rd.



As usual, this commemoration was marked by a procession from the cemetery (nearby) to the playground where the Mass was celebrated. The Procession was led by the junior legionaries and seminarians from Apostles of Jesus.

His Lordship Bishop Wallace Ng'ang'a Gichihi, Auxiliary Bishop welcomed everyone and especially visitors from Tanzania, Uganda and other dioceses across our country, Kenya and the hosts from Nairobi.



In his Homily, Bishop Wallace mentioned that legionaries are committed in prayers especially through the intercession of Our Lady and are guided by the systematic way in the Handbook. He stated that if there is a group in the Church that is known to be ready and willing to lead in prayers, it is the Legion of Mary.

Saying that when the clergy visit Small Christian Communities or any group in the Church and ask for someone to lead in prayers or interpret a Bible verse, a legionary would be the first person to lead. This can be attributed to the fact that legionaries are always

on duty and the practice of giving the allocutio from the spiritual reading in the Handbook helps them to be able to work with ease.

Edel Quinn, Bishop Wallace said, was dedicated to her apostolate and self sacrifice in spreading the gospel within East and Central Africa. Every time we gather together to pray at her graveside, in the hope that one day she will be canonised. We are always invited to reflect on our daily lives as Christians, because there is a moment when we shall leave this world. He posed a question on what one will be remembered for as a legionary or by the way we touch lives through our deeds, just the way we remember Venerable Edel Quinn for her heroic work.



To be a legionary might not be enough to attain heaven but how we touch other lives. The scripture of the day (Luke 1:26-38 – The Birth of Jesus) foretold for Solemnity of The Assumption guided on how we are supposed to walk as Christians. In the Gospel, Mother Mary was willing to live by the will of God. This should be our prayer ‘May God’s will be done.’ Giving offertory may not be enough; the most important thing is to serve others. In times we are not able to accomplish our apostolate given in the presidium, we should ask for pardon from Mother Mary. In the first reading Priscilla and Aquila saw the gift of Apollo who accepted to be guided. In the journey of life, there are many who will need our guidance; let us hold their hands as Apollo was

guided. How are we ready to journey with others and support them grow in faith? Be ready to be assisted as Apollo was and not be connoisseurs; be humble to be led and guided. If we feel ‘we know it all’ we will not grow; let us be like children who have the charisma of giving, are ready to be guided and led. We receive blessings as we do our apostolate and pray through Mother Mary because she is blessed. Always remember and recognise the blessedness in our lives or else we shall be reciting ‘a litany of problems.’ That there are many challenges in life and we should not fear but trust in the Lord and He will lead and guide for there is nothing impossible for Him. Our weapon as legionaries is the Holy Rosary, reflecting on the Mysteries.



The Bishop thanked all spiritual directors and religious men and women for accompanying their legionaries. He sent greetings from the four other Bishops in the Archdiocese of Nairobi.

Deus et Patria 'Games Night'

By Áine Blake



On Saturday 8 June 2024 a Games Night for young adults aged 18-40 was hosted by *Deus at Patria*, a committee of Concilium which focusses particularly on young members of the Legion of Mary. The event took place in Presentation Hall North Circular Road Dublin from 7pm which was decorated for the night with balloons and bunting. Forty-one young people attended, 19 non-legionaries and 22 legionaries. Two Dominican brothers from St. Saviour's Priory, Dominick Street, Br. Sean and Br. Michael also attended and brought along a variety of board games with which they instructed attendees with enthusiasm. The event began with registration and

with an opportunity to mingle and enjoy soft drinks, snacks and music. Copies of the Tessera were distributed to all for the recitation of the Legion opening prayers. Later in the night, the Catena was recited. Grace before meals was recited before attendees tucked into pizza mid-way through. The legion closing prayers were recited before the close of the event. A range of board games were available which included chess, snakes and ladders, as well as darts and mini football. Group games were organised at a number of tables, including board games such as 'Happy Salmon' and 'Get Rich Quick', as well as 'Ticket to Ride' which provided great entertainment and plenty of laughter.





Feedback from attendees was very positive and many commented that they would love to attend another such night.

Miraculous Medals were made available as well as Legion literature for perusing at the book barrow which was set up in the room. Attendees came from a variety of backgrounds, some were university students, some were international visitors, mostly but not all Catholic. Some had heard about the event from a friend, some came alone, and some had been present on a previous night, the first of which was held last month.



Over all, it was generally agreed to have been a successful venture which gave a marvellous opportunity for young people to make new friends, to enjoy authentic community and to have a positive experience and sense of the spirit of the Legion of Mary. Such authentic community can be hard to find nowadays for young people. Please God this undertaking will bear fruit into the future with attendees being encouraged to take the next step perhaps and become involved themselves in the Legion of Mary.





Forming a Good Praesidium



By Caroline Carty

It is no secret how to form a good praesidium – it is all in print before you. The duties of officers and members, the shape and structure of the meeting, what kind of works to do and with what kind of mentality can all be found in the Handbook. If you apply these not vaguely but with a firm resolution you cannot but establish a thriving praesidium.

That has been the experience of Maria Assumpta praesidium, if we can be so bold as to call ourselves thriving. We began two and a half years ago with just three members, two as green as could be (one of those two being myself). Now we have eight full members and one more who has moved, as well as several probationers. Dozens more have passed through our hands, for many of whom we have high hopes.

This didn't happen by accident. The first year we set ourselves to have eight full members for the next year's Acies. We failed, but it was a mission statement. This year we hoped for fifteen! We failed again, but rarely has failure tasted so sweet. Frank Duff once said that you don't ask Our Lady for something, you demand it; well, we made our demands known!

The groundwork for our success was

laid in the commitment of the first three, who made up the praesidium's first officers. There were times when it was just ourselves and Our Lady at the meetings. But we remained punctual; we gave good reports and we met regularly to plan our campaign. Our mission was to have eight members.

For those who fell into our net, we poured ourselves into them in the manner of Our Lady. Perhaps a certain desperation helped! Each person who came really was special to us because they were so few and we made our best efforts to win them over with an atmosphere of prayer, fraternity and apostolic spirit. As I said, dozens passed through our net before one stuck. But then came two and three.

Grace followed effort and we were unstinting in our application to our mission. We put ourselves in the way of success, taking on projects when they were given to us no matter how big.

We were not always, perhaps, as docile as Our Lady may have liked and there was some degree of fear and grumbling when we were asked to organise a day-long, national conference.

But we set about our work and with Mary's help it was a success, both for those who attended and for ourselves: we gained another member.

Another source of membership was the regular performance of street contact work. About half of our membership was contacted in this manner. Not all by ourselves, it must be said, and we are grateful to those who were charitable enough to pass on suitable candidates when we were starting out. But when we had them, we made sure not to lose them!

We wanted our praesidium to be more than a place of work. Frank Duff describes it as a way of life and what is life without friendship? This focus on fraternity developed when one of our brothers from Nigeria commented that legionaries there are friends, and the Legion was a social outlet

for them. But in Ireland, members came to meetings and went their way without forming deeper connections.

Our vice president took this idea to heart and set up a social calendar. We had quiz nights, pizza nights, a visit to Frank Duff's house, as well as participating in Curia events. Our members' personalities came through in meetings as they grew in confidence and each meeting was a genuine pleasure to attend. In the middle of a working week, however difficult or tiring it had been, the meetings were an oasis, spiritually and socially.

All of this was overseen by officers who took seriously their roles, turning up early to prepare, holding planning meetings and attending to each soul with personal care, acting in *loco parentis* for our Holy Mother.



Our success is testimony to the efficacy of the Legion system when applied in a Legion spirit. It could be achieved by anyone in any circumstance – by anyone, in essence, who is willing to become Mary's instrument in bringing her Son to the world.

THE 100,000 MIRACLE

AN EVENT IN 1989 WHICH SYMBOLISES THE PHENOMENAL GROWTH OF THE LEGION OF MARY IN KOREA

In 1989 many processions of legionaries carrying banners and flags streamed into the stadium that by the time the convention began many had to be turned away and had to listen to the events relayed by loudspeakers outside. 'The stadium looked so big that I could not imagine it being filled with people - not to mention legionaries,' said Columban Fr. Aedan McGrath, the Legion's representative from the Concilium in Ireland. The sight of 100,000 Korean legionaries gathered together has to be seen to be understood.

Korea is a non-Christian country, and it was only 35 years ago that Columban Archbishop Harold Henry gave the go-ahead for the first small Legion group in Mokpo. He sensed then that there would be a great flow of people into the Church, and he knew that priests and sisters would be unable to cope. It was a task for the laity. The Legion spread phenomenally, and legionaries helped to bring about the mass conversions that have characterised the Church in Korea. Today Korea's Catholics number nearly three million. Many

priests are convinced that if it had not been for the Legion of Mary, such a growth rate would not have occurred.

The sports stadium of Cheong Ju in Central Korea was the venue for the 1988 National Congress. Colourful Korean dresses sparkled in the sunlight as the Nuncio said that he was proud to have witnessed such a moment in Korea. Fr. McGrath added his greetings from the Legion's headquarters.

During his two-week visit, 84-year-old Fr. McGrath, who many claim to be the most travelled missionary in the world, was anxious to visit as many Legion groups as possible.



Fr. Tony O'Brien, Columban Director in Korea, went along to interpret. One parish priest he met, told him that he had only 56 Legion groups in his parish. His half apologetic 'only' is because many other parishes have 60 such groups. When asked if he had difficulty managing so many, he replied: "I only wish I had more." His parish is divided into 56 sections, and each Legion group is responsible for its own area. 'That means visiting, caring, coaxing, instructing, and eventually bringing people to the Church.' This was the favourite method of Legion founder Frank Duff and was also the practice of early Christians. "Getting the newly baptised to go immediately and tell others what they have understood themselves is the perfect method to make Christians live what they have learned," commented Fr. McGrath.

He also visited one of the Columban parishes where two of his colleagues were working, Fr. Sean Savage, who started the historic first Legion group in Mokpo village in 1953, and Fr. Charles Carolan. Both priests each have 25 Legion groups in their charge. They visit all 50 regularly.

"My two weeks in Korea was truly an inspiration," said Fr. McGrath. "To find 13,000 Legion groups in a non-Christian country after only 35 years, and constantly increasing, was something I had not expected."

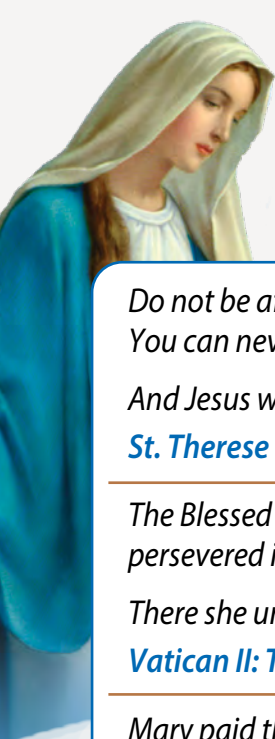


Another unexpected but notable achievement of the Legion in Korea has been the production of the Legion's Handbook in braille for the blind. Some Legion groups are made up entirely of blind members. Even though the blind legionaries could not see the huge crowd - they could hear them. The 1,000-voice choir was soon swelled by 100,000 other enthusiastic voices, as they joined in the Mass with the Bishop of Cheong Ju.

Perhaps such big numbers and such wholehearted participation is a sign of what is to come at the 44th International Eucharistic Congress to be held in Seoul, Korea's capital, this October.

As part of his apostolic journey to the Far East and Mauritius, Pope John Paul II gave the Homily at the concluding Mass of the Eucharistic Congress on Sunday 8 October 1989.





Praises of Mary



*Do not be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much.
You can never love her enough.*

And Jesus will be very happy, because the Blessed Virgin is His Mother.

St. Therese of Lisieux

The Blessed Virgin advanced in her pilgrimage of faith and loyally persevered in her union with her Son unto the Cross...

There she united herself with a maternal heart to His sufferings.

Vatican II: The Church, 59

Mary paid the debt of gratitude that was due from womankind because of Eve.

Not of man, but immaculately of her own self, she conceived of the Holy Spirit by the power of God.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem

My hope for you is that with every passing day and every passing moment you will get closer to Mary Immaculate.

May you come to know her ever better and love her ever more.

St. Maximilian Kolbe

Rejoice and be glad, for you have the Blessed Virgin for your Mother.

Serve her with great joy, for she is very deserving of it.

Have recourse to her in all difficulties, and you will always be helped.

St. Joachima Vedrunda de Mas

*What is the language of the Angel sent to the most pure Virgin?
"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you."*

He is a messenger of joy, and it is with joy that he opens the conversation.

St. Sophronius



Legion world news



ASIA

Armenia: The junior praesidium has 16 enthusiastic members. They met an elderly lady on the streets and brought her to a place of refuge where she was cared for until she died with dignity a week later. R.I.P. A new praesidium started in Ghazanchi.

Holy Land: At Nazareth Curia, efforts are being made to start a praesidium in the village of Al-Reinch and in Galilee to start a praesidium in the village of Hurfashe.

India: The seminary praesidium in **Mumbai Senatus** is very active; they conduct Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). **Pondicherry Senatus** reported six new Curiae were established with 45 praesidia in a rural area at which the Archbishop celebrated Mass to mark the occasion. Among the works mentioned are visiting the mentally challenged, prisoners, the sick and elderly. Suicides were prevented and some couples received the Sacrament of Matrimony. **Kottar Regia** helped 100 individuals and over 70 families to receive the Sacrament of Baptism and conducted marriage preparation classes for almost 500 participants. Thirteen new praesidia were set up. Sintha Yathrai Curia held Golden Jubilee celebrations and Marthandam Comitium celebrated their Silver Jubilee.

Indonesia: Malang Senatus: A number of attached councils reported, including Merauke Curia located in Indonesian Papua. Makassar Comitium in Southern Sulawesi has approximately 2,000 members engaged in an apostolate of home and hospital visitation.

Japan: Praesidia attached to **Osaka Senatus** mention visitation of homes and nursing

homes has recommenced after Covid. Reports show legionaries undertaking works of service in the parish; taking part in inter-faith events; working with the deaf community and ongoing contact with a prisoner on death row.

Korea: A Comitium attached to **Seoul Senatus** with 17 Curiae and 179 praesidia has a varied apostolate, including befriending the recently baptised and contacting newcomers to parishes. In the course of visitation they contact Catholics and non-Catholics. **Gwangju Senatus:** The Regia of Jeon-ju reported 1,766 returns to the Sacraments, double the number of the previous year. An unbeliever was baptised following ten years of contact by legionaries.

Daegu Senatus: Reports from councils show home and hospital visitation undertaken. 244 active members were recruited.

Malaysia: A praesidium attached to **Kuala Lumpur Regia** was commended on their outreach to non-Catholics. Kenningau Comitium in East Malaysia established three new Curiae.

Pakistan: Three praesidia with a total of 41 members reported visitation to hospitals and homes of the sick as well as praying with bereaved families.

Singapore: Works reported include book barrow, *Patricians* groups, and teaching Catechism.

Sri Lanka: 687 homes were consecrated to the Sacred Heart, 176 lapsed were brought back to the fold, several hundred adults were instructed and prepared for the Sacraments. The junior Curia set up two new praesidia during the year. They also have their own website and recite the Rosary via Zoom during

WORLD NEWS

May and October, and organised a Marian Youth Day for junior members in September 2023.

Taiwan: A joint day of prayer was held between legionaries and indigenous peoples in the dioceses of Chiays and Tauhan. It is hoped that a new praesidium may result from these contacts.

Thailand: A Comitium reported 18 conversions, 341 returned to practice, 113 couples received the Sacrament of Matrimony and 61 active and 27 auxiliary members were recruited.

Vietnam: Praesidia and councils report bringing people back to practice, having couples receive the Sacrament of Matrimony, helping women to avoid aborting children, and recruiting active and auxiliary members.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica: Among the range of works of a Curia is the carrying out of works in the spirit of True Devotion to the Nation, with particular regard to the elderly, and those who live alone.

El Salvador: One Regia has almost 3,000 members. During a recruitment drive approximately 1,500 at a very special Mass accepted the invitation to join a praesidium and over 500 persevered. Some people contacted on home visitation return to the practice of the Faith after years away and some join the Legion.

Honduras: In Sihuen the Spiritual Director promotes the writings of Frank Duff which is very positive for legionaries.

Nicaragua: A day of prayer was organised for peace and conversion in the world and in particular in Nicaragua. A Curia is doing extension very successfully in remote areas of the diocese. Five couples were prepared for the sacrament of Matrimony.

Panama: Young children are set up in small groups and taught their prayers and encouraged to do some small apostolate with a view to preparing them for junior membership at a later stage.

NORTH AMERICA

U.S.A: A council attached to **Arlington Senatus** reported they had 16 conversions, 48 returns to the sacraments, and 19 couples had Church marriages. **Boston Senatus:** In Shirley prison, a new praesidium was started by the chaplain and a prisoner. Providence Comitium reported six families returned to the Church, and two conversions. Kokoma Comitium, Indiana, attached to **Chicago Senatus**, had a Legion booth at the National Catholic Youth Conference. A Hispanic Comitium hosted Mass for Servant of God Alfie Lambe. In **Cincinnati Senatus** a praesidium reported the conversion of a nursing home resident. Extension in Detroit Regia included permission from the Bishop of Gaylord Diocese to start the Legion there. In **Houston Senatus** a Chinese Curia in Dallas hosted an evangelising event. In **Los Angeles Senatus** Legionaries do crowd contact at festivals and other functions. Legionaries in councils attached to **Philadelphia Senatus** hosted Legion Stands at Diocesan conferences and at a street fair. In **San Francisco Senatus**, the Eucharistic Revival objective set by most Dioceses is promoted on Legion work. A virtual Conference for their distant councils discussed topics including True Devotion to Mary. Kansas Comitium attached to **St. Louis Senatus** carries out home visitation and Jefferson Curia does prison ministry. Denver Comitium reported contact with non-Catholics resulted in one conversion. **Miami Regia:** Works include crowd contact, public square Rosary rallies and Catechesis.

Mexico: The Acapulco Regia reports as part of True Devotion to the Nation the Legion has sown trees, watered plants and cut grass in a park.

There were 34 adult baptisms and 303 adults received the three sacraments of Confession, Holy Communion, and Confirmation. Due to growth of the Legion in the Guerrero area two new Curiae have been set up, one in the mountain area where the Tuunsavi language is spoken, and a junior Curia of five praesidia.

Canada: The **Montreal Senatus** mourns the death of their former Spiritual Director l'Abbé Pierre Senez R.I.P. He attributed his priestly vocation to his Legion membership and later served for many years as their devoted Spiritual Director. A range of Legion works was mentioned in reports from **Toronto Senatus** and its attached councils. Vancouver Comitium revived a dormant praesidium with 15 new members. At the request of the pastor, another praesidium started a Faith Discovery Course for the parents of the children studying catechism. Almost all the parents signed up. A praesidium in Edmonton Comitium reported 47 children attended a four day Bible Camp. Parental participation resulted in some families returning to Mass and helping with parish activities.

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina: In **Buenos Aires Senatus**, Street missions are held by many legionaries with priests, and in some cases with their Bishop. Street missions include confessions and Mass on the plaza. The Regia of Jujuy, attached to **Salta Senatus**, reported 6,553 visits to homes as well as 4,000 street contacts. The Legion Radio Channel has weekly programmes on different Legion topics. This channel reaches all Spanish-speaking countries. In **Corrientes**, at the priest's request, legionaries went from home to home with an image of the Holy Family in the lead up to Christmas. On a three-day project in the town of Caá Catí, legionaries encouraged those who listened to Mass on the radio or TV, to attend Mass instead. The **Rosario Regia** has

twice organised a day of continuous Rosaries, one for Frank Duff's anniversary and the other for Alfie Lambe's and is promoting the Total Consecration to Our Lady among legionaries.

BRAZIL: Belo Horizonte Senatus: Reports show Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in 43 homes in Itabirito. **Ponta Grassa Senatus:** Legionaries visited homes, hospitals, nursing homes and prisons and brought Holy Communion to the sick. **Recife Senatus:** Reports show 2,239 home visits were made. 23 gypsies received baptism and First Holy Communion. 150 young people attended a legionary youth event. **Rio de Janeiro Senatus:** One Comitium reported 950 visits to families, 50 of these being evangelicals. An evangelical was catechised and received Holy Communion and Confirmation. **Salvador Senatus:** The legionaries' visits to the homes of Protestants are well received. Ten new praesidia were founded in the Senatus area. The Vitoria da Conquista Regia continued with visits to public offices, commercial establishments, prisons, schools, hospitals, and people on drugs. Aracaju Regia finished Project 300 with more than 300 new active members in their area of jurisdiction in the second half of 2023. **Santa Maria Senatus:** As well as visits to homes and hospitals, they held some retreats for young people aged between thirteen and eighteen. **São Luis Senatus:** Many were prepared for the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation and Marriage. 239 active members and 51 auxiliary members were recruited. **São Paulo Senatus:** The legionary apostolate reaches out to many people through visits to homes, to the sick at home and in hospital and to nursing homes. This includes visits to evangelicals, people with no religion and lapsed Catholics. Legionaries bring Holy Communion to many sick people. **Brasilia Senatus:** Among other works, evangelisation is done at the Metro station, in parks and in the commercial centre.

WEST INDIES

Dominican Republic: In Santa Domingo Senatus, 100 adults were guided to Confession while a similar number of children received First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Over 1,000 people received instruction.

Haiti: Because of the instability in the country, meeting venues have had to change or close temporarily. Prayers are requested for the legionaries. Despite this, minutes give details of home, hospital, nursing home and prison visitation, meeting people of many different religions, including practitioners of voodoo.

Puerto Rico: Works of service and enrolling children for Catechism are undertaken and new praesidia have been formed.

Trinidad and Tobago: Virtual meetings are held every two months with distant Councils in Grenada, Barbados, Suriname, St. Lucia, Antigua and Dominica. The Dominica Comitium reactivated a praesidium with twenty members. The Legion of Mary in Guyana was visited.

AFRICA

Burundi: Senatus of Gitega-Burundi: In May 2024 the western region of Burundi was flooded. Katumba Curia and its praesidia are affected. All activities have been suspended. A landslide destroyed many homes, leaving many homeless in the area where Mutumba Curia and its praesidia are located. On the 27th April 2024 many groups whose spirituality is strongly influenced by the writings of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort gathered in the Cathedral of Christ the King in Mushasha, Gitega. Relics of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort were brought to the Cathedral for the first time. Abbé Simon, the Spiritual Director of Senatus, presided at the Mass. A praesidium of novices of the Militants of the Blessed Virgin Mary does an outstanding amount of evangelisation and recruitment, and

also many works of consolation and service.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Senatus of Butembo: Many children have been baptised, marriages blessed, Catechumens given instruction, and 126 people returned to Sunday Mass. The Bishop of Wamba paid a visit for the Acies, at which he celebrated Holy Mass. **Senatus of Bukavu:** Reports included visiting, encouraging and praying with prisoners, widows, the poor, and orphans. **Senatus of Kinshasa:** The Diocese of Kinshasa has 25 Comitiae and 100 Curiae. This year is special, as they are celebrating the 70th year of the founding of the Legion of Mary there. A celebratory Mass was concelebrated by several Church dignitaries, including His Eminence Cardinal Fridolin Ambongo. **Senatus of Kisangani:** Installation of a youth praesidium at the university chaplaincy has occurred as has the recruitment of 98 young legionaries. 23 couples were married in the Catholic Church.

Gambia: The **Banjul Curia** is making great efforts to restart the Legion of Mary in parishes. A new praesidium has been established in Farato.

Kenya: In the **Senatus of Nairobi** a praesidium at Eastleigh, Nairobi, where Venerable Edel Quinn died, has 11 active and 49 auxiliary members. Nairobi junior Curia has ten praesidia. Bishop John Oballa celebrated Mass for the legionaries recently.

Malawi: Bishop Montfort Sitima challenged legionaries in **Maula Senatus** to devise new strategies for evangelisation to help tackle the growing number of lapsed Catholics. He stressed the importance of the legionary apostolate saying it is a vital tool in reversing this situation. **Blantyre Senatus:** Legionaries counsel lapsed Catholics encouraging them to return to the practice of the Faith. Limbe Comitium organised a Young Adults' Conference. One praesidium reports helping to construct a house for an elderly lady who was homeless.

Mauritius: On Sunday 28th April a Mass of thanksgiving was held to celebrate the 84th anniversary of the founding the Legion of Mary in Mauritius by Venerable Edel Quinn. In conjunction with an open day for Catholic action groups, one praesidium organised an exhibition on the life of Edel Quinn and the work of the Legion in their country.

Nigeria: A Comitium attached to **Onitsha Regia** prepare many people for the sacraments. 40 couples were helped to marry in the Church. A Regia attached to **Enugu Senatus** prepared over 5,000 for First Communion and a similar number for Confirmation. Works undertaken in **Ibadan Senatus** included helping to prepare many, including two prison inmates, for the sacraments. 241 lapsed Catholics were brought back to the sacraments, 235 couples had Church marriages, 58 other Christians and one Traditionalist converted to the Catholic faith. **Lagos Regia** reports Legion Catechists helped prepare hundreds for the Sacraments and instructed many catechumens. The Spiritual Director of **Abuja Senatus** gave advice on visiting those on the margins of society. The Senatus officers and Spiritual Director paid a visit to Cardinal John Onaiyekan. The visit was in appreciation to the Cardinal for his support and guidance to the Abuja Senatus. Legionaries prayed 15,421 decades of the Rosary for his intentions.

Rwanda: The **Senatus of Kigali** reported a new Regia was inaugurated in Gikongoro in the southwest of the country. The event was preceded by a thanksgiving Mass, concelebrated by 16 priests, including the Spiritual Director of the Senatus, Father Clet Nahayo, and Monsignor Eugene Dushimurukundo, Vicar of the Bishop of Gikongoro, Monsignor Célestin Hakizimana.

Senegal: Three legionaries from Togo made a visit of 15 days to Senegal in April 2024, during which they met the Archbishop of Dakar and

three other bishops and visited every Legion council in Senegal. The majority of the clergy see the Legion of Mary as a great asset. Recent extension work resulted in starting seven new Curiae and setting up of three new Comitia. The recent influx of young people into the Legion is very encouraging.

South Sudan: There are five Curiae, formed from 56 praesidia, in the Archdiocese of Juba. The Tessera has been translated into the Zande language and they are working on translation of the Handbook.

Tanzania: Zanzibar Curia attached to **Dar es Salaam Regia** has ten praesidia. Works undertaken include home visitation, and visiting the sick at the Cancer Institute. Each year the Seminary legionaries visit all the parishes in the Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam to promote the Legion.

Uganda: The Regia of Western Uganda have completed translating the Legion Handbook into Runyankole-Rukiga and Runyoro-Rutooro. Kimanya Comitium conducted a two-day Congress on the Bumanji islands in January. Extension work continues on Buvuma Islands, where three new praesidia were started.

Zambia: The Lusaka Regia: Works undertaken include visits to prisons. Livingstone Comitium established two new praesidia. A very successful Congress was organized by Chelstone Comitium.

EUROPE

Albania: The apostolate includes teaching catechism, visiting the sick and housebound and other parish activities.

Austria: The **Senatus of Austria** had a meeting for Spiritual Directors with an attendance of nineteen. A praesidium cares for street girls, former street girls and their families. The

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legionaries were instrumental in one girl no longer being involved in this way of life. A legionary in **Graz Comitium** was ordained to the Diaconate.

Belarus: Minsk Comitium held its Acies with Mass celebrated by the Vicar General of Minsk, who showed great appreciation for the Legion apostolate in Belarus and throughout the world.

Belgium: The correspondent attended the very successful annual Peregrinatio Pro Christo Conference in February, organised by the Brussels Senatus, A French film made on the life of Frank Duff was shown. A praesidium reporting at the Senatus meeting spoke of contact work being done at the University campus during which Miraculous Medals were offered to people, including Muslims, with an invitation to enter the Church for prayer.

Croatia: Zagreb Regia received permission from the parish of Zepee in Bosnia-Herzegovina for a praesidium in the parish.

Cyprus: Three praesidia, two in Nicosia and one from Limassol took part in the Acies ceremony in Nicosia on Sunday 24th March 2024.

England: Since March 2023 ten new praesidia have been established in Southwark Comitium. A Peregrinatio Pro Christo Conference, held by the Comitium, had an attendance of 70. The Central London Curia has a new Spiritual Director, Fr. William Johnstone. **Birmingham Senatus:** Two praesidia in Banbury presented reports. Crowd contact, *Patricians* and home visitation are the main works. A tractor run at Christmas brought 77 people to the Church to light a candle and pray. Another praesidium in Banbury reported a very large number of contacts made on the "Night Fever" apostolate. **Liverpool Senatus.** The works of three praesidia

in Leeds Curia include home visitation, street contact, and visitation of people who are sick and housebound. Similar works are done by three praesidia in Billingham Curia. A lady came back to practice as a result of home visitation and a man met during street contact went to Confession after 30 years.

Finland: The praesidium in Helsinki does crowd contact at city railway stations, where people of many nationalities are met. Most of them accept Miraculous Medals.

France: A praesidium of seven members visit the sick and elderly in their homes and hospital. A praesidium in the Comitium of Martinique reported the loss of many members following Covid.

Germany: The Berlin Comitium, attached to the **Frankfurt Senatus**, reported that a special meeting of legionaries with the Archbishop of Berlin was organised. Dusseldorf Comitium has two *Patricians* groups.

Hungary: Budapest Regia: Over the past four months, four new praesidia have been established.

Italy: Mons. Virgilio La Rosa, Spiritual Director of the **Senatus of Rome**, has retired after many years of ill health. He gave great support to the Legion and will be sadly missed. Mons. Guiseppe Sergio Ciucci has been appointed as the new Spiritual Director. A Filipino Curia has 14 praesidia.

Latvia: In **Riga Comitium** a praesidium visit the hospital and homeless shelter. Jelgava Curia were delighted to welcome Bishop Pavlovski to their April meeting.

Lithuania: Kaunas Comitium reports two praesidia which were closed during Covid have been started again with the help from four other praesidia in the area. One of these

praesidia was started by Maria Smilga, former Legion Envoy.

Malta: Reports to the **Malta Regia** show teaching catechism and home visitation are among works undertaken. 106 ships were visited. Two projects took place in Lourdes, France.

Moldova: Chisinau Curia celebrated the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Legion in Moldova.

The Netherlands: The Cabo Verde Curia in Rotterdam is doing great extension work in France. On home visitation people are encouraged to go back to Mass and have their children receive the sacraments. This has resulted in eight couples receiving the sacrament of marriage, eight baptisms and seven adults receiving the sacrament of Confirmation.

Norway: Bergen Curia has seven praesidia. Works include prison visitation and apostolate to people who live under the city bridge and are suffering from addiction to drugs.

Poland: A Comitium in Lublin reported on home and hospital visitation and street contact. Six people were baptised and 44 people received the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Portugal: The **Lisbon Senatus** reported on the joyous celebration on 9 March 2024 of the 100th birthday of Maria Senra, a Portuguese legionary, who spent 20 years as an Envoy of the Legion of Mary in several Portuguese-speaking countries, including Portugal, Angola, Cabo Verde and Brazil. The celebration took place in Beja, Portugal, where Maria is living. The Mass was presided over by the Archbishop of Évora, Dom Francisco Jose Villas-Boas Senra de Faria Coelho, a cousin of Maria. Legionaries from across Portugal, including the Azores, attended. The Legion of

Mary is very much indebted to Maria Senra for her dedicated service over a great many years during her long life.

Romania: The retreat for the **Satu Mare Regia** in February had an attendance of 135 active and auxiliary members. The Bishop, and two priests were also present.

Russia: In **Siberia** the praesidium in Atschink has a Spiritual Director and four members and works include assisting the priest at Mass in the villages.

Scotland: Eight legionaries have applied to go on Peregrinatio Pro Christo to Finland this summer. Greenock Curia, attached to the **Senatus of Scotland**, has a wide range of works.

Spain: Home visitation and street contact is carried out in **Madrid Senatus**. A former Jehovah Witness was instructed and entered the Catholic Church. A praesidium in **Bilbao Senatus** celebrated its first year of existence in Algorta. Members work closely with the Trinitarian Fathers.

Sweden: Our Lady of Mercy Curia has eleven praesidia, six of them in Stockholm and the others are at a distance. The new Polish praesidium has 18 members. The main works being done by praesidia are home visitation, street contact and visitation of hospitals and care homes. A new praesidium has been set up in Gothenburg.

Switzerland: Zurich Comitium has ten praesidia. Works include weekly street apostolate and visitation of hospitals and nursing homes.

Ukraine: There are fewer people in parishes but legionaries have stayed on.

Wales: Swansea Curia has six senior praesidia and one junior praesidium. Works include home visitation, street rescue and street contact.



Our Lady Spouse of the Holy Spirit



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