

Maria Legionis



Maria Legionis

The Voice of the Legion of Mary

Edition 3 of 2025

€1.25c



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WELCOME POPE LEO XIV

The Legion of Mary and all readers of Maria legionis welcome our new Pontiff Pope Leo XIV to the Chair of Peter.

We pray that he will guide the Church with wisdom, courage and love; that he will be a beacon of hope for all mankind and that he will be inspired by the Holy Spirit and guided by the Virgin Mary in all his deliberations.



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

Magazine enquiries - e-mail: marialegonis263@gmail.com

Annual Subscription, incl postage, €10.00 per 4 copies.

Design: MacArt, Dublin, Ireland, Tel: + 353 1 2852508. Email: macart@indigo.ie

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



Talk at Correspondents Meeting

*By Fr. Paul Churchill,
Spiritual Director,
Concilium, 17 May 2025.*

The last time I gave a talk to correspondents I mentioned the Annunciation. The correspondent at God's end is the Archangel Gabriel. Mary is initially taken aback so, to calm her he says: "Do not be afraid, Mary!" Every communication in the Legion should be that way, done in Peace. The Lord himself, as he sent out his disciples, admonished them: "Let your first word to them be Peace."

So, in all communications strive to establish a good, friendly environment. Be a Gabriel who can communicate effectively that message: "Don't be afraid." So be a true friend, a helper, an encourager, to all who contact you.

Mary needed clarification. Not that she was opposed to God's proposal but sought in what way she was to carry it out. And it is the same with you. You may get some communication that begs for a question. Indeed, as you ponder over the report you received you may wonder about some matters

not so clear. "How is it that Elizabeth, who belongs to another Curia, became President of this Curia?" "Why was the Acies there celebrated on the Feast of the Assumption?" Now there may be a very good explanation, just as Gabriel had for Our Lady. But you may have to follow up in case some Council opts to do its own thing out of harmony with the rest.

One thing I have learnt over the years is that you cannot know another person based on what the correspondent has written. You may glean some facts. But once you meet that person you learn far more. I know that when we sometimes here correspond with a person who plans to visit Concilium; their letters and emails will never reveal what you later meet: the face, the smile, the energy.

I am saying this because it may help to have an occasional video chat (be it zoom or What's App etc.) with the correspondent at the other end.

Also, it is better if the person knows you are a concerned human with a heart. Or maybe to chat and get a sense of that person's life circumstances can help understand better.

Remember about your correspondence that you are in a long line that goes back to some of the apostles and other greats in history. Our Lady pondered things in her heart. St. Luke was the recipient of her story many years later and he wrote down things only she could have known. Early on in his Gospel Luke writes: "It seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely, to write an orderly account for you so that you may know the truth about the things of which you have been informed!"

And in your reports that is your aim too. "An orderly account so that Concilium may have the truth about things." St. Luke says he followed all things closely and you with your charm, encouragement must listen closely what is told to you. And then

pass on truthfully what you have heard.

St. Luke took care to find out the facts. That is our task, facts, not emotional feelings. You have to stand back and separate given realities from speculation or hype, a sad reality in media reporting.

Frank Duff's essay on Correspondents has real value still. There is one paragraph of Frank that struck me, and I'll read it to you: "Now a word as to the tone to be adopted by you in your letters. Never dictate. Your method must be that of patient explanation. Let your opposite number understand the reason for everything that is put down as required by the Legion system. Never merely come down on people. If they are put into a bad mood they will tend to resist, and perhaps to defend the wrong point of view. A blunt "no" will be resented whereas if you say that "no" in a thousand words, showing that you have taken trouble, it will be cheerfully accepted. This attitude of taking trouble pays rich dividends. Show it in every way in your letters. The more trouble you take with your letters the more they will be appreciated at the other end."

There is a very interesting piece of correspondence in St. Paul's letters. In his first letter to the Corinthians, he is quite critical of what is going on.



ST. LUKE

And possibly he overreacted to what he heard. For instance, he says: “It is actually reported that there is immorality among you and of a kind not even found among the pagans ...”

And he asked for tough action. But whatever went wrong he writes back in his second letter to the Corinthians: “For such a one this punishment by the majority is enough. You should turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So, I beg you to reaffirm your love for him.” Paul realised that he had caused discouragement and now wanted to undo that.

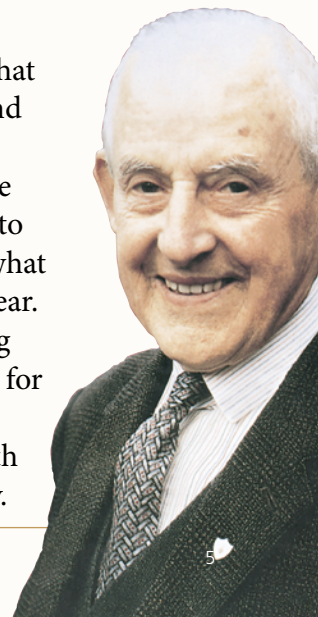
Would you permit me to make a few comments on that piece based on my own experience? A gentle approach always pays off. Humans are very fragile. Any perceived threat and they clam up into their shells. We need to create an atmosphere in which people can honestly confront and tell the truth. If the guy in Barings Bank had only opened up about the mess he was in before it was too late! I recall once listening to a woman who had suffered a broken marriage. Something about her story didn't quite add up. But I left her just to tell me it as she wanted to without challenge. When at the end I asked her if there was anything else she'd like to share she said; “I get the impression that you are a compassionate man. So, I'll tell you about an event in my early life.” And as she told it, all those question marks I had were fully answered. Had I

challenged her early on, that her story wasn't adding up, she might never have told me.

Paul and Frank both wrote long letters studded with great depth in them. Your problem is about getting across the essentials as succinct and comprehensive as possible. Sometimes three sentences can be summarised by one adverb or adjective. How to synthesise your reports? I have heard the occasional comments that the reports went on too long. And sometimes that has merits. Sometimes it might have to do with the mood of the listener. Or might it be because it is too terse and analytic and lacking flesh?

What is certain is that there are no simple solutions. What is important is that the balanced truth be conveyed, outlining the problems and challenges that others are facing. Matters involving individuals are best left for officers meetings or other fora. Then not all that is conveyed at Concilium needs be published.

But it is important that you try to understand accurately what is happening elsewhere and in your reports to Concilium convey what the body needs to hear. And again, following Mary's humility, ask for help of those more experienced and with the proper authority.





Calling on Mary's powerful intercession may I wish you the blessings of God in your work. Amen.

ADDENDUM

The General Correspondence meeting took place in Nazareth Hall, Concilium. The day commenced with Holy Mass at 9.30 am. There were 80 correspondents in attendance, with 20 from overseas who correspond on behalf of Concilium to Portuguese, Spanish and French-speaking councils. It was truly an international meeting with translations going on. Concilium is extremely grateful for their support and dedication to their councils.

One of our topics for discussion was how to encourage our correspondents to be a source of encouragement to their council and to develop and grow in their apostolate. Frank Duff said that "we should have a little statue of Our Lady on the table as we write

our letters." "We should have a good map of our council and not forget to pray over the map." He said: "Do we understand the privilege we have of being a correspondent, to see the workings of the Legion worldwide?"

Correspondents need to familiarise themselves with the government of the Legion and refer to our Legion Handbook for reference. We need to keep an eye on the practical things like council officers' expiry dates, notice of elections and elections carried out in accordance with the Handbook. Do we see extension, recruitment, home – to – home visitation, contact with the lapsed and those of other faiths. Does every legionary have the Handbook. Is it translated into various languages. Are we as legionaries promoting our founder The Servant of God Frank Duff, and also The Servant of God Alfie Lambe and Venerable Edel Quinn. If we do not, who will?

It was a very informative day and on behalf of the Concilium officers we thank you for all you do in your role as a correspondent. The meeting finished at 3.30pm. As you are reading this, you might ask yourself can I be a correspondent, receive the monthly minutes and respond with a monthly letter?

For more information contact your higher council or email concilium@legionofmary.ie

*Helen Murphy.
Concilium Vice President.*

Interview with Concilium Officer for Maria Legionis

Conducted by The Editor

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



There are twelve Concilium Officers: president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, three assistant treasurers, and five assistant secretaries - of which I am one. Fr Paul Churchill is our Spiritual Director. We all have specific responsibilities but our 'portfolios' overlap and there's a fair amount of collaboration and interaction within the group. Each of us brings his own grace, known as 'The Grace of Officership', to the job, not to mention his unique skills and talents. There's an enormous amount of experience and knowledge within the group. Past COs are also very generous in giving of their time and expertise when asked. So, there's a mine of information from which we can draw. I look after Dublin, which suits me. I'm a third-generation Dubliner. I love my city. I receive monthly reports from all the Dublin Curiae, which I edit and present to Concilium. To celebrate

this Jubilee Year all Dublin Curia are encouraged to meet on the first Saturday of the month for street contact. Some legionaries are somewhat cautious of street contact, others are more comfortable doing it so the master/apprentice system works well here. In addition, a spirit of friendship and camaraderie is developed during the compulsory coffee and group photo which follows the work. Jubilee 1000 is another initiative in Dublin this year. It aims to increase the number of legionaries in Dublin to 1000.

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

I first joined in the early nineties, following an appeal for membership from the priest at mass one Sunday.

I don't remember what he said but obviously he struck a chord. I stayed for about three years and left just before the birth of my fourth child. I loved my time there and always intended to rejoin, which I did in 2013. My inspiration? No doubt, Our Lady - but she was very subtle.



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

I never knew Our Lady. Now I love her dearly and turn to her all the time. Ave Maria.

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

We need to impress upon all legionaries, at home and throughout the world, the constant need to recruit new members. The nature of Legion membership is that members come and go. A praesidium can go from strong to weak very suddenly. My own praesidium lost four members in the space of a few months. One moved to a different county, one went back to study, one was put on shift work, and one died. Rest in Peace Sr. Frances. We need to update our work regularly too, so that it does not become stale.

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

Society is made up of individuals. Individual contact is the heart of the Legion apostolate. Each individual is a 'priceless soul' on which 'infinite patience and sweetness must be lavished' (HB p.281). One by one, soul by priceless soul, that's how legionaries, working in union with Mary, win souls back to Jesus.

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

I'm not too concerned about this. I haven't directly encountered any incorrect views of the Legion - quite the opposite, in fact. People who are familiar with the Legion are very supportive of its work. Some people have issues with Catholicism, and these have to be addressed with patience and charity, and also with conviction.

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

The Legion will continue to grow as long as the members stay close to Our Blessed Mother and imitate her virtues. Members must also adhere to the structures set out in the Handbook.

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

Yes, we should follow the example of Frank Duff and the early legionaries who never took the high moral ground but approach each person with love and compassion. We need to tread carefully when we encounter someone who is living outside the

moral teaching of the church. It's difficult work but legionaries are best placed to do it because we always work in union with Mary.

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

Don't think too much about it. Come to a meeting. We meet every Monday evening - if you like, I'll meet you somewhere and we'll go together! Get involved. Attend some of the social gatherings. Join the nightly zoom Rosary on Mary's Channel of Grace. If a young adult, connect with Deus et Patria.

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

Knowledge of the Legion of Mary begins in the parish. It is an important aspect of my CO work to support Curiae in identifying parishes where a praesidium can be established. If a praesidium is working well in the parish in union with the parish priest, if it advertises its weekly meetings, if it regularly meets with its auxiliaries, if it holds annual recruitment drives, if the members support parish initiatives and chat to other parishioners about the works they do, the Legion will be known in the parish. Home visitation in the parish is also essential for

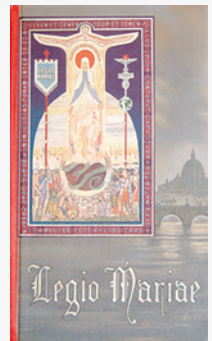
making the Legion better known among the wider community who may not attend mass locally. In short, if the Legion is a recognised force in the parish, then it will be better known.

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

It is certainly one of the ways of growing the Legion. More importantly, membership of a junior praesidium offers the young legionary an opportunity to grow in his faith and to develop a real relationship with Jesus and Mary. There aren't many such opportunities available today. Young legionaries care for each other and build strong friendships. They also develop skills that are helpful in other areas of their life, such as note-taking, oral and written reporting as well as organisational skills.

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

For me, the Legion is my way to heaven, where I hope to spend eternity. The Legion is also the means by which I hope to bring others to heaven, especially my family.



A Legionary Receives his Vocation in Lourdes

By Fr. Aidan Walsh OFM Conventual



I was born on the 17th of August 1936 in the North Strand area of the city of Dublin and baptised at St. Agatha's Church, North William Street, Dublin.

I was only five years old when my mother died in 1941. I was brought up by the French Sisters of Charity at Saint Theresa's Orphanage in Blackrock, Dublin and where I received my First Holy Communion. At about the age of 10, I moved to St. Vincent's Orphanage in Glasnevin, Dublin for older boys. It was run by the Irish Christian Brothers, and this is where I received my primary and secondary-school education; I also received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Columba's Church, Glasnevin.

I left school and got employment in an electrical shop in St. Andrew's Street in Dublin. It was a sales shop, selling electrical bulbs. After three years, the shop closed. I then went to work as a postman in the Dublin post office.

It was during this period of my

life that two events occurred which made me reflect on the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood. The first event was through the encouragement of a friend. I joined the Legion of Mary and was an apostle. I enjoyed it, as this introduced me to the ways of prayer, and of helping my neighbour in need, such as visiting the sick and disabled. The second event that happened was the opportunity to visit Lourdes. It was in 1958 which was the centenary of the apparitions of Our Lady to Saint Bernadette. I did not travel the usual way by which people travelled to Lourdes, but by hitch-hiking lifts. I was with a friend who was also a member of the Legion of Mary. During the journey we stayed in youth hostels, located in different towns in France. As far as I remember, the journey took about a fortnight.

These two events in my life did help to turn my mind to the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood and I am sure it was

through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes that I received my vocation.

So, in the following year, after seeking advice and guidance, I applied to go to Mungret College, Co. Limerick which was run by the Jesuits. They had an apostolic school where young men could attend who needed further education, to begin their studies for the priesthood and before they were ready to enter a major seminary. After three years of study, I went to Saint Patrick's Major Seminary to complete my studies and preparation for the priesthood. However, after some time there, I became unsettled in my vocation and so I decided to take time out.

I went to work as a bus conductor in Dublin. However, after three years working there, I decided to try my vocation again.

During this time, I was in touch with Fr. Fritz O'Kelly OFM Conv. who encouraged me to join the Conventual Franciscan Order of which he was a member and stationed at St. Clare's Parish, Manchester. In the meantime, Father Fritz informed the vocations director Fr. Jarlath McDonagh OFM Conv. about my interest in joining the Conventual

Franciscan Order, so he came to see me in the bus station in Dublin where I was working, and he made the usual arrangements for me to join the Order.

I am so grateful to Fr. Fritz and Fr. Jarlath for all the encouragement they gave me when I was discerning my vocation. And so, I entered the Novitiate of the Franciscans in 1966 at Beaumaris, North Wales. The next year after finishing my novitiate and making the simple profession on the 31st August 1967, I went to the Franciscan seminary at East Bergholt, Colchester, England; I remained there from 1967 to 1971. It was run by the OFM Franciscans. On the 31st August 1970 I made my solemn profession at All Saints Barton, Manchester.

I was ordained at St. Clare's Parish, Manchester in 1971 by Bishop Tommy Holland, Bishop of Salford; I celebrated my Golden Jubilee of ordination in 2021.

Deo Gratias.

In latter years Fr. Aidan Walsh lived in Fairview where his Order had a house. Fr. Aidan became a devoted Spiritual Director of Bethlehem Curia and attended many meetings of Concilium.



Venerable Edel Quinn

TALK AT EDEL QUINN ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WILLESDEN

By Francis Pinto, Our Lady Queen of the Most Holy
Rosary Curia, Westminster (Central London)



"This Life must be made known," Saving China! Influencing the course of history. "In these words, spoken by Pope Pius XII and Archbishop Riberi respectively lies an extraordinary valuation of a person says Frank Duff in his book on Venerable Edel Quinn.

Venerable Edel Mary Quinn was an Irish Lay-Missionary born in Kanturk, Co. Cork, Ireland on 14th September 1907 and baptised 4 days later in the Church of St. Mary at Castlemagner. The eldest child of Charles and Louise Burke Browne of County Clare. She was a great-grand daughter of William Quinn a native of Tyrone who settled in Tuam to build St. Mary's Cathedral. She had three younger sisters Leslie (McCormack), Mona, Dorothea (Bannon) and one younger brother Raphael. The big day of her peaceful and happy childhood was when in 1916 she received her First Holy Communion.

She took the name of Eucharistia Joseph at her Confirmation. During her childhood her father's career brought the family to various towns in Ireland including Tralee, Co Kerry where a plaque was unveiled in May 2009 at Bank of Ireland House in Denny Street commemorating her residence there between 1921-1924.

Edel Quinn felt a call to religious life at a young age. She wished to join the Poor Clares but was prevented by advanced tuberculosis. After spending eighteen months in a sanatorium, her condition unchanged, she decided to become active in the Legion of Mary, which she joined in Dublin at the age 20.

She joined Our Lady of Victories Praesidium Gardiner's Row. She used to devote five evenings weekly to her Legion work, and often more. Not for a world would she have missed a visit to a soul in trouble. Her first work was approaching of families for

the purpose of inducing them to have the Sacred Heart enthroned in their homes. The work was overwhelming, and the group of Legion workers was unable to cope with it, more especially as they had also undertaken the regular visits in the Mater Misericordiae Hospital. Another regular activity of the praesidium was the visitation of the slum tenements in the neighbourhood of Gardiner Street. After having served for two years in the ranks of the Legion of Mary as an ordinary member, she was made President of the praesidium 'Our Lady Refuge of Sinners.'

This group had charge of a particularly arduous and delicate work: the rescue of prostitutes. Edel was an efficient President. The task is a complex one: to preside at the meeting, to receive reports, to allocate the work in hand, to check the following up of cases. It was for her to see that the rules and discipline were observed, to train the other officers and even to give the Allocutio, if the spiritual director was absent. All this demands considerable skill. Edel impressed everyone by her recollection during prayer; one felt her absorbed in God, and that was worth more than the best sermon. Under her influence,

the group grew in numbers and the earnestness of its members steadily increased; those are signs which cannot deceive. She gave an example of utter generosity. Her position as President required her to exact from all the other members a wholehearted and faithful service and in this she did not fail. Edel visited Sancta Maria two or three evenings every week and got on splendidly with the girls there. She applied herself enthusiastically to the difficult task of entertaining them. A succession of amusements had to be invented for them. Every possibility must be availed of that could make the hostel less trying for these souls, so recently snatched from the licence of the streets. Edel used to play the piano for them and to dance with them as if they were equals and she quickly won their hearts. She organised charades with marked success. She would plan a play and give out the parts. She would get them all to enter wholeheartedly into the game and contrive to make it last as long as possible. in the game Edel persuaded many of the street girls to give up their life of sin and come to live in Sancta Maria.

In 1932 she became seriously ill and spent a long period in hospital.



Sancta Maria Hostel

She resumed her activities in the Legion but for the remainder of her life was impaired due to that illness. In 1934 the Legion of Mary, starting from Dublin, had spread over Ireland. Edel had her share in that campaign of extension. Many a weekend did she spend, travelling through the counties that had not yet been touched and organising first attempts. Edel responded to an urgent appeal from England for volunteers to help in an extension campaign which the central council of the Legion had received. She was offered extension campaign work in part of the extensive Diocese of Menevia, in North Wales to go with her friend Muriel Wailes, whose mission it would be to watch vigilantly over her and to bring her home at the first sign of weakness. From dawn to dusk, Edel and her friend ploughed the field assigned to them. Their efforts met with

success: groups were created: promises were given. A bridge had been made through which others could follow. A visit to His Excellency Dr Moriarty, Bishop of Shrewsbury resulted in plans for future extension of the Legion in his diocese.

In 1936, at age 29, and dying of tuberculosis, Edel Quinn became a Legion of Mary Envoy, a very active Missionary to East and Central Africa. A group of legionaries escorted her on her first stage of her long voyage: they went as far as London. They took a night crossing from Dublin to Liverpool. After Mass at the Pro-Cathedral, they took a train to London. In London the group divided. Edel went to the Carthusian Monastery at Parkminster. She went to bid farewell to some of the monks who had been closely connected with the Legion. Special among them was Father Stephen Mary Boylan, who had been Spiritual Director of several praesidia in Dublin, and Edel's own director. They promised to give her, for as long as her campaign in Africa should last, two Masses a week in the monastery, and we know that the promise was faithfully kept. For Edel that was an incomparable treasure, for no one understood better than she the

value of the Sacrifice of the Altar. It was besides, a spiritual link, binding her to the great family of St. Bruno. She and Frank Duff spent the day in Parkminster.

Back in London, the time was devoted to a few important visits. Edel went to the headquarters of the African White Fathers. The sons of Cardinal Lavignerie knew the Legion: at Heston several praesidia were working under their direction. The letters of introduction which they wrote for Edel were warm and explanatory. "I think that the Legion of Mary is a grand response to the Holy Father's call for Catholic Action. "Here in the White Father's parish of Heston, we look upon the Legion as our best nucleus of apostolic workers!" This was a valuable contact, for Edel who would visit many missions belonging to the White Fathers. In one of them, at a future day, she would be received with special kindness by His Excellency Bishop Julien. She also met Cardinal Hinsley, The Archbishop of Westminster. He was created a Cardinal on 13 December 1937. During the audience he showed a keen interest in Edel: he advised her of the best routes to take, the methods to employ, and gave her a letter

of support and encouragement. Her mission touched him all the more by reason of the fact that he had been formerly Apostolic Delegate in Africa: this interview revived his own memories of that continent. Like his predecessor Cardinal Bourne, he valued the Legion highly. "It will be one of the most powerful forces for the reconstruction of society" he had said once. Cardinal Hinsley died on 17 March 1943 and is buried in Westminster Cathedral while Edel was still in Africa. The little group that had come to London went with Edel to visit the Mill Hill Fathers at their Missionary College of Saint Joseph. She wished to meet the head of that congregation, which was in charge of vast territories in Africa. The Superior-General, Father O' Callaghan, was more than helpful: he promised Edel the support of all his missionaries, priests and nuns. "The Legion," he said, "is an integral part of a missionary's equipment." On the eve of her departure a few more legionaries arrived from Dublin to join the group and spend with her the last few hours of her stay in London.

In the evening the legionaries of Ireland and England met for an intimate and affecting farewell

gathering in the new Legion hostel at Haverstock Hill. Father Creedon, the Spiritual Director of Concilium, in his address, sought to show the importance to the Church of Edel's mission. After him, Mr Nagle, then President of the Concilium on whom would fall the heaviest part of the correspondence with Edel expressed the inmost thoughts of all present. A work of God was about to be accomplished. They remembered the Acts of the Apostles in which the Holy Spirit chose his instruments and sent them afar. Now that same Gospel was having its sequel and continuation. When her turn came Edel spoke a few simple unaffected words; she asked the great legionary family to pray for her mission, because "without God we can do nothing." Mrs De La Mare, President of the Senatus of England, answered this appeal in the name of all. But she began by saying how a great surprise it was at seeing Miss Quinn again and alive. A last minute delay in departure enabled Edel to do some indispensable last-minute shopping but unfortunately prevented some of the legionaries from seeing her off at the boat. Instead Edel saw them off at Euston. After that forestalled farewell the remainder spent that last evening



Edel and Frank at Tilbury Docks, London, prior to her departure for Africa.

with her. The 30 October 1936 was a glorious day of bright sunshine and clear air. A special train brought the travellers from St. Pancras to the ship at 11.30 A.M. She boarded the Llangibby Castle at Tilbury docks, London, arriving in Mombasa on 23 November.

She encountered obstacles in this pioneering work and overcame them despite her poor health and harsh conditions. She had a great faith in God's love and limitless trust in the maternal care of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Edel was gifted with a clear practical mind, she had notable organising ability, an indomitable will and a depth of warmth and human empathy. Her infectious joyousness of spirit never failed her. These qualities quickly won everyone to her side.

This last phase, less than eight years, was a brilliant climax to her life. The logbook of her journeys was published in the first numbers

of Maria Legionis, and her factual reports made her work known in Vatican circles. She proved herself a trainer of leaders, a tactful link between priests and people. In the Legion of Mary archives in Dublin are outlines of her formidable, efficient timetable. She worked among the African peoples in Kenya, Tanganyika (Tanzania), Uganda, and Nyasaland (Malawi), travelling vast distances by local transport. Fighting her illness, in seven and a half years she established hundreds of Legion branches and councils in today's Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, and Mauritius.

Edel established the official headquarters of her work as Envoy in Nairobi, conscious that the Catholic Missionary Movement in East Africa was a developing one. By the outbreak of the Second World War, she was working as far off as Dar es Salaam and Mauritius.

Invited to Mauritius in 1939, she braved the hazards of war in the Indian Ocean, arriving back in Durban, South Africa, in early 1940. On reaching her next destination, the vicariate of Nyasa, she was in a state of near exhaustion, but she carried out her assignments before allowing herself to rest at the Likuni Mission. In April 1941

her tubercular condition forced her to agree to enter a sanatorium at Springkell, near Johannesburg, where she remained six months before moving to Umlamli hospital in the Cape province on 14 November 1941. While she was being fussed over in Africa, Dublin was launching a spiritual offensive to obtain a cure. An article in the Maria Legionis 1942 made a pressing appeal to the legionaries of the whole world to secure their prayers for her and recommended Edel's cure to Blessed Louis Marie de Montfort. To strengthen the appeal, the Journal published her photograph. Edel met the Sister whose miraculous cure was accepted for the beatification of St. Louis Marie de Montfort. She was a de Montfort Sister and an auxiliary member of the Legion. She was a very bad case of TB. She was youngish and had been working out in Africa for several years and was perfectly strong. St. Louis Marie de Montfort was canonised



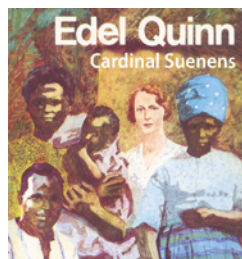
Edel's Ford Car

on 20th July 1947 by Pope Pius XII. She was well enough to return to Nairobi at the beginning of 1943, and though her movements were restricted, she directed her missionary activities through a flow of letters and meetings in the Eastleigh compound of the Sisters of the Precious Blood.

In November 1943 Nairobi Curia was raised to the rank of a Comitium drawing to the final stage: creation of a Senatus for East Africa.

Fr. McCarthy, later Bishop of Zanzibar, wrote of her: “Miss Quinn is an extraordinary individual; courageous, zealous and optimistic. She wanders around in a dilapidated Ford, having for sole companion an African driver. When she returns home, she will be qualified to speak about the missions and missionaries, having really more experience than any single missionary I know.”

“Her devotedness and supernatural spirit should be brought to the notice of all those who in their various ways are working in the Father’s harvest fields. It is unquestionable that this most attractive example will operate to draw numerous souls along the path of more complete service to the Church” (Pope Pius XII) “Hidden



in the depths of the African bush Edel Quinn was helping without knowing it, to save China. She was destined by sheer force of example to influence the course of history.” (Archbishop Riberi).

All this time her health was never good, and in 1943, she took a turn for the worse, dying in Nairobi, Kenya of tuberculosis on 12th May 1944, at 36 years of age. She is buried there in the Missionaries’ Cemetery. The Diocesan Process, the first step toward her beatification was set in motion in 1957 by the Archbishop of Nairobi. She was declared Venerable on 15 December 1994 by Pope John Paul II. Her first biographer, Cardinal Leon-Joseph Suenens, considered her a heroine of the twentieth-century catholic lay-apostolic movement.



After her death the creation of the Senatus at Nairobi in October 1949 was to crown her work.

Allocutio 'That They May be One'

Given to Concilium on 15th June 2025

By Fr. Paul Churchill Spiritual Director

The Holy Trinity we honour today is an undivided Unity of three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Pope Leo has been speaking of unity over the last month because that is his fundamental mission: to work for unity in the Church given Our Lord's words: "Father, that they may be one as you and I are one."

In his address to the many lay apostolic groups who met him in the Vatican recently, he kept to that theme of unity. Let me quote him in part. "Unity and mission are two essential aspects of the Church's life and two priorities of the Petrine ministry... All of you constantly experience the spiritual communion that unites you. It is the communion that the Holy Spirit brings about in the Church. It is a unity that has its foundation in Christ, who draws us to himself and thus unites us with one another... Seek to spread everywhere this unity that you yourselves experience in your groups and communities, always in communion with the Church's Pastors draw close to all those

whom you meet, so that your charisms may ever be at the service of the unity of the Church, and be 'a leaven of unity, communion, and fraternity' (cf. Homily, 18 May 2025) in our world, so torn by discord and violence."

This desire and challenge of unity is so important that it was the first task Frank Duff gave to all councils of the Legion. Let me quote the Handbook. The very first article in Chapter 28 about the governance of the Legion reads: 'The government, local and central, of the Legion shall be carried on by its councils, whose duty in their respective spheres shall be to ensure unity.' It goes on to mention other duties, but I am struck by that first objective: unity (See also Statutes art. 14). Very often we pass by this very quickly, but it is the first duty of all governing bodies. Now the fact that the Pope wants us to work with him on it, then there is no room for doubt.

There is something even more serious. I was struck by words Our Lord said this week in a

Gospel passage. “If you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother...” (*Matt 5:24-25*). Note that word “first”! You may have gifts to offer, but first work for unity. Pope Leo spoke first about unity before mission. And the Handbook mentions unity as the first duty of all councils before anything else. Until officers everywhere, presidents first, leaving aside for the moment any other gift they have to offer, be agents for unity by their friendly disposition to all they serve while encouraging full and honest sharing so that any potential conflict can be dealt with.

Given the fact that so many personalities make up the Legion of Mary membership and given the divergences of space and culture



across the breadth of our planet, it does require attention and effort if unity is to be kept. The history of the Church shows so many splits and separations that the risk of tensions and disunity will be there always.

One reality however that will be a great help to us all is this: Our Lady, our Heavenly Mother. A mother is so often the center of unity in the home and family. The love for her children and the love of the children for her is so effective in helping family unity. And in the Legion, it will be no different. Let us all keep close to our Mother Mary, and we will stay close to one another.

Children however will fight and squabble and fall out. Throughout the Handbook there are a variety of admonitions and advice on how to help keep the unity of the Legion. Harmony must reign supreme. “The keynote of any Legion meeting should be to win over, not to vote down. When differences of opinion are found to exist, those who are obviously in the majority will do well to exhibit complete patience. If needed, a decision should be postponed to another meeting, and indeed again and again where necessary so as to allow a full and mature consideration. Members



should be made acquainted with every angle of the question. All should be encouraged to pray for light. It is not the victory of an opinion which is at stake, but a humble quest of God's will in the matter. Thus, it will commonly be found that unanimity has come about" (*article 35 Statutes; see also Handbook Ch. 28, nn22-25*).

One real risk is letting problems fester. St. Paul said: "Do not let the sun go down on your anger" (*Eph 4:26*). Best to confront and sort out a problem from the start before it develops into a nasty sore or even an incurable disease. That is why Sts. Paul and Barnabas went up to Jerusalem before they began their first mission journey, to sort out the problem of so many gentiles wanting to join the Church (*Acts 15*). So, no surprise that the Handbook says bluntly: "The very essence of a legionary council is its frank and free discussion of its

business and problems." And it encourages everyone to share what he or she feels on a matter, to work towards harmony by honest sharing and then listening in humility and charity and working towards a lasting solution that brings peace to the community. Clearly each council has its responsibilities at its level to try to work for unity. And the presidents and officers have a responsibility to encourage the members to be frank and honest so that we can deal with something as soon as we can before any grave rift develops.

I mentioned Our Lady earlier. As a mother she would not like to see conflict between her children. So, I'll end by drawing attention to Chapter 39, n.35 of the Handbook where Pope Paul VI is mentioned. Finally in order to set in a revealing light her maternal and unifying duty towards all the members of the human family, His Holiness confers on Mary the significant title 'Mother of Unity.' She is the mother of grace and unity so that without her souls will not find their way.

Let us all unite with Our Lady as the Mother of Unity and work with her to help forge bonds of unity throughout the Legion.

"Father, that they may be one as you and I are one."

Elizabeth Mary Kirwan

First Concilium President

By A Legionary



Mrs. Kirwan

As this year is the eighty-fifth anniversary of the passing of Elizabeth Mary Kirwan, it is considered fitting to re-publish this article which first appeared in Maria legionis some years ago - Editor.

On Saturday, 24th August 1940, a memorable event took place at No. 8A Dean Swift Square, Dublin. It was the death of Elizabeth Mary Kirwan, the first President of the first praesidium of the Legion of Mary, and later the first President of the Concilium Legionis Mariae.

A small group of friends were with her at the last. Among them were three whose presence seemed symbolic. They had also been with her on the first Legion night.

Elizabeth was born in Dunedin, New Zealand, in 1857 of Irish parentage, her father being a Barrister. Early in her life, the family came to Melbourne, Australia. Her father died there in 1869, and the following year her mother brought her children, Mary, Elizabeth and Francis, to Dublin. Strange to say the three cities mentioned would

later be, each in its own country, the points of origin of the Legion. Francis became a Parish Priest, Mary a Dominican Nun and one of the pioneers of the Order in Australia. Elizabeth was for some years a governess.

Then she became a nurse and was the first trained nurse to take up duty in the Hardwicke Hospital, Dublin. She also worked for a considerable time in Cork. She is described as possessing remarkable charm, but religion meant little to her. Around this time, she met and married John Kirwan. She would say of him: "I would never have saved my soul but for John Kirwan."

John Kirwan was a lamplighter. He is described as a dark, dapper, little man. A familiar figure as he went with his long pole from



standard to standard, lighting the gas lamps on which the Dublin of his day depended. But all that sort of illumination which he set going

during his life was as nothing compared to the light which he lit in his wife's soul. He was very holy, and he attracted her to religion. In particular, he imparted to her his great devotion to Our Blessed Lady.

It was Elizabeth's custom to spend portion of her lunch hour in the chapel of Adoration of Marie Reparatrice, where the Blessed Sacrament was exposed all day. She also undertook the running of a children's library in Myra House, Francis Street, under the auspices of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. She became President of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association.



Around this time, she met the young Frank Duff. The Legion first met in Myra House on 7th September 1921 and for its inaugural meeting, she became its first President.

Those early legionaries saw her as small of stature, frail physique, in failing health even at that time, three quarters of her life's span already past. But the frailty ended there. Mrs. Kirwin's spirit, her will, her courage, her whole character was strength softened by holiness and charity and by her sympathetic understanding. That strength was what was needed above everything else – in the guardian of that new

movement into which enthusiastic, heroic youth was about to throw itself in such numbers and to face up to such desperate problems. She sat at the head of the table with a calm dignity that was all her own. Her mode of speech was pleasing, her manner courtly.

Her memory for cases was amazing. She had the history of each one at her fingertips. Her keen interest alone was enough to spur one on to greater effort. Her judgement was sound. She had a very keen sense of humour. She was the first to discern its spark, she enjoyed it herself, she knew its value to the work, and she fanned it. It was good to hear her laugh, and it made one want to laugh with her.

Perhaps thereby she fashioned the mould which gave yet another pleasing characteristic to the Legion. Still, even when such was at stake, the kindness in those steady bright-blue eyes would soften the finality of her tone.

The spreading out of the organisation brought the need for a governing body. Found faithful, in the two branch presidencies which she had been filling simultaneously, Mrs. Kirwan was the unanimous selection for the presidency of that governing body.



With incomparable wisdom and compassion, she discharged its duties for five years. Then suddenly she announced that she must yield place to someone younger than herself. She was physically quite able to continue; so urgent entreaty was made to her to continue.

The utmost that could be got from her was the agreement to make a novena for surer guidance. This done, she almost triumphantly declared that her decision was correct and must stand. Those who knew her, knew too that there the matter finished.

Her death was typical of her. She watched it coming nearer for a long time, and she may be said to have looked on it with a peculiar fearless gaze that was characteristic of her. She would speak about it occasionally and would brush aside



the little efforts which her friends would make to deny the fact that she was failing. She made all her own arrangements for her burial, and every picture and other little article was earmarked as keepsake for this friend or that. She was not afraid to die.

Her last act was to turn towards a statue of the Immaculate Conception. A group of women, who lived near her, were touched by the ceremonies which marked the obsequies. Their comment was: "A bishop could not get more!" This was largely due to the goodness of the Augustinians in whose church she prayed and attended Mass. The Augustinians and the Legion between them wove the fabric of Mrs. Kirwan's spiritual life and formed her for eternity.

Street Contact – A Beautiful Work of Evangelisation

By John Tagiilima Senatus of Auckland New Zealand

I'd like to share a brief testimony of our first street contact as a praesidium.

On the 4th of April, three members of our praesidium: Cause of Our Joy, held our very first street evangelisation outreach next to Henderson Train Station.

It was a very wet day, yet we encountered a high level of foot traffic around our station. We set up a small table with brochures, flyers, Miraculous Medals, and Rosaries to distribute. We had the opportunity to speak with some of the passers-by and offered them these sacramentals freely.

This area is more commonly frequented by Jehovah's Witnesses, so many people gave us confused looks—they're not used to seeing Catholics evangelising publicly on the streets. But being present out there gave us so much motivation and joy, encouraging us to look forward to our next outing. Whether it's for just two or four hours, we trust that God will send the right people our way—those whose hearts are ready for Him.



I want to encourage your praesidium to consider doing the same. It's a powerful apostolate that can reach many souls in unexpected and grace-filled ways.

Our Lord Jesus gave His life for us. Let us respond by giving ourselves fully to Him—through our works, and through our Mother Mary. Let us fulfil our promise: We are all yours, our Queen and our Mother, and all that we have is yours.

Sincerely in Christ.

Celebrating the Closure of 'Monto'

By Sean Grace

'Monto' derives its name from Montgomery Street which was the centre of a notorious 'red light' district in Dublin that existed from the late 1860s until it was closed down in 1925.

The Legion of Mary recently celebrated the centenary of the end of 'Monto' with a solemn Holy Hour, Benediction and procession.

A small committee was formed by members of Bethlehem Curia and Our Lady Queen of Peace Curia together with Brother Declan Lawlor and Sister Lóirín O'Leary from Concilium. They approached Father Michael Casey, PP of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish who was only too delighted to help us organise the event in his parish.



The occasion was attended by legionaries and by local parishioners in Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Sean McDermott Street; a beautiful church just minutes from O'Connell Street in the heart of Dublin. This was once in the middle of the notorious 'Monto' 'red light' district. As described in the shrine located in Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

In 1923 Frank Duff and one of his fellow legionaries, Miss Josephine Plunkett, first entered the red light district of Monto which had been in operation since the late 1860s. His sole purpose was to rescue the large numbers of women trapped in prostitution and to break the grip of the ruthless madames and their pimps.

In 1925 after a long battle, Frank Duff and the Legion of Mary finally sought the help of the clergy and the police. They succeeded in closing down the brothels of Monto and rescuing over 200 women. They received the co-operation of Dublin Police Commissioner



General William Murphy and the campaign ended with 120 arrests and the closure of the brothels following a police raid on 12th March 1925

In 1932 the solemn taking back of Monto for the people was dedicated to the Sacred Heart. The closure ended with a large procession from the Pro-Cathedral Church headed by a cross bearer with a large crucifix with which the clergy blessed the streets and houses.

In memory of that solemn occasion, the rosary was recited whilst the same cross was carried in procession around the Church

following a Holy Hour of adoration to music and singing. The beautiful music was arranged and performed by Brother Tony Cassidy who is an active legionary in Our Lady of Good Counsel Praesidium. Tony was accompanied by Tara Windibank who sang beautifully.

The Holy Hour concluded with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Sister Lóirín O'Leary then gave a short talk on the history of Monto and the reason for the celebration.

Then we were delighted to have Father Anthony Kavanagh O.P. celebrate Mass with Father Casey.

It was a very holy and uplifting experience.

Legionaries visit the Circus

May 2025



By Noel Lynch – Former Envoy to Argentina

The Handbook invites us to go to the barren desert, to the most distant island, to the forgotten village. There are many souls who could be called nomads. One of them is the circus people. They are families who dedicate their lives to entertaining people. They help people, especially families, to enjoy life.

For many years, legionaries have visited these families. Many of them are from different countries, but they all know each other and help each other. Circus owners stay within their own country. Their performers and tent workers are mostly from different countries and stay with a circus for about one or two years. In large countries, the circus may stay permanently in one city. Most circuses travel from place to place, staying for a few days and sometimes longer in urban areas.

Circus owners always appreciate visits from the Legion. Instead of home visits, visits are made in caravans. The best time of day to

visit them is around midday. Their show or performance is usually at 5 p.m. and a second performance at around 7 p.m. Therefore, we try to avoid visits an hour before the performance. The main objective of our work is to celebrate Mass in the big top. The first visit would be to the owners and from there we would visit all the families and people in the circus.

We offer to help everyone participate in the Circus Mass. This is done by explaining the sacraments and the Mass. It is not necessary to ask if they have received the sacraments, but to offer to help those who wish to receive them. As circus people move from place to place, they do not belong to any parish community. The legionaries prepare all those who need the sacraments. Most circus people are very devout Catholics. They are aware of other religions and welcome the Legion's visit.

Everyone is invited to the circus Mass and everyone is delighted to have Mass in their tent. The caravans are blessed.

As the circus moves from city to city, its main performances are usually on Saturdays and Sundays. This makes it difficult for them to attend Sunday Mass at the local church. The priest and the legionaries invite everyone to attend Mass every week and, if Saturday or Sunday is not possible, to attend at least one Mass during the week.

Many circus people have been prepared for the sacraments. These include preparation for Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation and the sacrament of Marriage.

The preparation is given by legionaries who visit the circus.

When a circus visits your area, go and visit them as soon as they arrive. You will be welcome, and you will help these wonderful people to live the religion they love so much.

Meeting: Mary and Elizabeth

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



Identify these three persons, and win €50



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

With Mary We Go Out to Meet Our Brother

By Roberto Anibal Salazar

The following legionary task was undertaken by the Immaculate Heart of Mary Praesidium of the Shrine of the Sacred Heart in the city of Lanús, affiliated to Mary Seat of Wisdom Curia, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Its historical precedent is the nighttime contacts during the World Cup in Argentina in June 1978 with Legion Envoy Brother Noel Lynch in Constitution Square in the city of Buenos Aires. On that occasion, male legionaries made street contacts while a group of female legionaries were praying nearby in the Basilica of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. They went out into that square to speak with other men in all their different circumstances.

Over time, then-Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio promoted a project in his Archdiocese of Buenos Aires, and the surrounding dioceses, known as “Urban Pastoral Care,” with the motivating motto “God also lives in the city.” A series of activities were carried out that were not foreign to the Legion

of Mary, as the “contacts with the multitude” had been carried out for years in various locations in Argentina: at bus terminals, train stations, and in plazas and parks, especially in the area governed by the Senatus of Buenos Aires.

At the aforementioned shrine, its parish priest, Father Ricardo Montiel, felt it necessary to continue the Legion’s proposal. Thus, at Christmas, Easter, or on patron saint festivals, meetings were held on the pedestrian street behind the Shrine.

Over time, a greater role for men in evangelisation was proposed in the Church. After the Lockdown the praesidium began the night-time



work. It was led by male legionaries from various praesidia in the same diocese or from the neighboring diocese of Lomas de Zamora, with diocesan ministers and deacons, and guitarist friends, with a strong synodal sense.

As preparation, they participate in Holy Mass in the Shrine with an altar of Our Lady of Luján, Patroness of Argentina. At the end, the priest blesses the holy cards to be distributed and sends out the missionaries. Outside the Church, they walk through the streets, sing songs, and go out to meet the brothers who pass by. Many approach the Virgin, a special devotion of Argentinians.

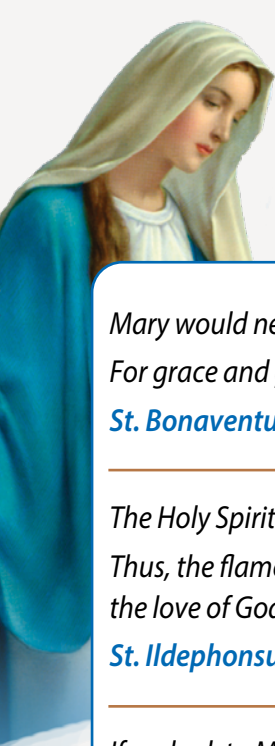
At night, merchants close their businesses, their employees leave, men and women return from work, various street vendors and young students return to their homes. People's attention is attracted by the legionaries' songs. When they approach the image of the Virgin, they are contacted, asked their names, are prayed with and given a holy card made by the legionaries.

Bishops and priests are interested in this evangelising action. Pope Francis constantly called for reaching out to our brothers and sisters, especially those most in need. In this way, the legionaries



encounter workers, young people, homeless brothers, and lonely people. They are called to grow in faith and participate in the life of the Church during the Jubilee Year of Hope, where the Virgin gathers in the name of the Lord. They seek to extend her reign in all hearts to extend the reign of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

As Saint Louis Marie de Montfort teaches us: true devotion to Mary leads us to action, and the Legion constantly encourages us to manifest it to the world. This work, so highly recommended in chapter 40 of the Manual “Preach the Gospel to All Creatures,” is an important opportunity. This was Our Lord’s final precept which encourages us to reach everyone.



Praises of Mary



Mary would never have found such grace had she not been moderate in her food. For grace and gluttony cannot exist together.

St. Bonaventure

The Holy Spirit heated, inflamed, and melted Mary with love, as fire does to iron. Thus, the flame of this Holy Spirit was seen, and nothing was felt but the fire of the love of God.

St. Ildephonsus

If we look to Mary in all circumstances, we will immediately receive wise inspirations: Be patient, kind, charitable; comport yourself well, suffer voluntarily, and offer your pains to the Lord. Hope and love always and give our life authentic Christian meaning.

Pope Paul VI

We cannot enter a house without speaking to the doorkeeper. The Blessed Virgin is the Doorkeeper of Heaven, and we cannot gain entry there without calling upon her help.

St. John Vianney

The name of Mary contains within itself the brilliance of the virtues, the sweet refulgence of modesty, and the sacrifice that is pleasing to God. It is the sign of hospitality and the centre of holiness.

St. Francis Xavier

Our Lady desires that we not only work for her but also suffer for her. We must calmly bear the little crosses of each day and even desire that they exist!

St. Maximilian Kolbe





AFRICA

Angola: In The **Senatus of Benguela** during this period, both adult and youth praesidia were established. Home visits provide spiritual comfort to the sick, guidance, and information on parish activities, including Mass times and how to receive the sacraments. A Comitium, mainly comprised of young adults has 64 praesidia and 10 Curiae, totalling 1,725 legionaries. They have organised and promoted several retreats for young people.

Cape Verde: Several praesidia conducted Exploratio Dominicalis projects. Many meaningful contacts with people of other faiths were made. Special attention was given to conversion work, including reaching out to prostitutes, alcoholics, prisoners, and those living on the streets.

Egypt: Fr. Yuhanna Fawzy who is a great supporter of the Legion, delivered a talk during a spiritual revival in the village of Al-Ezba which is home to three Catholic churches. Many parishioners expressed interest in forming a new praesidium. A Comitium in Minya organised three 'Exile for Christ' events, focusing on parish family visits, and initiated leader training programmes.

Ethiopia: In February, the Senatus of Uganda sent two legionaries to Ethiopia to follow up on previous extension efforts and continue their evangelisation work.

Gambia - Banjul Curia organised for the celebration of Holy Mass for Servant of God Alfie Lambe on 26 January.

Ghana: The **Senatus of Accra** and many of its attached councils continue to organise

monthly Frank Duff prayer sessions.

Kenya: Senatus of Kenya: Nairobi junior Curia has nine praesidia. A senior praesidium with 20 active members has crowd contact and Sunday school among their works. **Kisumu Regia:** 216 couples had their marriages blessed and sixteen street girls were contacted and four abandoned the life. **Bungoma Regia:** 1,045 children were baptised. Seven Curiae and three praesidia were established in Eldoret Diocese.

Lesotho: Works reported include visits to patients, prisoners and the elderly. Children and lapsed Christians are taught prayers and the catechism. They also give guidance on baptism, matrimony, and avoiding alcohol and drugs, along with prayers for souls in Purgatory. At Maseru Central Prison, nineteen prisoners participated in a prayer session seeking strength to transform their lives.

Malawi: Blantyre Senatus: Works include visits to cohabiting couples, which has resulted in many couples receiving the sacrament of matrimony. Bereaved families are visited and consoled. Youths and lapsed Catholics are counselled and encouraged to return to practice. Legionaries teach Catechism to small Christian communities and visit ex-prisoners on their release from prison. A praesidium established in 1945 works with the youth teaching them Catechism. Many attached Councils report holding Congresses or planning Congresses soon. Bishop Allan Chamgwera advised all legionaries to be united and pray the rosary every day. **Maula Senatus:** Junior legionaries visited juvenile prisoners at Maula who were

delighted with the visit and requested a re-visit.

Mozambique: Maputo Regia is concerned about ensuring the Handbook reaches all legionaries. Tete Comitium conducted its annual activity planning and shared it with its Curiae.

Nigeria: Abuja Senatus: The Consecration of the Archdiocese of Abuja to the Immaculate Heart of Mary was held last November after which the Senatus Spiritual Director encouraged legionaries to take seriously their consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In January, the Senatus held its annual workshop under the theme: "Deepening Our Catholic Identity and Marian Spirituality as Legionaries of Mary". The event was a great success and very well attended. **Enugu**

Senatus: A Comitium recently established one junior Curia and one senior Curia, nine senior praesidia and eight junior praesidia. Nineteen legionaries were ordained deacons.

Ibadan Senatus: They report helping to prepare many thousands for the sacraments. Legionaries visit homes, hospitals, prisons, brothels and orphanages and helped many converts to the Catholic faith. Ten legionaries were ordained as priests, six were ordained as deacons and one legionary took Solemn Monastic profession. **Ikot Ekpene Regia:** Calabar Comitium reports assisting two non-Catholics and two African Traditionalists to enter the Church. They also established two new praesidia and successfully revived another. **Lagos Regia.** Works included Promoting Enthronement of the Sacred Heart, dissemination of Catholic literature and Miraculous Medals as well as visiting brothels, prisons, and leper colonies. In total, 81,521 homes were visited in 2024 and 21,099 people were visited in hospital. Many

thousands were prepared for the sacraments including 7,277 for First Holy Communion and 4,314 for Confirmation. **Onitsha Regia:** Umuoji Comitium reports helping many people prepare for the sacraments and 14 couples had their marriages blessed. Jalingo Comitium is planning to expand into the hinterlands and places where the Legion of Mary no longer exists due to the frequent unrest and attacks in the area.

South Africa: A praesidium in the **Senatus of Cape Town** visits a home for adults who have cerebral palsy and provides lifts for some residents to church functions and group meetings. The 33-Day Preparation for Consecration to Jesus through Mary book was downloaded and sent to all legionaries. Works undertaken in **Esigodini Comitium** include visiting prisons and hospitals and teaching the Catechism. A praesidium in **Matatiele Comitium** hold *Patricians* meetings every month. Among many works they visit homes and teach the Catholic Faith to children and adults. One lapsed Catholic returned to the sacraments and four people received the sacrament of the sick.

Tanzania: In a recent email, the Spiritual Director of the Mbeya Comitium congratulated Concilium on its Centenary meeting and pledged to offer twenty Masses for the happy repose of the soul of Fr. McGregor.

Uganda: Legionaries from Villa Maria Comitium visited the Islands in Lake Victoria, where they embarked on a month-long evangelisation mission reaching out to many souls.

Zambia: A Young Adult Conference was held in November under the theme "To embrace Sanctity Among Young Adults". In January most Curiae reported commemorating the

life and legacy of Servant of God Alfie Lambe. A Comitium reports visiting an open prison housing 97 young men.

NORTH AMERICA

U.S.A.: Arlington Senatus: One junior praesidium of 11 members and seven parents undertook the 33 Day True Devotion to Mary Consecration. Exploratio Dominicalis, door to door and street contact, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and celebrating Our Lady's Birthday featured in many reports. One Curia started a praesidium which now has 25 members, all of whom are young adults. The Curia which is comprised of Hispanic people distributed 228 copies of the Spanish Maria Legionis. In **Boston Senatus** a prison praesidium has thirteen to fifteen active members who organise a biweekly Rosary in the prison hospital. They offer patients the Tessera as a special gift. In Springfield Curia, a True Devotion to Mary promotion resulted in nine young people taking on TDM. In Providence Comitium, two non-Catholic contacts received the sacrament of baptism and became active legionaries. Prayer ministry and Catechism is provided to 50 prisoners. A praesidium in **Chicago Senatus** started sending rosaries to a Military Base which did not permit outsiders to visit. Promoting the 33-day Consecration to St. Joseph was among their works. The Army Chaplain then invited a legionary to provide a recording of her weekly talk on the Consecration to about 300 army officers and navy officers in three military bases. About one 100 staff took the Consecration, one marriage was validated and thirteen converts were baptised. Kokomo Comitium in Indiana reported a cure for stage four cancer through intercession of Frank Duff. **Houston Senatus:** A Curia in Beaumont doubled its praesidia

from five to ten in four years. Another Curia has established its first junior praesidium. Many councils in **Los Angeles Senatus** have held a Congress. One praesidium did three Exploratio Dominicalis projects. Nevada reported a new praesidium with eighteen full and four probation members. With a goal to form a Curia in Las Vegas, legionaries have organised three Columban drives. Newark Comitium attached to **New York Senatus** report door to door, jail visits and book barrow being done. The Comitium, which is comprised of Korean-speakers and has eight directly-attached praesidia, recruited 91 active and 125 auxiliaries and organised 51 baptisms, one of whom is now a new legionary. One junior praesidium of sixteen members in **Philadelphia Senatus** circulated a Statue of our Lady to each class in their school. Three praesidia organised a week-long Eucharistic Rosary for 500 participants. This involved 24-hour Adoration with an hourly rosary. In **San Francisco Senatus** monthly street contact at three downtown venues utilises the Miraculous Medal, the Rosary and Sunday Bulletins from nearby churches. Recently a lapsed Catholic contact, confused about his Faith, returned to Mass. Non-Catholics are informed about Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). A report mentioned a *Patricians* group running for 34 years. Denver Comitium, attached to **St. Louis Senatus**, distributed rosaries at shopping malls and organised for Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 82 homes. They also carry out Pilgrim Virgin Statue visitation and prison ministry. **Miami Regia:** A recruiting drive yielded nine interested in active membership and 31 in auxiliary membership. A new praesidium was started in distant Savannah.

Canada: Toronto Senatus: A Comitium for

Korean-speakers reported conversion to Catholicism of a nursing home resident. Extension efforts resulted in a new praesidium of twelve members in one parish. The main work of this new praesidium is Pilgrim Statue and Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in homes. A praesidium of three officers was established in the seminary. This was followed up with a talk on the Legion of Mary to about 40 seminarians and five priests. Handbooks were given to everyone present. **Edmonton Comitium** has a new French-speaking praesidium. **Montreal Senatus**: St. Hyacinthe Curia gained one new praesidium.

Mexico: Mexico City Senatus: A legionary with limited mobility uses his workplace - a market - as an opportunity to make contact with customers and suppliers about the Faith. In Oaxaca the legionaries support women who decide not to abort their baby. All Councils in **Merida Senatus** are actively recruiting, over 200 members made the Legion promise. A new Curia and a large number of praesidia were set up. Home visitation and street contact are the main works of the legionaries. An entire family returned to the practice of the Catholic Faith. A Protestant family agreed to have their children baptised, and continue with their formation in the Catholic Faith. 23 couples received the sacrament of matrimony. The **Senatus of Guadalajara** reports many have returned to the practice of the Faith again. Contact with drug addicts has just been initiated. New praesidia comprised largely of young people are in formation.

OCEANIA

Australia: Melbourne Senatus has held Recruitment drives and a Congress. Perth Comitium held a torchlight Rosary procession at Lake Monger with an attendance of 140.

Adelaide Comitium reported Christmas and Easter flyers are distributed in the market. Other reports mention Rosary in the park, in schools, Exploratio Dominicalis and a men's discussion group.

New Zealand: Works undertaken in **Auckland Senatus** include Pilgrim Statue visitation and taking Holy Communion to rest homes. A recruitment drive resulted in the gaining of eight active members and 70 auxiliaries. Auckland junior Curia has five praesidia and they are trying to encourage all senior praesidia to start a junior praesidium. Among other works, they accompany seniors with the visit to the rest homes, and distribute the parish newsletter before Mass.

Papua New Guinea: Block Rosary and transfer of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Bible sharing are done with families in **Madang Senatus**. Legionaries were instrumental in helping some village youth to refrain from smoking marijuana and from alcohol. Forty-five young legionaries joined the senior ranks. In the **Regia of Rabaul** the Legion is present in 78 of the 118 parishes. **Port Moresby Regia** reported extension to two dioceses resulted in revival of senior and junior praesidia.

Guam Island: has a Legion of Mary presence in fifteen of its 37 parishes. Two Curiae are attached, one in Saipan with six praesidia and the other is a Korean-speaking Curia. A praesidium in the **Republic of Palau** carries out Enthronement of the Sacred Heart and visitation of the bereaved, sick and housebound. A new praesidium has been set up in the **Cook Islands** by a legionary from Malaysia who is now working there.

EUROPE

Belgium: Home visitation and crowd contact work in Central Brussels is

undertaken. A weekend Peregrinatio Pro Christo (PPC) conference was held and two projects featured in the presentations.

Cyprus: Nicosia with two praesidia meet every Sunday after Mass. During the afternoon the legionaries assist a group of immigrants.

England: In **Brentwood Regia** works include visiting housebound parishioners at home, in hospitals and nursing homes and assisting with transport to Church ceremonies. They undertake home to home visitation and invite new parishioners to the Church.

Birmingham Senatus: In West Birmingham Curia the legionaries are engaging in home visitation, street contact, and managing a book barrow. A praesidium in Central-London Curia, among other works, carry out visitation of homes, hospitals, and care homes, and do crowd contact. In Manchester Comitium, since the start of the Jubilee Year, two new praesidia have been started. Reports from attached praesidia mentioned book barrow, street contact, visiting the sick and nursing homes.

Finland: The Stella Maris praesidium in Helsinki has a Spiritual Director who is very attentive to the praesidium. Visits with the Pilgrim Virgin Statue are carried out and Crowd contact is done at. Railway and Metro stations and parks. Miraculous Medals are always offered. The praesidium is involved also in delivery of a catechism class for parish confirmation.

France: Paris Senatus: After 80 years at 43 rue Boileau, the Headquarters of the Legion of Mary is now located in the parish of St. Germain de Charonne. The parish priest has welcomed the Legion and is keen to have the Legion actively participate in parish life. Reports from **Reunion** show works such as

visiting the sick and Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in homes

Germany: To mark the Jubilee Year of Hope, the **Frankfurt Senatus** organised an event to highlight the Christian Martyrs of the 21st Century. In the **Munich Regia** works include the organisation of day retreats for women, events for children and pre-schoolers in the church. The **Cologne Regia** reports sacramental preparation with children, organising a children's Bible group, and visits to hospitals, hospices, nursing homes, and graveyards. Legion stands were staffed at the Christmas Markets.

Italy: Rome Senatus visited the new Comitium of Asti, which governs the Curiae and praesidia in the north west of Italy. The Comitium is visiting the councils and keeping in communication each month. The Rimini Comitium is functioning very well. There are eight praesidia and three Curiae attached.

Malta: Reports from Curiae in Malta Regia showed good contacts with tourists and taxi drivers and on board ships. Home visitation and street contact were also undertaken. Contact was made with persons away from the sacraments and every encouragement was given to return to the practice of their Faith. The praesidium in Libya, under the care of Malta Regia now has ten members.

The Netherlands: Amsterdam Regia: The praesidium in Groningen helps to transport invalids to the church. A new praesidium was started by the Cape Verde Curia in Rotterdam.

Norway: Mary, Holy Mother of God, Curia Oslo was established in December 2024. It includes four praesidia with 27 active and 102 auxiliary members. The legionaries are deeply grateful to Our Lady for the establishment of a second Curia in Norway. The Curia of

Mary, Ark of the Covenant, Bergen, has 29 active, ten probationary and 93 auxiliary members. Works include prison visitation and ministering to drug addicts who live under a bridge in Bergen. They prepare candidates for Baptism, teach catechism to children and youths, visit the sick in their homes, hospitals, arrange confession with a priest, visit asylum seekers and assist priests at the time of funerals. The full translation of the 2024 Norwegian Handbook will be completed in the autumn of 2025.

Portugal: The Senatus has supported the Councils in establishing new praesidia with encouraging results. A junior praesidium with 19 active members was reported. Support for oncology patients and visits to the sick at the Alzheimer's Centre are reported by a Comitium in Ponta Delgada-Azores. Porto Regia provides household support to an immigrant family with two autistic children.

Scotland: Door to door visitation continues in a large new housing estate in Paisley whereby letters of welcome from clergy are delivered. The praesidium at Strathclyde University has a book barrow on the campus.

Spain: In Madrid Senatus street contact in a red-light district is made with many of the women while another group of legionaries is praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament. A Curia contacts people on busy pedestrian streets inviting them to visit the church, to light a candle and pray at the Adoration Altar. A priest is available for confessions. Another Curia does what they call, "Fishing for Youth", contacting young adults on the streets. Mass was celebrated by the Auxiliary Bishop to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the first praesidium in Spain. Bilbao Senatus: Several praesidia engage in distribution of Miraculous Medals and the accompanying

leaflet. Basauri Curia E of Bilbao through its book barrow has recruited two new active members and two auxiliaries.

Sweden: Our Lady of Mercy Curia has twelve praesidia attached, eight of which attend from the Stockholm area. Our Lady of Guadalupe praesidium has thirteen active and four auxiliary members. Works include weekly visitation to homes and nursing homes, and street contact. The praesidium in Gothenburg is functioning well.

Wales: Swansea Curia reported invitations to Christmas services in the Cathedral were distributed to lapsed Catholics and interested non-Catholics. A higher attendance over the Christmas period was reported.

SOUTH AMERICA

Bolivia: Senatus of La Paz: Good contacts are made when the Sunday Mass leaflet is distributed, even to those who are not currently attending Mass regularly. Exploratio Dominicalis is being used to help praesidia that have difficulties.

Chile: At Christmas homeless people were invited to attend the parish ceremonies and celebrations; all were most grateful for the interest taken in them. Assistance is given to the many refugees arriving in Chile; some were active legionaries in their own country and are invited to join again. As it is difficult to visit high rise apartments, legionaries who live there organise May Devotions for their neighbours. Legionaries accompany priests to evangelise in rural communities.

Colombia: In the Senatus of Medellin Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes is carried out. Extension was done, using the Columban Drive method, in the Cathedral of Girardota with a very good reception, both by the priests and the congregation. Various Councils have organised missionary days in

neighborhoods with conversions reported. In response to an invitation to children undergoing catechesis, ten children joined a praesidium for them. The **Senatus of Bogotá** reported Exploratio Dominicalis projects were carried out and were well-received. Catechesis is given in parishes, schools, prisons, and to soldiers. Other works include visiting the sick and the elderly in homes and hospitals, home visitation, Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Rosaries in parks, inviting passers-by to take part and recruiting them to the Legion. They have many pre-junior groups through which they encourage the parents and children to attend Sunday Mass. A Comitium has succeeded in averting several abortions.

Ecuador: Senatus of Quito: A lady who had left the Catholic Church, returned after her legionary neighbour explained the Faith to her. She is now an active member of the Legion of Mary. A praesidium is responsible for organising a weekly Hour of Adoration in the parish and inviting parishoners. Holy Communion is brought to the housebound.

Paraguay: Among the works in the **Senatus of Asuncion** are Exploratio Dominicalis, rehabilitation centre visitation, contacting police and those detained at police stations, street contact, visits to nursing homes, home visits, visits to the sick, Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and Catechism for children.

Peru: In the **Senatus of Lima** works include Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes, home visitation, street contact, visiting the sick at home and in hospital, catechesis, book barrows, holding a number of Frank Duff Prayer Meetings, Patricians meetings, an Exploratio Dominicalis project, and junior praesidia. Sometimes the Catechism is taught

in hamlets in the mountains. A praesidium has been set up in a rehabilitation centre for alcoholics and drug addicts.

Uruguay: The **Senatus of Montevideo:** Works include street contact and visiting the sick, nursing homes, hospitals, and two prisons where they are trying to set up a praesidium.

Venezuela: The **Senatus of Caracas** reported that during January, councils throughout the country celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Legion of Mary in Venezuela with Masses, Processions and other functions. The national celebration was due to take place on 3 May in Caracas.

WEST INDIES

Dominican Republic: Reports to the Santo Domingo Senatus show 5,000 visits to the sick and almost 110,000 visits to homes were made. A Comitium in Santiago de los Caballeros Senatus gained 42 new members.

Haiti: Minutes from Haiti Senatus cite works of service and counselling, visiting the sick and praying at funerals. They ask our prayers due to the humanitarian crisis there. They had plans to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Senatus over three days from 1-3 May 2025.

Puerto Rico: With Sisters of Charity legionaries visit a prison and run a summer camp at the Sisters' Centre. A juvenile detention centre is also visited. Sacramental marriage was organised for two couples.

Trinidad and Tobago: Reports to the Regia showed among other Legion works, they assisted with parish apostolates such as First Saturday Devotions, teaching catechism, leading the Stations of the Cross, selling Catholic newspapers and supervision of junior praesidia. A new Junior praesidium started in Chaguanas.



Madonna di San Sisto
THE SISTINE MADONNA BY RAPHAEL



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