



THE VENERABLE EDEL QUINN

1907-1944



1907 THE EARLY YEARS

- Born on September 14, 1907 at Kanturk County, Cork , Ireland to Charles Quinn and Louis Burke Brown. She was the eldest of five, 3 sisters and a brother.
- Edel's early years were passed in a series of moving to several Irish provincial towns due to father's profession. At the age of seventeen, the family settled in Dublin.
- Edel shows an open, good-humored face, lightly mischievous, she was full of gaiety and vivacity, spiced with a touch of mischief. According to her family Edel is unselfish and full of consideration for others.
- She loved music, dancing and tennis and for a period was captain of the school's cricket team.
- Edel was always obedient. She was most careful in the matter of school discipline. She was a daily communicant.



1924 THE CALL TO A RELIGIOUS LIFE



- ← From the time she was a young girl, she prayed everyday for three (3) special graces:
 - ← To love GOD with her whole heart
 - ← To make others love HIM
 - ← And to die a martyr's death
- ← At the age of seventeen, she had fully made up her mind to be a nun in an enclosed order.
- ← The call to Religious Life is a grace from GOD and when one receives it, there is no mistaking it. The call she felt for the religious life evoked a great longing and one which never left her.

1924 THE CALL TO A RELIGIOUS LIFE

- ← Family circumstances at first and then her own poor health were to prevent her from carrying out her design for entering a convent.
- ← At the end of 1924, Mr. Quinn, went on a semi-retirement, and the family moved to Monkstown. She postponed her entry into a convent for her mother told her that she was still needed at home to help the four (4) younger siblings.



1924 SECRETARY/TYPIST/CONTEMPLATIVE

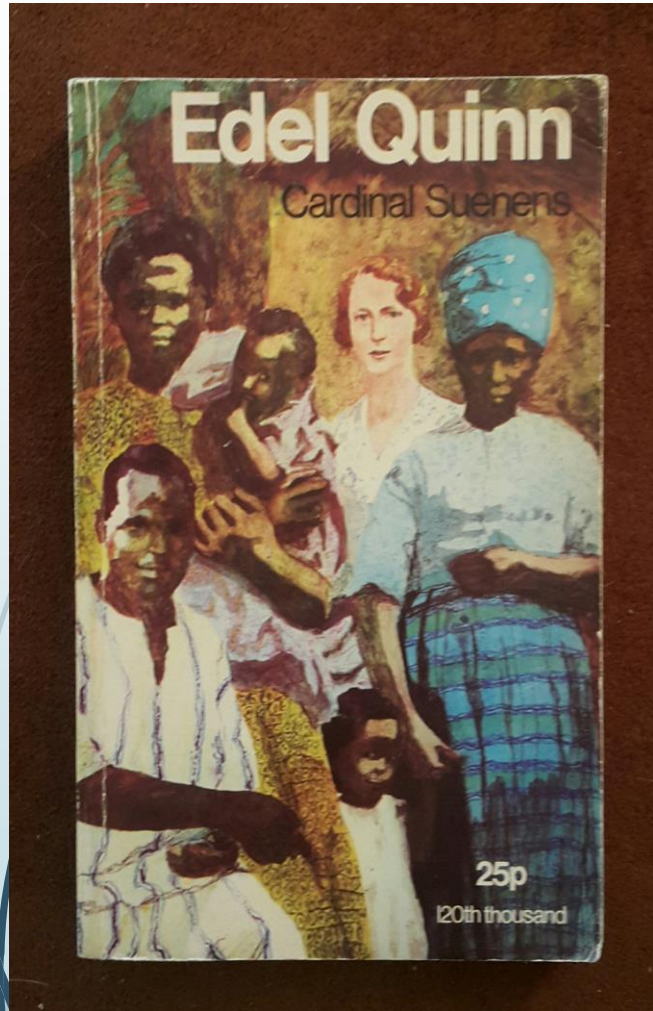
- ← Edel did a course in a commercial college and then got employment as a secretary-typist. Her first employer. Mr. P. O'Hanlon, who later became a priest.
- ← Mr. O'Hanlon, arranged for her transfer to the new company, with better salary. Her new employer was immensely impressed by her efficiency and still more by her personal charm.
- ← The new employer proposed marriage but Edel told him that it was out of the question and that her heart belonged completely to GOD and that she intended to enter a Poor Clare Convent.



1924 SECRETARY/TYPIST/CONTEMPLATIVE

- ← Even though engrossed in business affairs, she lead the life of a true contemplative at the same time. There was a definite program of spiritual exercises to which she was most faithful, it included daily spiritual reading, mental prayer, the recitation of the entire Rosary and the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin. The Eucharist became the very centre of her life and remained so always.
- ← She rose very early each morning and attended as many masses. Sunday mornings were completely devoted to the Mass.

1924 FINDING THE LEGION



- ← Met a girl named Mona Tiemey who happened to mention that she was a member of the Legion of Mary. Edel had never heard of the Legion and asked for more information.
- ← Edel attended the meeting and was accepted as a member. The Praesidium, Our Lady of Victories, met weekly in Ozanam House and its work included hospital visitation and home-to-home visitation in a slum area.
- ← Edel threw herself wholeheartedly into the work and devoting almost every evening to the Legion apostolate exceeding the prescribed minimum of two hours apostolic activity in the week.

1924 FINDING THE LEGION



Edel Quinn with Frank Duff as she prepared to leave for Africa (Tilbury Docks, England 1936)

- ← Edel carried out to the full her devotion, the de Montfort formula of doing everything in Mary, with Mary and for Mary.
- ← After she had spent two years as an ordinary member of the Legion and at 22, Edel was appointed President of a praesidium engaged in a rescue work among street girls in Dublin. Under her influence in the Legion, the praesidium increased in numbers, in zeal and in the fruitfulness of its apostolate.

1932 THE SANATORIUM DAYS

- ← Edel gave much time to prayer and spiritual reading. She drastically reduced her hours of sleep, neglect her meals. The result was that her health became undermined.



After her 24th birthday, all arrangements were made for her entry into the Poor Clare Convent in Belfast when a hemorrhage from the lungs led to the discovery that she was in an advanced stage of tuberculosis.

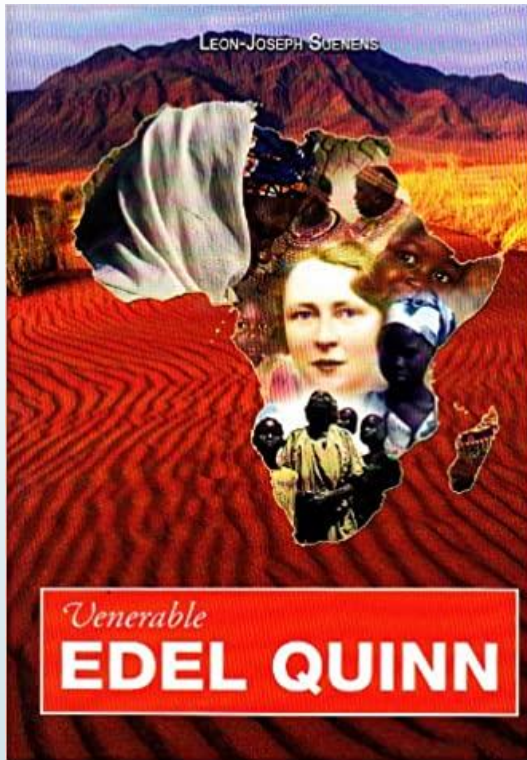
Her illness did not appear to weigh on her, she never spoke of it and never complained. She was always in good humor, she made everyone around her happy. A friend asked, "How can you be like that when you know that you are doomed"? Edel's answer was a laugh and "Oh, that's the will of God, why should I worry about that?"

1932 THE SANATORIUM DAYS



- ← Edel devoted more of her time than ever to spiritual reading and meditation - preference for doctrinal works, rereading St. Louis Marie's True Devotion and its abridgement, the Secret of Mary and for years before her death this little book and the New Testament were the main nourishment of her spiritual life.
- ← Edel spent about a year in the Sanatorium and then decided to leave as there was no prospect of a recovery and she felt she ought to make better use of the short time left to her. She was also worried about the expenses that was causing her family.
- ← She went back to work, as secretary in an Engineering company. Also returned to active Legion work and attend daily masses.

1936 ENVOY TO AFRICA



- ← Urgent appeals came for Legion organizers from South Africa and East Africa. After much deliberation, it was decided to offer Edel an envoyship to East Africa. She was thrilled at the offer and accepted it on the spot. However at the Concilium of the Legion, the proposal met a strong opposition. It would be a lunacy on the part of the Legion to send her and suicide on her part to go. In the end, with Eden's eager pleading, the proposal was put to the vote, and was passed unanimously.
- ← Edel went on a pilgrimage to Lourdes. She consecrated her work in Africa to our Lady and begged her blessings on it.
- ← On the 24th of October, 1936, she left Ireland with the commission to establish the Legion of Mary over an area of about three quarters of a million square miles.

1936 ENVOY TO AFRICA

- ← Letter she wrote to Frank Duff during the voyage to Africa, “I would like you to remember always, whatever happens that I am glad you gave me the opportunity of going. I realize it is privilege and also that only you persisted, I personally would never have been sent. I only hope I do not fail the Legion when the work comes to be done... Have no regrets. I am not going to refer to this again. I am glad you let me go and the others will be glad later...”
- ← On the 23rd of November, Edel landed at Mombasa in Kenya and was met by Bishop Heffernan of the then diocese of Zanzibar, who sent the appeal in response to which she had come. At his advice, she left at once by train for Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, over 300 miles away. Nairobi was to be her center of activities for a considerable time and the place to which in the end, she would return to die.



***Edel sets sail to
Africa (Oct 30, 1936)***

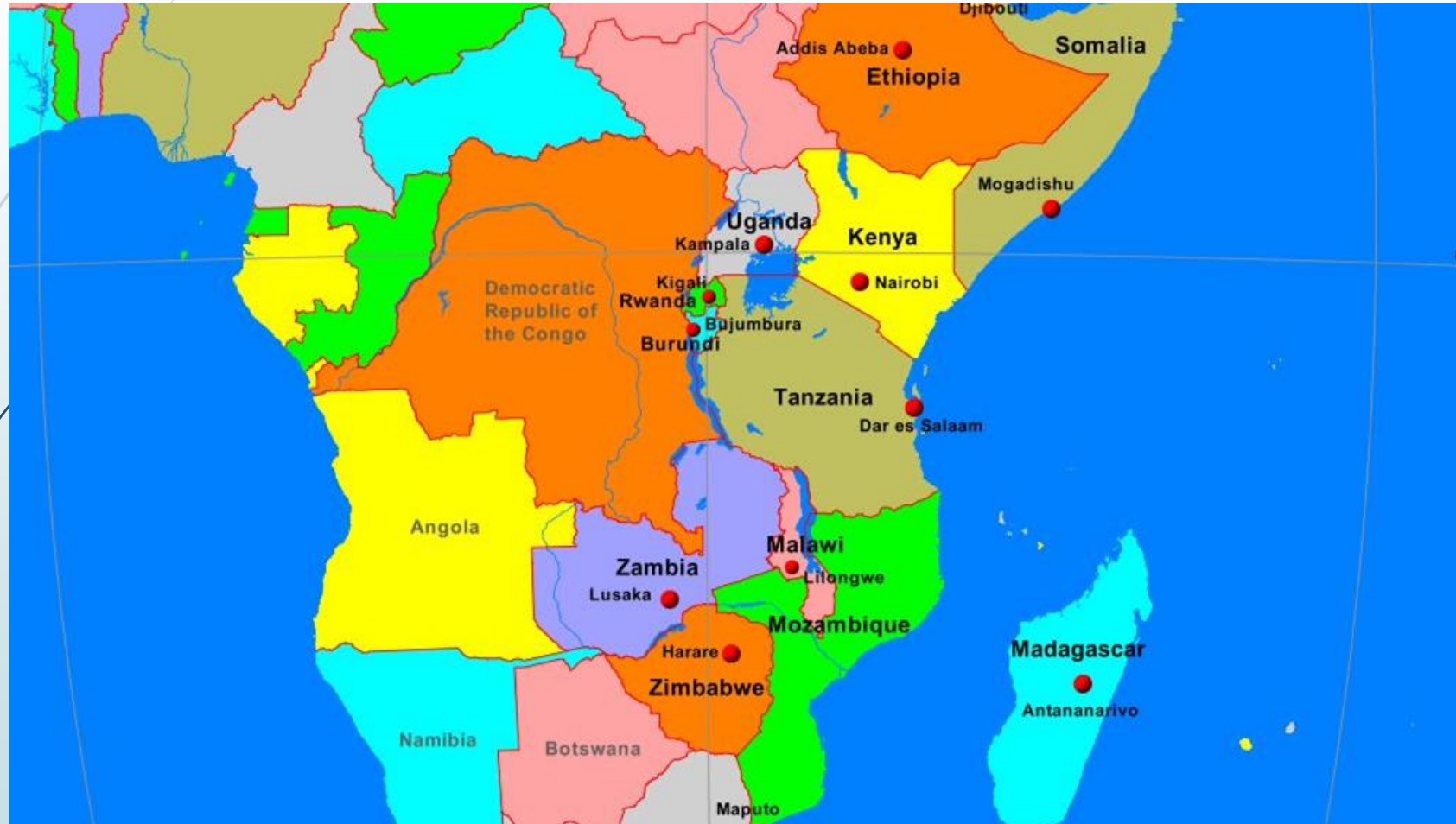
1936 ENVOY TO AFRICA

- ← Edel got in contact with the clergy and some of the prominent lay Catholics and explained her purpose of uniting Catholics of different races and tribes under the leadership of the Blessed Virgin.
- ← She managed to get 2 branches of the Legion going within 3 weeks, one was made up of Europeans and Indians, the other was all Africans.
- ← On 4th of April 1937 found a Curia and the Council which governs a number of Praesidia. On the same day, the first Acies of the Legion in East Africa was held. It was the first occasion on which the different races, Africans, Europeans and Indians had come together for a religious purpose and so was a historic one for the Church in East Africa.

1936 ENVOY TO AFRICA

- ← The members and especially the officers were properly trained in the Legion spirit and discipline every Sunday.
- ← Edel's power of endurance were phenomenal, she has an iron will. Frank Duff declared, "Edel Quinn had the strongest will I ever encountered in this world".
- ← She worked her way over the vast territories of Kenya, Uganda, Nyasaland and Tanganyika. The journeying was done in trucks over rough roads that in the wet season were just rivers of mud and in the dry season were stifling with dust and heat.
- ← For 2 years there, there was no marked deterioration in Edel's health. But at the end of 1938, she got a serious attack of malaria which left her greatly weakened. However, once the crisis was over , she was on the road again.

1936 ENVOY TO AFRICA



1940 IN MAURITIUS (JANUARY TO AUGUST)

- ← Edel was stricken by malaria she had been planning to visit the Island of Mauritius, following an urgent invitation from the Archbishop. Because of her illness the visit did not take place till January, 1940.
- ← She set about organizing the Legion in the Island.
- ← She left in September, there were 30 flourishing Praesidia. She was met with great kindness and made many friends, among whom she felt very much at home.
- ← The Archbishop repeatedly expressed his conviction of her heroic sanctity. In one of his statements, he wrote, I am persuaded that Edel's cause will one day be introduced.

1940-1942 RETURN TO AFRICA

- ← In September 1940. Edel returned to Africa, by this time her health was failing rapidly.
- ← By the spring of 1941, her weight was down to less than five and a half stone and she was in constant fever, but she refused to give up. 'We have only this short life in which to prove our love, let us try to give it utterly. In every way without counting the cost, to be spent for Christ.
- ← After some complete rest she rallied somewhat but was forced to spend over 18 months in various hospitals. She continued her apostolate by correspondence, by her prayers and sufferings. If I cannot work, she said, then I can suffer and again" My greatest joy is to suffer for the love of our Lord.



1940-1942 RETURN TO AFRICA

- ← When she heard there were hopes of establishing the Legion in China and Japan, she wrote that the news nearly made her jump out of bed and suggested that when her own work in Africa was completed she might be sent to the Far East.
- ← Most of Edel's time in the hospital at this period was spent with the Sisters of Umlamli in the Cape Province, South Africa.
- ← In October 1942, Edel decided to return to Nairobi. Her main reason, given in a letter to Dublin, was that there she could get mass daily and to do more Legionary work and the climate in Nairobi would be quite good for her health.





1943-1944 END OF A JOURNEY

- ← In January 1943 after a dreadful much broken journey, Edel reached Nairobi.
- ← She was dreadfully thin, her hair was greying and she looked many years older than her age. But she was as bright and alert as ever and was full of plans for the Legion.
- ← There were British troops stationed in Nairobi and Edel worked successfully to establish the legion among them.
- ← She has the great joy of finding the vast majority of her early foundations are flourishing, with nearly all the original members still faithful.



A new army praesidium was formed.
(This was the last photo sent by Edel Quinn to
Concilium.)

1943-1944 END OF A JOURNEY

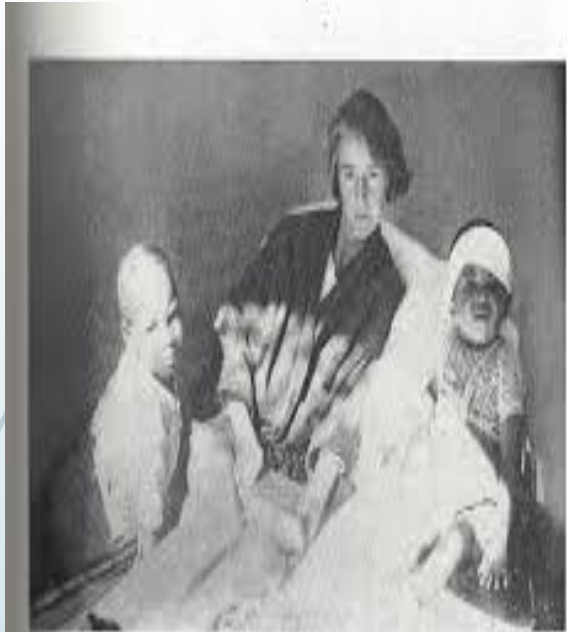
- ← Early in 1944, she made a retreat in the Carmelite Convent in Nairobi as her preparation for death. She spent sometime in various Vicariates. Her last visit was at Kisumu in Kenya, during which she got a heart attack that made her think that the end was perhaps at hand. After a month's stay, she had to give up and once more faced the long journey to Nairobi where she arrived with death in her eyes.
- ← She was taken to her little room adjoining the Chapel of the Sisters of the Precious Blood. It was on the 11th of April, Edel got back to Nairobi and for the next month she suffered greatly from frequent heart attacks. In the evening of Friday, May 12th she became convulsed with a violent heart attack. A priest who happened to be visiting the convent came and gave her Extreme Unction. Then, the attack began again and after a few moments, she died with the Holy Name on her lips.

1943-944 END OF A JOURNEY

- ← Edel's remains were removed to the Church within a few hours of her death and buried in the Missionaries' Cemetery. At her funeral service, there were over 20 priests present with a large congregation of legionaries. As they left the cemetery they said to one another, "Today we have buried a saint."



1963 EDEL'S CANONIZATION, TITLE "VENERABLE"



EDEL AT THE DOMINICAN NUNS' HOSPITAL, UNLAMLII,
ALIWAL NORTH.

"I will not do anything rash or reckless—not because I would not, but because
I cannot!"—(The Ig%, p. 202.)

- ← The process of Edel's canonization was opened in 1963. During the following years tribunals were set up in 73 dioceses or vicariates and 258 witnesses were examined.
- ← Finally, on December 15, 1994. Pope John Paul II issued the decree affirming her heroic sanctity, giving her the title Venerable. A vast number of people have reported favors, some very remarkable which they attribute to her intercession.

FAVORS ATTRIBUTED TO VENERABLE EDEL QUINN

- ← A grandmother writes to thank Edel after the birth of a precious grandson in London to a daughter and her husband after 8 years of marriage.
- ← My son was out of work for nearly a year. Now after praying to Edel, he has been offered a job near his home. I will continue to pray to her in thanksgiving.
- ← A lady from London was given an Edel Quinn prayer leaflet while on pilgrimage. She started to pray to Edel for her daughter living in South Africa who was drinking heavily. She wrote to express her gratitude to Edel for a complete reversal, the daughter has stopped drinking and her husband has found employment.



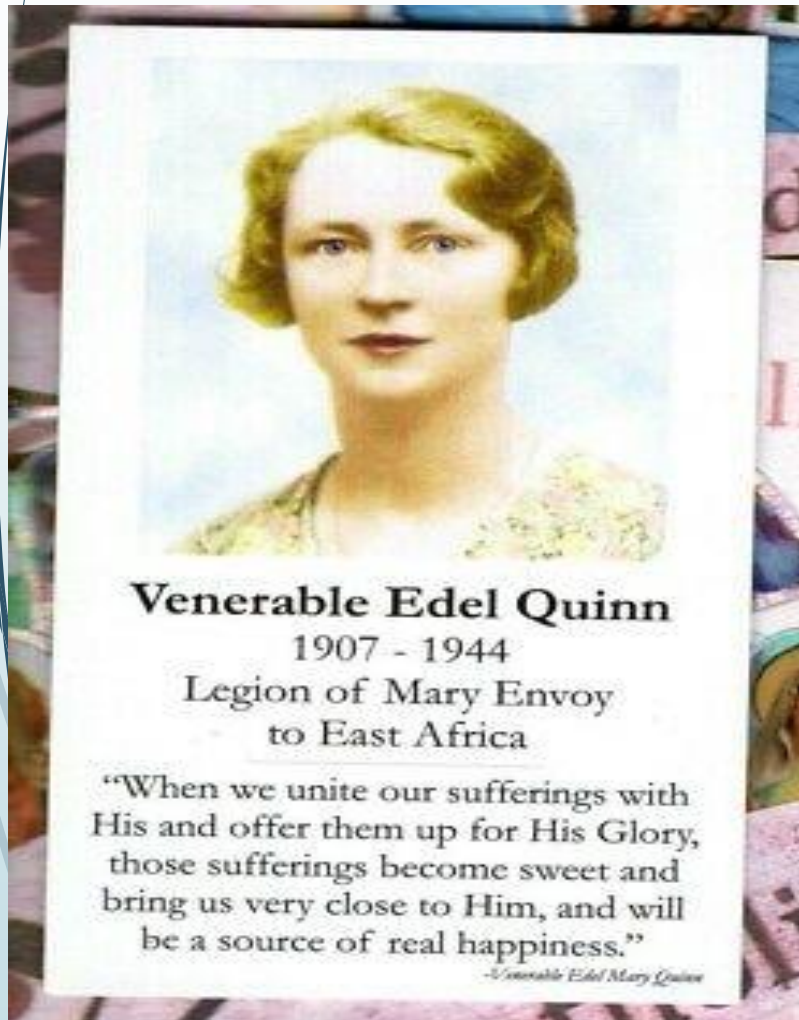
FAVORS ATTRIBUTED TO VENERABLE EDEL QUINN

- ← A Dublin man had been trying for 5 years to overcome his heavy drinking, making some progress and after setbacks returning to drink. Two callers to his door, members of the Legion of Mary, shared with him about Edel Quinn. Picking up the leaflet, a few days after their visit, he got down on his knees, said the prayers and asked for help a day at a time. Nine years sober now, he continues to pray to Edel giving thanks.
- ← A mother prayed for her son's conversion. He had been away from the church for nearly 20 years. All this time she prayed to Edel Quinn for him. Recently, her son informed her that he now prays and has been attending Sunday masses. She continues to pray for his complete conversion.

WORDS OF LIFE FROM EDEL QUINN

- ← Always remember you are Legionaries of our Lady. You should be proud to be known as Legionaries, members of our Lady's Army.
- ← It is a privilege to be allowed to work for our Queen and her Son, and we must try to give our best, for nothing less is good enough in her service.
- ← Mary calls upon us: what an honour! She offers us her instrument, the Legion. Are we going to refuse her our indispensable cooperation.
- ← Let us start the Legion, the rest will come; our Lady will make plain to us what she wants.
- ← For me the Legion comes before everything. I must enlist all my powers in the service of the Legion.

WORDS OF LIFE FROM EDEL QUINN



- ← My vocation is a legionary one. Envoy and Praetorian – consecrated to work for the Father by the Holy Spirit of Jesus and Mary.
- ← Try to live as Envoy and Praetorian to the fullest. Leave the rest to others.
- ← I promised to be there, and I explained to them that on no account does a legionary miss a meeting.
- ← Above all, be very faithful to your daily prayer, the Catena. Every Legionary, whether priest, religious, active or auxiliary member, say this prayer everyday. The word Catena means chain, and every Legionary is a link in that chain, which can now be said to encircle the world. Do not be the one to break this union of prayer by neglecting that daily duty.

PRAYER FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF VENERABLE EDEL QUINN

Eternal Father, I thank you for the grace you give to your servant, Edel Quinn of striving to live always in the joy of your presence, for the radiant charity infused into her heart by your Holy Spirit and for the strength she drew from the Bread of Life to labour until death for the glory of your name in loving dependence on Mary, the Mother of the Church.

Confident, O Merciful Father, that her life was pleasing to you, I beg you to grant me, through her intercession, the special favor I now implore _____ and to make known by miracles the glory she now enjoys in Heaven, so that she maybe glorified also by your Church on earth, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

