



LEGION OF MARY
FOUNDED 7 SEPTEMBER 1921

Legion of Mary

Centenary Souvenir Program

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass of Thanksgiving

September 25, 2021. 10:00 a.m.

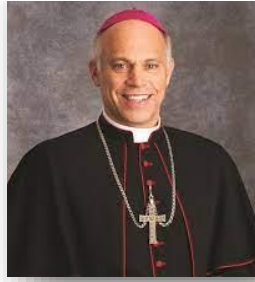
Cathedral of Saint Mary's

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone - Celebrant

Archdiocese of San Francisco

"We are all thine our Queen, Our Mother and all that we have is thine."

Greetings from the Most Reverend Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone



ARCHDIOCESE OF
SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

September 25, 2021

Dear Legion of Mary Members,

I am happy to greet each one of you and to offer prayerful best wishes to you all on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Legion of Mary. These 100 years have brought many blessings to the Legion of Mary which you in turn have shared in your families, in your parishes, schools, neighborhoods and workplaces, and, in fact, wherever you have found yourselves.

From humble beginnings the Legion of Mary has grown to become a vibrant spiritual and apostolic presence throughout the world. You are young and old, people of all nationalities and backgrounds, living your baptismal promises, seeking holiness and offering yourselves totally to the Blessed Virgin Mary according to the True Devotion as taught by St. Louis Marie de Montfort.

Since the founding of the first praesidium in San Francisco at St. Monica Church in 1933, the Legion of Mary here in the archdiocese has grown and expanded such that the San Francisco Senatus now extends to many western states of the USA. Your apostolic and spiritual works of mercy have been many and varied – reaching out to all in the name of the parish pastor by home to home visitation, the visitation of families, of the sick, of the homebound, of prisoners, as well as street apostolate to the homeless, teaching of catechism to children and converts, seeking out non-practicing Catholics, and pro-life work.

I express my gratitude for all these good works and, in particular, for your promotion of the family rosary by helping to organize public rosary rallies in the city of San Francisco from the 1990's up until today. I gladly take this opportunity to commend Fr. Lawrence Goode for his more than 40 years of dedicated and outstanding service as your Spiritual Director.

May Mary, Mother of the Church, continue to guide and watch over the Legion of Mary as you play your part in carrying out the Church's mission of bringing the Gospel to the whole world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Salvatore J. Cordileone".

Most Reverend Salvatore J. Cordileone
Archbishop of San Francisco

ONE PETER YORKE WAY, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109 | SFARCHDIOCESE.ORG | (415) 614-5500

Message from Reverend Father Goode Spiritual Director, San Francisco Senatus



My first contact with the Legion of Mary was a San Francisco Comitium Meeting at the Y.M.I. building in San Francisco. When I arrived in San Francisco I had been told "people don't go out at night in San Francisco", yet, I was hearing reports of "older" women probably younger than I am now going out every month into the hardest neighborhoods in the City - the Tenderloin, the Castro, North Beach, Mission District. My first reaction to those reports was "someone has got to protect them". I soon found out that Blessed Mother did the protecting. The newspapers had reports of muggings and murders and other crimes except when the Legion was there.

Once I overheard two Filipinas talking; one was trying to explain why she didn't do the Tenderloin apostolate. The other said, "Are you talking about the Legion of Mary? There's nothing to be afraid of". She had been in the Legion in the Philippines during the Japanese occupation. She told how one day she was out in the streets doing door to door when two soldiers with bayonets approached them. "When we showed them the Rosary beads we were giving out, they were afraid of us".

In the Tenderloin one night we actually saw someone being disarmed by Legionary prayer. We had just finished saying the Legion prayers on the corner of Jones and Eddy. This man was on his way to shoot someone when Our Lady touched his heart; I ended up with a pocket full of bullets.

The Peregrinatio Pro Christo were other extraordinary examples of God's grace. One that I went to was in Salt Lake City at the suggestion of Frank Duff. We were doing what Mormons do so well. Every day we went out in the morning and afternoon for two weeks. The only difference was we had the Sacrament of Reconciliation; we brought Christ's forgiveness to their homes. Also, Tijuana had several peregrinatio. The first time I went I filled my car. The second time I needed a van. There we competed with Jehovah Witnesses who blanketed Tijuana every week-end. The people thought we were Jehovah's until they saw our rosaries. I guess what drew me to the Legion, having been a spiritual director over forty years was that the members went out, that they were apostolic like the apostles and even more that they were prayerful, sanctifying themselves before trying to sanctify others.

Thank you to all the Legionaries over years who were such an inspiration to me, to Father Howie Rasmursen (RIP) whose place I tried to take, to all those who were officers of the Comitium and now Senatus, to the little people, some of whom could not read or write but who were great witnesses to our faith. Thank you, Frank Duff, for your vision of the Legion spread throughout the world. The first Legionaries laughed at the idea which makes me think of all the laughter and joy that the Legion brought into my life. Congratulations as we begin our second hundred years. Happy Anniversary, Legionaries of Mary!

Father Larry Goode
Father Larry Goode



*Message from Raymond Frost
President, San Francisco Senatus*

This year the Legion of Mary celebrates the 100th anniversary of its founding by the Servant of God Frank Duff together with the small group of women who answered the call of Mary in Dublin, Ireland on September 7, 1921.

Since that special day membership in the Legion of Mary has enriched and enhanced the lives of countless Catholics throughout the world, lighting their path as they strive to love God and neighbor. The Legion of Mary calls us to work in such a way that the person of Our Lord Jesus Christ is seen and served by Mary, His Mother. Our mission is that of the Church, carrying out the command of Jesus "Go into the whole world making disciples of all nations."

We are blessed to have the spiritual and practical formation of the Legion of Mary, as we give our personal response to the church's universal call to holiness. We spare no effort to spread devotion to Mary, so that all might know the love of the Blessed Mother who was entrusted to us by Jesus on Calvary.

The Legion of Mary has labored in San Francisco since 1933. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the legionaries, locally and around the world, who have preceded us and to the archbishops, priests, religious sisters and brothers who have walked with us and guided us along the way. Many of our members learned about the Legion of Mary in their native countries and have continued their Legion membership here.

More than a few of our members have entered the priesthood and religious life or have continued their Legion membership in other regions of the USA. The responsibility of our archdiocesan Legion of Mary has expanded beyond the boundaries of the Archdiocese of San Francisco to include all of Northern California and many states of the western USA.

May Mary and the Holy Spirit help each one of us to continue to grow in holiness and to work together to play our part in carrying out the mission of the Church.

Raymond Frost



RAYMOND FROST AND HIS SUPPORTING CAST... WE'RE BACK LIVE IN PERSON! DEO GRATIAS! SF SENATUS ANNUAL BOARD AND CORRESPONDENT'S MEETING JULY 31, 2021 (SAINT FRANCIS CHURCH, EAST PALO ALTO, CA).



MARY MURPHY, PRESIDENT OF THE CONCILIUM LEGIONIS (IN FRONT OF THE ORIGINAL LEGION ALTAR - WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE VEXILLUM - USED AT THE FIRST LEGION OF MARY MEETING.

Greetings from Mary Murphy President - Concilium Legionis

On behalf of Concilium Legionis Mariae I wish to congratulate the legionaries of the world on their membership during this Centenary Year of the Legion of Mary.

Looking to the past we salute those enterprising members who in 1921 set out on an unknown path, placing themselves at the disposal of Our Blessed Lady. One of the founding members was Br. Frank Duff who was far-sighted and who encouraged the laity to play their part and to put into action what is called for in our Baptismal Vows. Many thousands of legionaries - Active and Auxiliary -

have served in the ranks of the Legion over the 100 years. Through their prayers and action, they have passed on to us an organisation which espouses all that the Legion stands for and sets us standards to be aimed at. We owe them a great debt of gratitude and special remembrance at this time.

As currently serving members it is incumbent on us to pass on a true and authentic Legion of Mary to those who will serve as members in the future. Legion membership, we can all agree, enriches and enhances our own lives. It affords us an opportunity to get to know God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit better. It enables us to put our varied talents to work. We should increase our efforts to offer that same enrichment to others.

The most important unit of the Legion of Mary is the praesidium at work either in the parish or in other places of need. If it is a vibrant and dedicated group it will be the source of a flourishing Legion in the higher councils.

It is my privilege as the current serving President to express our gratitude to every member of the Legion for your service to Our Blessed Lady who draws us closer to her Son. We wish you many blessings for the years ahead.



Chesterton and the Pandemic

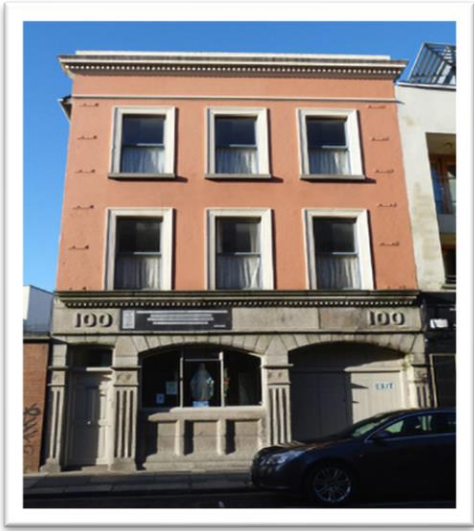
*By Reverend Father Joe Richard
Spiritual Director San Mateo Comitium*

G.K. Chesterton, poet, essayist and philosopher, loved to use the paradox in his writings. Paradox he said is the truth standing on its head to attract attention. For example, “some say that Christianity has been tried and found wanting!” “But Christianity has never been truly tried,” said Chesterton in reply. What would he comment about today’s world were he still alive? He’d point out the paradox: In the age of Covid-19, God shows himself both first and loving. People today deserve chastisement as naughty children (the word naughty is too lenient) killing millions of unborn babies, preferring the unholy union of same sex partners rather than traditional marriage, the unconcern for the poor and needy, etc. God Himself will not spare the rod and spoil his children but like a loving father will lovingly spank his wayward children to give them a wake-up call and not to get even. Rather He wants to point out to them alternate ways of life. For example, to learn from the pandemic that stay-at-home mothers can home school their children and thus protect them from godless public schools, that husbands working at home via computers would help families be close knit. Out of love God hopes that we will learn these lessons from the pandemic,

But unfortunately, Chesterton is no longer with us and can no longer be our common sense apostle to guide us in these troubled times. Fortunately, however, in San Francisco we have an outspoken religious leader, Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone. On May 1, 2021, he issued his first pastoral letter, “Before I Formed You in the Womb, I Knew You!”

It concerns the biggest problem in the U.S. today – not immigration or the economic recession we are headed for, but rather the slaughter of millions of unborn babies. To cooperate formally (willingly) in abortion is a very serious evil never to be permissible. Ordinary Catholics and Catholic politicians who are openly pro-choice are to be counselled and then if they remain adamant, denied the reception of Holy Communion.

More than just words, Archbishop Cordileone puts pro-life idealism into action for example by participating in projects like 40 Days for Life. He invites us all to follow his example.



**THE MYRA HOUSE 100 FRANCIS STREET
WHERE THE LEGION OF MARY WAS BORN.**

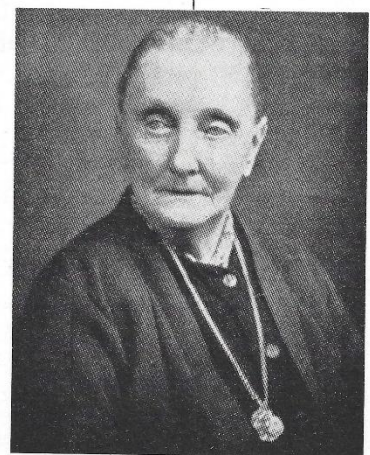
History of the Legion of Mary

(By Ando Perlas, Treasurer, SF Senatus)

In his book, **Miracles on Tap**, Frank Duff provided us a glimpse on how the Legion of Mary was founded through the mysterious workings of the Holy Spirit and with the guidance and protection of Our Blessed Lady. Contrary to the more popular notion that Frank Duff and his band of friends and soldiers of Mary, founded the Legion 'over a course of a single meeting' or a 'Eureka' kind of moment similar to the discovery of electricity or lightning, the Legion of Mary came into existence through a series of events brought about by the desire of ordinary Catholic men and women with a common interest in helping others

particularly in bringing comfort to the sick. Its formation can also be traced back to the yearning of these men and women for an understanding of Mary's role in their Christian lives as proposed by Saint Louis Marie de Montfort in his book, "True Devotion to Mary." Though its official founding date was September 7, 1921, the beginnings of the Legion of Mary might as well have been many years before its first official meeting, having found its roots around 1913, in the Saint Vincent de Paul Society and in the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association. Without any formal or deliberate thought, the eventual formation of the Legion of Mary can only be attributed through the miraculous events authored by the Blessed Virgin Mary herself. Frank Duff was simply playing his part, scripted by Our Lady!

The Legion of Mary originated in **Myra House**, Francis Street Dublin, the property of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. Myra House was formerly the Lord Iveagh Play Center which became vacant upon the building of a new and larger center at Bull Road. The Myra House, gifted to a fine gentleman, **Frank Sweeney**, had been a neglected place and was in very poor condition upon the occupation of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. However, in spite of its derelict condition, there were many wonderful things happening there. These events and activities made possible by the generosity of the members of Saint Vincent de Paul, were to become the precursor to what would be the beginning of the largest Catholic lay apostolic organization in the world. Thanks to these men and in their initiative in helping the poor of Ireland, Myra House was bursting with an abundance of God's graces. On



**Mrs. Elizabeth Kirwan, the first
President of the Legion of Mary
(1921-1930).**

Sundays, free breakfasts to children were provided by the Saint Vincent de Paul members. These charitable works and many others were not only made possible by these men but also from help coming from some women volunteers. They also wanted to share their part in giving. Some of these women would prove pivotal in the formation of the Legion of Mary, as they would later join the Pioneer Association and eventually form the core membership of the first Legion of Mary Praesidium. In 1917, the Saint Vincent de Paul Conference of Saint Nicolas of Myra had grown in membership so that it was necessary to split it. The new Saint Patrick's Conference was to have as its president, Frank Duff.



MR. FRANK SWEENEY, A GOOD FRIEND OF FRANK DUFF WAS REGARDED BY HIM AS THE MAN BEHIND THE SUCCESS OF MYRA HOUSE

There were other activities undertaken by Saint Vincent de Paul such as teaching catechism classes, Enthronement of the Sacred Heart and organizing a branch of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Center. It was from the members of the Pioneers that the beginnings of the Legion took shape. *Father Toher*, a holy priest was spiritual director of both the Saint Vincent De Paul and the Pioneer Association. Frank Duff was a member of both organizations.



FRANK DUFF WITH FATHER TOHER AND FATHER CREEDON

Frank Duff had always acknowledged the significance of the role of Saint Vincent de Paul Society in the formation of the Legion of Mary. However, the Pioneer Association played an important part in the foundation of the Legion and in developing its apostolic and prayer systems. The Pioneer's meeting and its manner of reporting their members' work were adopted by the Legion of Mary. It should be noted that the Pioneer Association became a means of introducing women into the works of Myra House (as only men were members of Saint Vincent de Paul). Among the early recruits of the Pioneer Association was an exemplary woman of faith, *Elizabeth Kirwan* who would later would become the president of the first praesidium of the Legion of Mary and later would be the president of the Concilium Legionis. Mrs. Kirwan was a

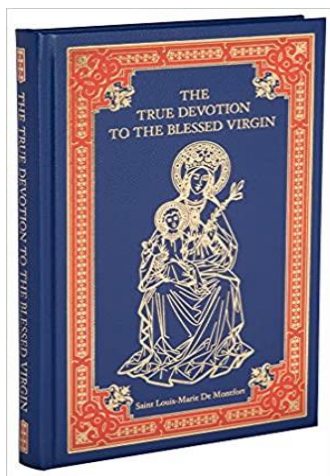
very diligent volunteer and it did not take long for one of the Saint Vincent de Paul members to invite her to be a member of the Pioneer Association. She would then become the president of the Pioneer Association in Myra House and then would assume the position of the first president of the Legion of Mary.

How the Legion of Mary System Developed - (The Legion System - Prayers, Length of the Weekly Meeting, Agenda and Spiritual Directors) The agenda of the Legion of Mary Weekly Meeting uses a very similar format used by the Pioneer Association which was as follows: opening prayer (using the Saint Vincent de Paul Society Prayer Card), followed by the recitation of the Holy Rosary, Spiritual Reading, minutes of the prior meeting and reports of the work done by members. Thus, the Weekly Meeting of the praesidium developed organically taking its shape and form from another source, the Pioneer Association.

It all seemed to happen and come together through the hands of Mary. "It is now amazing to see the way in which Providence was shaping put the whole groundwork and laying the foundations of the Legion of Mary. The prayers foreshadowed the future Legion prayers." (Frank Duff, "Miracles on Tap"). He reiterates this thought as follows: "The Legion of Mary had always declared that it was an unpremeditated organization. Nobody sat down at the beginning and put on paper what the Legion was intended to be. The history of the Legion has that character of one step leading to another step."

Consider another foreshadowing that came out of the Pioneer meetings - the time allotment for each meeting which as prescribed in the Handbook to strictly one and a half hours from the Legion Opening Prayers up to the Concluding Prayers. Frank Duff explained how this happened as follows: "*The Pioneer Council meeting opened at 4:30 p.m. At 6 o'clock, as the Angelus rang out in the church across the road, everybody immediately rose, irrespective of the state of the business, and the Angelus was recited, and with that the meeting itself ended.*" (Frank Duff, "Miracles on Tap").

Many projects were undertaken by this group of Pioneer women. Time simply went very fast - 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920...1921. The Legion of Mary was still to be born in 1921, but the framework and foundation of its prayer life, its structure, its corporal and spiritual works of mercy for the common good and the discipline by which it would operate, had already been laid out years ahead before it even held its first official meeting Unbeknownst to its founding members and certainly not to Frank Duff, God's Providence was mysteriously at work in the formation of the Legion. From these seemingly unrelated events, the greatness of the Legion of Mary would manifest itself in the next hundred years, orchestrated by the Blessed Mother to play a symphony called "the salvation of souls." **WE ARE MERE INSTRUMENTS of her opus.**

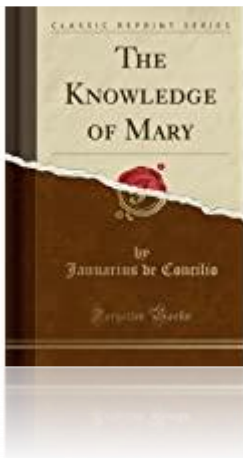


Legion's Devotion to Our Lady (True Devotion to Mary by Saint Louis Marie de Montfort - "The Catalyst" -

It was sometime in 1918 that Frank Duff was first introduced to the True Devotion book by a fellow Blackrock College alumnus and Saint Vincent de Paul

Society member *Vincent Kelly*. Frank Duff was not particularly keen about this book, however, other members seemed to have a keen interest on it as he noticed that they were intently discussing De Montfort's book after one of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society's regular meetings. As if once again through the hands of Mary, after a few days of having heard these discussions, Frank Duff saw a copy of the True Devotion to Mary in a bookstore along River Liffey. He decided to purchase it for around four pence.

Not completely convinced on the proposal of Saint Louis Marie de Montfort, it took another member of Saint Vincent de Paul Society, *Tom Fallon*, to convince and urge Frank Duff to re-read the book again. As a result, of what Frank Duff had called a "forced reading," this time around, finally made an immense impact on the spiritual life of the future Servant of God. The book and its treatise on slavery to Mary finally came all together in Frank Duff's heart and mind. It was going to be the beginning of his consecration and his complete devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.



He described his re-reading of the True Devotion in this way: *"I was engaged on a final forced reading, when a sort of phenomenon occurred. Without any process of thought, leading up to it, something which I could only regard as a divine favour, was granted to me that the book was true, a complete conviction that what I had been regarding as exaggerated and unreal was fully justified. The excesses which I thought I found in the book were really deficiencies in myself, wide gaps of knowledge and comprehension. That moment has remained in my mind with absolute clarity."* ("Frank Duff" by Fr. Robert Bradshaw)

This "wide gap of knowledge and comprehension" that were as it seemed, the cause of Frank Duff's reservation, were finally resolved when he encountered another book on Mary, "*The Knowledge of Mary*" written by Father Januarius De Concilio. He was handed this book by Guest Master Fr. Brendan while in a retreat at the Cistercian Monastery at Mount Melleray, Co, Waterford. He was there to accompany his good friend, *Joseph Gabbett* who needed to overcome his bouts with alcoholism. The book, "*The Knowledge of Mary*" proved to be a vital point in Frank Duff's understanding and appreciation of the work of De Montfort. It was the key that opened wide Frank Duff's understanding of "True Devotion to Mary." Frank Duff explained: "As a total transaction in my Marian philosophy an equal rating on those two books, De Montfort and De Concilio. It took the second one to open the first one, so that I have always thought



FATHER JANUARIUS DE CONCILIO, AUTHOR OF THE BOOK 'KNOWLEDGE OF MARY.'

of them as interdependent halves in this teaching operation which turned my life upside down.” (Dr. Finola Kennedy “Frank Duff: A Life Story”)



Special Meeting on True Devotion to Mary - For the next four years at the Myra House, the Pioneer meetings were held. It was inevitable that the book “True Devotion to Mary” would be a subject of conversation from among its members. “One of the frequent topics of discussions at that time was Grignion de Montfort’s True Devotion to Mary. The idea was very unusual then – almost unknown in fact – and not clearly grasped even by those of the group who were prominent in proposing the Devotion. It is said that Frank Duff was not completely content with what he thought was a bit exaggerated.” (From the article written by Enda Dunleavy, *Mariae Legionis Magazine*, Centenary Issue on Frank Duff).

In order to understand De Montfort’s treatise, following a regular Pioneer Meeting, members of the Council and Frank Duff agreed to hold a special meeting to discuss it. That special meeting took place sometime in August 1921 and within a month after that, the first meeting of the Legion of Mary was held at Myra House. “Later Frank Duff was to write: “It is impossible to believe the connection between the ‘True Devotion’ meeting and the immediate emergence of the Legion from the next monthly meeting was a mere coincidence. There was too much supernatural design and too little human contriving. Nearly four years had gone by without incident until the ‘True Devotion’ meeting was held. The moment it established in minds the true stature of Our Lady in the Christian system things, were ready for the Legion.” (Robert Bradshaw: “Frank Duff”)

Frank Duff further explained this rather miraculous event in his book “Miracles on Tap”: “I have often’ said one of those concerned, ‘tried to place this particular event, it must have been almost immediately before the start of the Legion, a matter of month or so. It was just like making an electric connection and something happens. We spent the evening talking about the Devotion. I do not say that even so we understood it fully, but at least we were in ardent sympathy with it. We desired to practice it. Then at once the Legion happened.” (From “Miracles on Tap” by Frank Duff)

The First Meeting of the Legion of Mary - Within a span of seventeen days from that special meeting on “True Devotion”, certain events, as if arranged by God Himself began to unravel. A member of the Pioneers asked a question that would transform the history of the entire Christian world: “Couldn’t something be done to enable us to undertake the sort of work which the Saint Vincent de Paul Society Brothers are doing every Sunday morning



**ORIGINAL ALTAR USED FOR THE
FIRST LEGION MEETING
(WITHOUT THE VEXILLUM)**

in visiting the Union.” This was a question inspired by a report given by Matt Murray of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, about their hospital visitation work at the Dublin Union Hospital. (As we all know, at the Legion of Mary meeting, one of the purposes of making a verbal report was not only to account for the events and transactions that occurred while on assignment, but also to inspire others. This was the perfect example of inspiration). These Pioneer women wanted to take part in the action as well. A meeting was set to discuss possible ways on how they could participate in these works of mercy. The meeting was going to be on a Wednesday night...thus, the stage had been set for what would be a life changing moment for these men and women and for millions more like us, for that fateful evening the greatest army of Mary Immaculate began its conquest of evil and sin.

(This group was going to be named the Association of Our Lady of Mercy which became later the Legion of Mary. From that initial meeting on September 1921, it took another four years before the name of the Legion of Mary was decided by Frank Duff and the members of the Association of Our Lady of Mercy. The nomenclature that we use now in the Legion (councils, praesidium curiae, etc.) only came at a later stage of our history.)

When the thirteen women of the Pioneer Association along with Father Toher and Frank Duff arrived at the meeting place, there before their eyes, was decked out the statue of the Immaculate Conception, on a white piece of cloth with two candle holders with candle sticks lighted and two vases of flowers. The altar was set up by *Alice Keogh* who later on would become Sister Brendan Mary of the Little Sisters of the Assumption. Already, the Legion was to become an instrument for instilling religious vocations among its members.

(Note the standard of the Legion was not yet determined at this point, but nevertheless, this altar would become the standard altar to be used in all the future Legion of Mary meetings). That was September 7, 1921, yet Frank Duff would later recall that no one in the group could even remember the exact date of the first actual meeting of the Legion of Mary. They needed their old Secretary's Minutes book to ascertain this date in our history.

The Early Apostolic Works of the Legion of Mary (It All Started with Love of Souls) During its early years, there were generally, three types of apostolic works that the Legion of Mary was doing: 1) *Visitation of the Sick (Hospital Ministry)* – visitation and caring for the sick, particularly the cancer patients in the Dublin Union

Hospital. This was the initial apostolic work of the first Praesidium of the Legion of Mary inspired by the Saint Vincent de Paul Society: 2) *Apostolate to the Crowd* (Evangelization of street girls in Dublin's 'red-light district') from which resulted the closure of the Monto District (or "Bentley Place"), Ireland's 'red-light district. 3) *Organizing and Promoting Enclosed Retreats* - as a result of their personal contact with the women of Bentley Place and their desire to enlighten and inspire these young women, victimized by Dublin's poverty and forced into prostitution, to accept God in their lives. and 4) *Operation of hostels* from the need that arose for safe houses and shelter so that these women would no longer need to return to their old environment, thus, a new life for them could begin.

The Weekend Retreats and the Legion Hostels - Frank Duff in his book, "Miracles on Tap" described events that led to the weekend retreats and eventual acquisition of the first of these hostels, Sancta Maria. His narrative is enough to inspire anyone to believe that the Blessed Mother had a special hand in overcoming every obstacle and challenge encountered by the Legion of Mary in their apostolic works. The Legion principle of known as "symbolic action" - overcoming what seems to be impossible tasks - was already at the core of some of the most difficult endeavors of the Legion - organizing a weekend retreat, the birth of Sancta Maria hostel, and the eventual closure of Bentley Place were some of the seemingly impossible tasks to accomplish.

It was in 1922 that as a member of Saint Vincent de Paul Society, Frank Duff visited some tenements in Dublin. As he knocked on one of the doors, he found a lodging house where thirty women, mostly young, were engaged in prostitution. Father Creedon spoke to the owner of the lodging house (a certain Mrs. Slicker) and offered her a sum of money for



MISSSES SCRATTON AND PLUNKETT – EARLY MEMBERS OF THE LEGION OF MARY WHO ASSISTED IN THE FORMATION OF THE LEGION RETREAT FOR THE STREET WOMEN OF IRELAND

the maintenance of these girls. As a way of helping them spiritually, *Father Richard Devane*, a Jesuit priest thought of the idea of conducting a weekend retreat for these street girls. Of course, there would be challenges along the way, among which finding a Retreat house. Frank Duff recalls how the first retreat developed: "Now Fr. Devane believed in the enclosed retreat. He believed it would cure broken limbs. I never saw such a conviction as he had about the value of a weekend retreat. At that particular time, I partially shared his enthusiasm which diminished later... We thought over a lot of things but the only one that seemed to have promise was Father Devane's suggestion that we gather them

together and give them a retreat – a three-day retreat. He volunteered to give the retreat himself.” (*Frank Duff: A Life Story* by Dr. Finola Kennedy)

Miss Josephine Plunkett and Miss Scratton who were looking to do some social work assisted in that historic weekend retreat. These two women would later become stalwarts of the Legion of Mary as they became members of the second praesidium of the Legion of Mary (Association of Our Lady of Mercy). Together with Father Devane, they searched out a venue, being turned down by one place after another. But this did not deter them from achieving success. Eventually, the Sisters of Charity in Balydole, with Mother Angela Walsh as its Superior, agreed to host the weekend retreat.

The Retreat itself brought a sense of satisfaction to the Legion of Mary members seeing these repentant women attending Mass and receiving Holy Communion. But to Frank Duff, there was another business at hand. He knew, that if after the Retreat, these poor girls should come back to their old neighborhood, they would eventually return to their old lives. Frank Duff did not want to have anything to do with that. He wanted to give them a new home, a new life. Thus, the search for yet another place began. Dr. Finola Kennedy describes the miraculous events leading to the acquisition of Sancta Maria Hostel as follows:



**LEGION OF MARY MEMBERS IN FRONT OF
REGINA COELI HOSTEL**

“On Saturday, 15 July 1922, in the middle of the civil war, when ministers and officials were living in Government Buildings in Upper Merrion Street under armed guard, Duff and Creedon obtained an interview with W.T. Cosgrave, Minister for Local Government and soon to be President of the Executive Council of the Free State, at Government Buildings. E.P. McCarron, Secretary of the Department of Local Government,

was also present, and it is likely that he had

facilitated the meeting...Cosgrave recalled how ‘Frank and Fr. Creedon came to the ante-chamber of the cabinet room while a meeting was in progress – asking to see me. It was then he told me of the efforts of Fr. Creedon and himself on behalf of these friendless girls.’ Cosgrave listened intently and asked them to call back for his response in the morning.” (*Frank Duff: A Life Story* by Dr. Finola Kennedy)

The following Sunday, which was also the end of the weekend Retreat, Father Creedon and Frank Duff went back to the Government Buildings and were given a letter. They

were informed that the premises at 76 Harcourt Street had been given to them at their disposal – the Sancta Maria Hostel was born. In its history would be the lives of women transformed by Christ through Mary with the quiet and humble assistance from the Legion of Mary. There were three hostels established by the Legion of Mary: 1) *Sancta Maria Hostel, founded in 1922*; 2) *Morning Star for homeless men founded in 1927* and 3) *Regina Coeli founded in 1930*).

When two of the residents of Sancta Maria Hostel, Lizzie Manley and Kathleen Deegan left the sancta maria hostel and went to a place known as Monto, a notorious area in Dublin, Frank Duff and the Legion had a sudden awareness of the problem of prostitution and vice, and that they needed to do something to further assist young girls to quit this kind of ‘work.



MONTO IS DUBLIN'S RED-LIGHT DISTRICT – "BENTLEY PLACE" WAS A PSEUDONYM USED BY FRANK DUFF

The Bentley Place - Setting the Standard of Legionary Courage and Putting into Practice the Basic Principles of True Devotion to the Nation and the Doctrine of the Mystical Body of Christ

- For almost a hundred years, the Legion of Mary could claim thousands of apostolic work achievements in evangelization and missionary works such as conversions, baptisms, marriages, return to the Catholic faith, and yes, even martyrdom that our brothers and sisters in Communist China experienced.

But none could possibly compare to the success of the Legion in eradicating the evil that was taking hold on the lives of young, poor

and disadvantaged women in one of Ireland’s most notorious red-light district, called Monto particularly a street section called the Bentley Place (which Frank Duff used as a pseudonym in his book, “Miracles on Tap’). Monto had a notoriety in the world as an enclosed section of Dublin run by madams, criminal bosses, thugs and the underworld engaged in crimes, drugs and prostitutions.

There anyone with some money could find all kinds of pleasure. It was also a dangerous place to be in. There was no guarantee that any Legion



FR. ERNEST MACKEY WAS THE INSPIRATION THAT FRANK DUFF NEEDED TOWARDS THE WORK OF CLOSING BENTLEY PLACE

member participating in the Legion's work of evangelization would be left unharmed. Frank Duff and his band of Legionaries, along with holy priests of the Church knew it. But through prayer and courage, they managed the eventual closure of this den of sin and evil - Bentley Place (1926). The 'assault' on Bentley Place started as one of the goals of the Lenten Mission at the Pro-Cathedral Church given by three Jesuit priests, Father Devane, Mackey and Roche. Father Devane a missionary priest, believed that the Lenten Mission would be a 'gigantic fiasco if it did not strike a blow at Bentley Place' (*from the book Miracles on Tap*). As a response to this call, the Missioners (Frank Duff and members of the Legion) began their assault of Monto ("Bentley Place.") The notoriety of Monto was worth mention in the Encyclopedia Britannica of 1903.

Frank Duff and Miss Plunkett set off for Monto on March 22, 1933 as part of what one might call 'exploratory mission' There they found a situation that needed serious attention. Invitations to attend an enclosed retreat at Santa Maria Hostel were extended to these girls as a means to helping them out in their spiritual journey and to get them off the streets of Monto. However, Frank Duff realized that he needed to intensify his campaign against prostitution as a permanent resolution. And as ambitious as it might have sounded during that time, the only way out was to close Bentley Place!

But how do you close such a place? Frank Duff employed the personal contact approach - engaging the girls, madams, operators and pimps into friendly conversation trying to open their hearts and minds to give up their trade for a new life and eventually for God.

Father Ernest Mackey and Father Roche and Legion members also executed a strategic battle plan that consisted of prayer, action and seeking the help of authorities. The result of the Legion's assault on Bentley Place can be considered one of the greatest success stories of conversions in our Christian faith. Through perseverance, the Legion closed down one the greatest sources of sin and evil in the world, Bentley Place.

Frank Duff's method was old-fashioned but proved to be most effective - persuasion. The Missioners started held with a series of meetings and interviews with some of the brothel owners. They tried to convince them to stop their operations. However, not all agreed in spite of these efforts. And thus, it became necessary to look for the other option they had planned - go to the police authorities.

When Frank Duff met with the Garda Police Commissioner, General Murphy, he could not have expected anything, except perhaps some form of bureaucratic response. But God was on his side. After explaining their efforts, the Chief Commissioner simply stated a brief but decisive statement in Frank Duff's favor: "That is a wonderful record of accomplishment - a regular saga. Is there any way which you think I can help?" With that response, a police raid was to take place.

On March 12, 1925, under the supervision of Colonel David Neligan and Captain Ennis, a large police operation commenced which resulted in 120 arrests (only two were charged). More importantly, this signaled the closure of Bentley Place, winning souls back into God's abode. Humble in the success of the work done in Bentley Place, Frank Duff attributes it as a "purely natural transaction." (*From the Frank Duff Interview on Bentley Place*).

But the story does not end there. The following day, Father Mackey and Frank Duff visited the girls in their cells at Bridewell where they were being held. Cell by cell, they talked to them and inquired on their situation. In each one of them, Frank Duff never gave up on a soul - in spite of their past, he saw in them Jesus Christ. One such woman was Mrs. Carr. Frank Duff showed compassion to her, did not judge her of her regarding her past. "Despite her inhuman means of livelihood, Betty was a soft, good-natured woman." ("Miracles on Tap", Frank Duff). As each of them was being released, all were invited to the Sancta Maria hostel where hope would await them.



The Mystical Body of Christ - Though the Handbook at this point in our history (1922) had not been written or published, these early apostolic works of the Legion of Mary, the care and love for all those who are suffering in their temporal and spiritual needs, would become the very principle upon which Legionary service would be based, the doctrine of the Mystical Body of Christ. Saint Paul in his epistles, described the Church as an extension of the Body of Christ, his mystical body, and thus he taught us that like a human body, the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church, is made up of members who

are dependent on the Head, Christ for their nourishment and thus are interdependent upon each other for their growth and nourishment. Frank Duff wrote extensively about the importance of this doctrine and reminded every Legionary that if this is not completely understood or practiced, Legionary service would be incomplete or deficient.

Frank Duff in his article "***Understanding the Mystical Body***" puts forth in the minds of the Legionaries, that on our own, we cannot do much service to others as we are feeble and weak. However, with Christ in us and us in Christ through the Church, and her sacramental life, our apostolic works and its effects are very powerful and profound. Christ who is alive, speaks through us. "I have said that apostleship depends upon this doctrine of the Mystical Body. If that idea be taken away, what is apostleship? You and I going out to the people in our feebleness trying to tell them something about the Lord and His way? Not at all. It is the Lord going out in us, which is a different thing altogether. The Head depends on His members. If they do not lend themselves to Him, His purposes

are frustrated. And on the other hand, without Him we are nothing. With Him we can literally do all things. Life becomes an adventure comparable to Christ's own life on earth. If Our Lord is carrying on His life, in the Mystical Body, His full life, then we should find in that Body the exhibition of all His special features. One of these features, the apostolate, we have discussed." (Frank Duff: "Understanding the Mystical Body").



True Devotion to the Nation - Frank Duff was adamant that there should be no politics in the Legion of Mary. This was especially important as the Legion of Mary was founded during a time of intense civil strife in Ireland. The Legion of Mary in its recruitment of members should be indifferent towards the political allegiances of potential members so that everyone regardless of their

political affiliations, ethnicity or social stature would feel welcome. The Legion of Mary is in a global arena, present in 170 countries around the world, each having its own political system with various ideologies and intricacies - and thus to safeguard its system from being used as a political machinery in order to gain some form of advantage, the Handbook categorically states that no "Legionary body shall allow its influence to be used for any political purpose."

Yet, let us not be too quick to make conclusions here. Frank Duff proposes no separation between the material or temporal needs of the individual from their spiritual needs. Every person is created into the image of God, so that everyone who is part of the Mystical Body of Christ should be cared for - totally body and soul. Every praesidium of the Legion of Mary, must therefore carry out its works at the service of the entire person and the community from a spiritual, moral, temporal, material and social dimension. The Legion is as patriotic as Frank Duff was. We are to serve the need of the citizenry of one's country, not only in time of war, but also in time of peace. Mary and Jesus, served the needs of their beloved land of Nazareth and its people - families, friends, strangers and foes. They loved that town and their country.

"In the mystical Nazareth, it is still a question of Mary tending her Son. She is not interested alone in feeding him and unfolding his mind. She is solicitous about every aspect of his life, his physical welfare, his comfort, his recreation, all things which would surround him in all people. She looks on his life as a whole. It would be intolerable to her that he should be afflicted in any department. It is certain that she would wish to remedy anything which was wrong. And this is the basis of True Devotion to the Nation." (Frank Duff: True Devotion to the Nation)

True Devotion to the Nation is the Legion's call for service - the spiritual as the primary motive with an awareness of the temporal concern of each person. It takes its foundation on the Mystical Body of Christ. Loving service to the person cannot be separated between their material and spiritual needs. They are interwoven in the thread of human existence. The Legion praesidium's Christian motivation is to uplift the lives of all towards holiness such that one receives spiritual nourishment for the soul and the body. Frank Duff puts it in this manner: "Each man must think in terms of his neighbor, not only his soul but of the whole man, his body and his environment. This is the center point of a rightly understood patriotism. All nationhood depends on the proper understanding and application of that rule of thought." True patriotism engages the two main sectors of human society - the Church (religion) and the State (political). Both must be in consonance for the service of souls!

"Look peoples of the world! If such be the Legion, would it not seem as if it offers, ready for use, a chivalry with magic in it to weld all men together in high enterprise for God: in service for transcending that legendary warfare for King Arthur, who in Tennyson's beautiful verse - "drew the knighterranhood of his realm: and all the realms: together in that Order of his Table Round: a glorious company, a **flower of men to serve as a model for the mighty world: and** be the fair beginning at a time." (HB p. 77)

Father Thomas P. O'Flynn C.M. a former Spiritual Director of Concilium Legionis Mariae expounded on True Devotion to the Nation as such: "But let us emphasize that what the Legion has to offer to the temporal order is not exceptional knowledge or expertise, not outstanding skills, not even great numbers of workers - but the spiritual dynamism which has made it a world force and which can be harnessed to uplift any section of the People of God who have the insight and the good sense to employ it. While shunning suggestive of worldliness, nevertheless the Legion must ever be mindful of the world in the sense of the above Decree. It must realize that has to live amid material things and salvation is to a large extent bound up with them."



World Wide Expansion - After the formation of the first Praesidium (Our Lady of Mercy) in 1921, three more conferences (Praesidia) were formed - Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Immaculate Conception and Our Lady Refuge of Sinners, with almost one hundred (100) active members by the first anniversary of the Legion in 1922. Five years later, the amazing worldwide growth of the Legion



ARCHBISHOP DONALD MACKINTOSH OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF GLASGOW GRANTED PERMISSION TO ESTABLISH THE LEGION OF MARY IN HIS DIOCESE. FIRST COUNTRY OUTSIDE OF IRELAND TO WELCOME THE LEGION OF MARY.

began first in 1927 in Waterford, followed by Glasgow (Scotland) in 1928, England in 1929, the United States and India in 1931, Australia in 1933, China in 1937, in Africa in 1938, in the Philippines in 1940. Today, the Legion of Mary is in over 170 countries with the Legion Handbook translated into 50 different languages. The Legion's phenomenal worldwide expansion could be attributed to a number of factors such as the Legion's favorable

reputation in the Church for its missionary zeal, the approval of the Local Ordinary and of the Pope, but none more effective than the

engagement of full time Legion Envoys who gave up their family and career to commit their lives for its sake. The growth of the Legion was also the result of the graces that flowed from the *1932 Eucharistic Congress held in Dublin (June 21-26, 1932)* during which many of the participant such as bishops and priests from different parts of the world were invited to the Legion headquarters. This resulted to an increase of awareness and interest in the Legion of Mary. Today, the Legion is present in 170 countries with more



BARTLEY OLIVER - A WEALTHY SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS MAN FUNDED THE FIRST LEGION ENVOY

than four million active members and five million auxiliary members.



MARY DUFFY - THE FIRST LEGION ENVOY TO THE US PRESIDED THE FIRST SAN FRANCISCO CURIA MEETING

Legion Envoys and the San Francisco Connection

Since 1931 countless number of Legion Envoys had been employed by the Legion for the purpose of extending the Legion of Mary to various parts of the world. To name all of them and relate their personal stories of courage and heroism would be a herculean task. Their accomplishments are known only to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We are now reaping the results of their efforts - the fact that one can go in any part of the world and most likely find a praesidium of the Legion of Mary in operation. The Legion's expansion to other countries took a 'giant step' upon the development of the system of

employing Legion envoys. But this would have not been possible without the assistance of a wealthy San Francisco business man, **Bartley Oliver**, who offered to finance the living expenses the first Legion Envoy, **Mary Duffy**, to the western part of US and Canada in 1934. Dr. Finola Kennedy in the book, "Frank Duff: A Life Story" described the rather accidental but very providential role of Bartley Oliver: "The system of the Legion envoys whereby a legionary volunteers to work full time for the Legion in a particular area began in 1934 as a result of an initiative by a wealthy businessman, Bartley Oliver, who lived in San Francisco. Oliver, read an article on the Morning Star Hostel written by Alice Curtayne in an American Magazine. He then wrote the Legion in Dublin inviting a representative of the Legion to come and start a similar hostel in San Francisco offering to pay the expenses of the representative. Because it seemed from Oliver's letter that he thought that the Legion was an organization specifically for running hostels, a reply was sent explaining that this was just one aspect of the Legion's work. As a result of Oliver's intervention, Celia Shaw went to the United States on a fact-finding mission in October 1933. In the course of her exploratory mission to the United States, Shaw covered a large area and started a number of praesidia. When she met Oliver in San Francisco, he offered to finance a full time Legion volunteer in North America. Mary Duffy, thus became the first envoy of the Legion of Mary to the US leaving Ireland in June 1934. Her 'territory' comprised Canada and the western states. In 1936, two more envoys, John Murray and Una O'Byrne were appointed." (From *Frank Duff: A Life Story* by Finola Kennedy)

The Legion Envoys and the Philippine Connection - JOAQUINA LUCAS -



JOAQUINA LUCAS, A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE LEGION OF MARY IN THE PHILIPPINES WAS ALSO A LEGION ENVOY TO THE LATIN AMERICA, JAPAN, INDONESIA AND KOREA.

Considered as one of the longest serving Envoys of the Legion of Mary (1946-1965), Joaquina, a professor, joined the Legion of Mary in 1940 and became a founding member of the first praesidium in the Hospicio de San Jose, Manila, an orphanage, hospital and home for the aged all combined, run by the Sisters of Charity. Their Spiritual Director was Fr, Manuel Gracia, C.M., the founder of the Legion in the Philippines. In this group was her close friend Pacita Santos, another Legion Envoy, who was recruited by Joaquina. In 1946, Joaquina was appointed the first Envoy of the Legion of Mary to Latin America, beginning her work in Mexico and then traveling down to South America where she was assigned to Peru, Argentina and Brazil. Joaquina spoke English and Spanish with equal fluency. She also learned to speak Portuguese fluently. In 1953, she had the opportunity to polish the Spanish speaking skills of Alfie Lambe whom she met along with Seamus Grace upon their arrival in South America as Envoys. Having completed her

assignment in South America, she came to Dublin and later on was appointed as envoy to Portugal, returned home to the Philippines and then in 1963 was sent to Japan, Indonesia and Korea. She died in 1988 on the Feast of the Miraculous Medal.

Pacita Santos, a law graduate from the University of Santo Tomas (Manila), Pacita Santos was recruited by Joaquina Lucas to the Legion of Mary. She arrived at Bilbao, Spain on February 5, 1950 as a Legion Envoy to this Catholic country and was regarded as very instrumental to the expansion of the Legion in Spain. To this day, the Madrid Senatus "carries many of her suggestions she made to the first Spanish Legionaries over 50 years ago." (Madrid Senatus Report to the Concilium). During the early part of her extension work, she encountered some challenges as not everyone in Spain seemed ready for the Legion. Like every faithful Legionary, her courage and determination eventually won over the ecclesiastical authorities of Spain.



PACITA SANTOS, LEGION ENVOY TO SPAIN



Alfie Lambe - On 16th July 1953, the two envoys, Seamus Grace and Alfie Lambe, took off for Colombia. They were greeted in Bogota by a host of legionaries including envoy Joaquina Lucas. Alfie was to work initially with Joaquina until she was assigned to Brazil. In February 1954, he set off alone to Ecuador to address the Bishops Conference there. After setting up innumerable praesidia, including

amongst the native Indians and in the biggest prison in Quito, he set off for Bolivia and from there to Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Chile, Bolivia and Uruguay. His irrepressible energy amazed all those who witnessed him at work. He had spent a great part of his youth in the novitiate of the Irish Christian Brothers, but had to leave because of his delicate health. God had bestowed on him great natural gifts, a personality which attracted souls to the service and love of God, an infectious enthusiasm and a facility for learning languages, which enabled him to rapidly attain fluency in Spanish and Portuguese. Alfie Lambe died in Buenos Aires at the young age of 26 (January 21, 1959) but by



ALFIE LAMBE, SEAMUS GRACE WITH JOAQUINA LUCAS WELCOMING THEM AT THE BOGOTA

then, had already accomplished so much for the Legion of Mary. Before the famous ‘**Just Do It**’ slogan came into being in the 90’s, Alfie Lambe had already begun using it as his motivation in his tireless effort establishing praesidia and councils in South America. When asked by the Irish Ambassador to Argentina, “How do you really know that you are following your vocation?” he replied: “I wondered about it myself. I believe one has simply to go on doing what one is doing at the moment. *Just do it.*” (From the book, “*Alfie Lambe, Legion Envoy* by Hilde Firtel). The Cause for the Beatification of Alfie Lambe was introduced by the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires in 1978 and closed there on 26th March 2015, after which the papers were transferred to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome.

Edel Quinn – Sifting through the book, “Edel Quinn” by Cardinal Suenens, one would see the ordinariness of Edel Quinn as a young woman (a lover of golf, animals and a penchant for music and the arts) and her extraordinary holiness wrapped in prayer, sacraments and apostolic vigor. Early on she had decided to give her life to a life of vocation by wanting to join the Poor Clare Convent but was prevented because of



advanced tuberculosis. Thus, when Pierre Landrin, the manager of the company she worked for, proposed marriage to her, her choice was clear, she belonged to God alone. Born in Castlemagner, County Cork, Edel Mary Quinn was the eldest child of bank official Charles Quinn and Louisa Burke Browne of County Clare. She was a great-granddaughter of William Quinn. She was recruited by her friend Mona McCarthy to the Legion of Mary, becoming president of a praesidium whose main work was visiting women’s lodging houses and caring for prostitutes. In 1936, at age 29, with a delicate health condition, Edel Quinn,

became the Legion Envoy to South Africa (joining another Legion Envoy, Ruby Dennison). She departed for Mombasa and began work in Nairobi having been told by Bishop Heffernan that this was the most convenient base for her work. By the outbreak of World War II, she was working as far off as Dar es Salaam and Mauritius. In 1941, she was admitted to a sanatorium near Johannesburg. While fighting her illness, in seven and a half years as envoy, she established hundreds of Legion praesidia and councils. Edel Quinn died on May 12, 1944 and her Cause for Canonization was introduced in 1952.



EDEL QUINN AT A YOUNG AGE

THE LEGION COMES TO COMMUNIST CHINA - MARTYRDOM A PART OF LEGIONARY VOCATION - The one



FATHER AEDAN MCGRATH COLUMBAN MISSIONARY WHO SPREAD THE LEGION OF MARY IN CHINA. WAS IMPRISONED BY THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS FOR HIS INVOLVEMENT IN LEGION EXPANSION.

hundred years of existence of the Legion of Mary, covered a period in history that brought about significant events in the world – the Second World War, the Atom Bomb, the Holocaust, the Great Depression, the Russian Revolution, the rise of communism in Russia and the establishment of the People’s Republic of China (China Communist Party) and the Legion of Mary’s subsequent ban in this country as it regarded the Legion “Public Enemy Number One.”

The Legion of Mary in China began sometime in 1937 upon its introduction by a Columban missionary priest, Fr. Joe Hogan. However, it was not until 1946, that the Legion of Mary went experienced a period of unprecedented growth, thanks mainly to the efforts of another Columban priest, *Father Aedan McGrath*. Reading through some of the historical events that led Father McGrath’s involvement in the Legion of Mary, you would find that it all goes back to Edel Quinn! How? Edel Quinn while in

Africa met Archbishop Riberi who was the Internuncio to China. Impressed with the work of the Legion of Mary in Africa, Archbishop Riberi felt compelled to ask Father Aedan McGrath to spread the Legion in China (in similar fashion to that in Africa). With the endorsement and support of Archbishop Riberi and Fr. McGrath’s heroic efforts, the Legion began to grow in Communist China with such rapid pace, that within a year, approximately one thousand praesidia had been established. Within a two-year period, there were already two thousand praesidia in this communist country. The Communist Party which had taken a stronghold throughout China in 1949 became aware of the Legion’s success in attracting members to its ranks and requested Father McGrath to stop all its activities. However, after Father McGrath gave them a copy of the Legion Handbook and reassured the officials that the Legion is but a spiritual organization and not a counter reformation movement, they allowed the



FR. AEDAN MCGRATH AND FRANK DUFF



FATHER AEDAN MCGRATH WITH SAINT JOHN PAULL II

Legion to continue. However, it was in 1950 that troubles began to arise upon the proclamation of the Communist Party's intent to establish "Patriotic Churches" that essentially would place the Catholic Church under government control. Many loyal Catholics, including members of the Legion of Mary refused to participate in this movement that would have led to the formation of a schismatic church. It did not take that long for the Communist Party to persecute members of the Legion of Mary that included Father Aedan McGrath whom they sent to prison on September 7, 1951 where he remained until April 28, 1954. The Chinese Communist persecution of the Catholic Church and that of the Legion led to arrest of thousands and even the martyrdom of our brothers and sisters estimated to be at least 4,000. Among those Legion members martyred in Communist China was *Father Joseph Seng*, Spiritual Director and a joint translator of the Legion Handbook in Chinese. There were many more whose names are known only to God and the Blessed Mother. Thanks to their heroism, we have so many allies in heaven praying for us.



FR. JOSEPH SENG, SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR OF THE LEGION IN SHANGHAI DIED AS A MARTYR DURING HIS IMPRISONMENT IN COMMUNIST CHINA

the Communist Party to persecute members of the Legion of Mary that included Father Aedan McGrath whom they sent to prison on September 7, 1951 where he remained until April 28, 1954. The Chinese Communist persecution of the Catholic Church and that of the Legion led to arrest of thousands and even the martyrdom of our brothers and sisters estimated to be at least 4,000. Among those Legion members martyred in Communist China was *Father Joseph Seng*, Spiritual Director and a joint translator of the Legion Handbook in Chinese. There were many more whose names are known only to God and the Blessed Mother. Thanks to their heroism, we have so many allies in heaven praying for us.

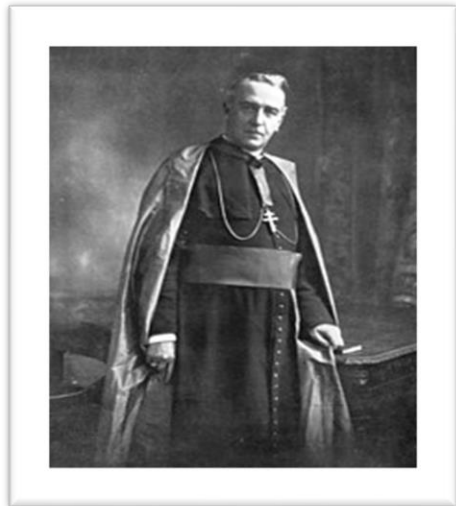


MICHAEL EKENG - FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE LEGION OF MARY IN THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

Michael Ekeng - The first president of the Legion of Mary in the entire continent of Africa was a slave, tasted the bitterness of slavery, only to have bought his freedom from his Protestant master, kind enough to have allowed him to attend Bible classes and gain education. Thus, he found his way into the Catholic Church by way of the most unlikely roadmap being a slave and owned by a Protestant master. Amazingly he became the 'right hand' person of the Most Reverend Father James Moynagh, Bishop of Calabar of Saint Patrick's Missionary Society in charge of Ifuho Mission, in extending and perfecting the Legion of Mary in the Calabar Diocese.

Michael Ekeng worked tirelessly for the cause of the Legion of Mary in Nigeria seeing its growth from a modest

eighteen praesidia to around one hundred fifty over his years of diligent work. Michael Ekeng died in 1958, but not after having set an example of Legionary courage, self-sacrifice and a genuine love for Jesus and Mary. The most Rev. T McGettrick, Bishop of Ogoja, Nigeria describes Michael Ekeng outstanding zeal: *"Michael Ekeng's capacity for work was amazing. I have known him to start from Calabar at 1 A.M., travel to Oran 18 miles by canoe, go on from there to a Legion meeting 55 miles away, and after the meeting cycle on 12 miles*



IN 1935, ARCHBISHOP BYRNE RECOGNIZED THE LEGION OF MARY AS AN OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

to the nearest mission, fasting all the time, to receive Holy Communion. He was a fine example of what Bishop Moynagh called "the wonderful effects of the Legion on the legionaries themselves." (From the Maria Legionis Magazine, September 1984 Issue).

A Side Note on our History: Ecumenism - Prayer for Christian Unity, League for the Reunion of Christendom, Formation of the Mercier Society and the Pillar of Fire Society -

We are all members of the Mystical Body of Christ. Frank Duff also affirmed that our separated brothers (non-Catholics, particularly the Protestants and the Jews) if given a chance to be heard in respectful dialogue, mutual respect and genuine openness, would develop in them, a listening heart, hopefully becoming desirous of learning and understanding of the Catholic Faith. Unknown to many, Frank Duff was behind a number of important works directed towards promoting Christian unity to the one true faith. Unlike those 'armchair quarterback' ecumenists, who sat and discussed the faith with others in an arms-length manner, Frank Duff's approach was that of personal contact. He went out and established regular meetings with non-Catholics in very friendly and respectful discussions. However, Frank Duff remained truthful to his conviction, that salvation, though open to all, is through the Catholic Church - this is why among the three general apostolic works of the Legion (the so-called 3 C's - conversion, conservation and consolation), he puts conversion as its main work priority. In his book, "Victory through Mary" he writes on this very important matter: *"So it is with mixed feelings that the Legion finds itself a principal exponent of the correct position: which is that only the Catholic Church contains the fulness of truth and that all other religions are either false or only partially true."* ("Victory Through Mary" by Frank Duff).

Around 1940, Frank founded a prayer movement called a *League for the Reunion of Christendom*. He also composed a prayer for unity with each phrase of the prayer having a reference to a particular text of Scripture. Each person, Catholic or Protestant who agreed to undertake to pray this prayer would be enrolled as members of the League. In 1941, he also founded the *Mercier Society* to foster dialogue and an open forum to

exchange views of the Protestant positions and Catholic doctrines. (N.B. *The Mercier Society* was named after Desire-Joseph Cardinal Mercier, a proponent of ecumenical dialogue with the Anglicans). Frank Duff also founded the *Pillar of Fire Society* in 1942 as a vehicle to promote dialogue with the Jewish people as anti-Semitism had permeated much of Europe.

Ecclesiastical Approval of the Legion of Mary and the Handbook Imprimatur were Hard-Earned

The history of the Legion would not be complete without presenting a narrative on how it received ecclesiastical approval to be recognized as an official church organization and how the Legion of Mary Handbook received its imprimatur from the Archdiocese of Dublin where it all originated. To say that it was a 'piece of cake' would be a gross understatement and would not lend credence to the efforts of Frank Duff and his close supporters who worked, labored and sacrificed to ensure that the Legion Handbook would be free from any doctrinal error. While it took six years, from October 2, 1929 to January 3, 1935 for the Legion of Mary attain its formal status and be recognized as an organization of the Church, it took another two years to receive an imprimatur for the Legion Handbook. In between these years are events in our history that consisted of disappointments, rejections, doubts and to put it lightly, misgivings between the Legion and Church hierarchy of Ireland. In the end, it was the Legion of Mary's virtue of obedience that proved to be the pivotal element in its formal recognition by the Irish ecclesiastical authorities. Here is a summation or highlights of



these events from the book, "Frank Duff: A Life Story" by Dr. Finola Kennedy.

On October 2, 1929, a request for the approval of the Legion of Mary was submitted to Archbishop Joseph Byrne. As no official reply from the Archdiocese had been received, Frank Duff asked his friend and supporter, the President of Ireland W.T. Cosgrave to intervene on behalf of the Legion. President Cosgrave in turn, approached the Papal Nuncio, Paschal Robinson who recommended the Legion 'in the highest terms.'

W. T. COSGRAVE, A LAUREATE MEMBER OF THE LEGION OF MARY WAS THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE IRISH FREE STATE. A FRIEND AND SUPPORTER OF FRANK DUFF HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE ACQUISITION OF SANCTA MARIA HOSTEL AND IN HIS ENDORSEMENT OF THE LEGION OF MARY.

It should be noted that Frank Duff had failed to get support from Archbishop Byrne despite the many efforts he had mustered. Dr. Finola Kennedy writes: "Notes by Duff in preparation for his meeting with the Nuncio included the fact that he was not getting help from the Church as

represented by the ecclesiastical authorities, but rather was being 'impeded in every possible way.' Instead, he had to look to the government for sympathy."



'The Big Six' – Frank Duff at the Garden Centenary Party Reunion of Blackrock College Students on 10th July 1960, with from left to Right – Dr. C Heerey CSSp., Archbishop of Onitsha, Mgr. Alfred O' Rahilly, Cardinal D'Alton, Primate of Ireland, Eamonn de Valera, Uachtarán na hEireann and Dr. John Charles McQuaid, Archbishop of Dublin.

The irony of this whole approval process was that, just around the time while the formal approval of the Legion of Mary was pending from the ecclesiastical authority of the Archdiocese of Ireland, Frank Duff was received by Pope Pius XI on May 23, 1931 in which the Legion received favorable reactions from the Vatican. Frank Duff who was with Monsignor O'Brien discussed

the Legion of Mary for about twenty minutes with Pope Pius XI. Frank Duff recalled he received from the Pope 'marvelous endorsements' for the Legion of Mary (and yet, in Ireland, the approval for the Legion was still pending.)

A formal report on his 1931 papal visit was submitted by Frank Duff to Cardinal MacRory, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland. Cardinal MacRory in response to Frank Duff's letter promised him that he would try to talk to the Archbishop Byrne and inquire on the position of the Legion of Mary. Sadly, Cardinal MacRory reported back to Frank Duff that there was nothing definite coming from the archbishop.

Four months after Frank Duff's meeting with the Pope, the Legion still had no official status in the Archdiocese of Ireland. In a letter dated September 1931, written by one of the Vicars, Msgr. Waters to Father Flood Waters wrote: "pleasure of informing you that the "Legion of Mary" has no diocesan approval i.e., from His Grace and I think therefore that you ought to take no official part in its promotion in Howth." As of 1932, almost eleven years after its official founding, no diocesan approval for the Legion of Mary or for the Handbook (imprimatur) had been received, though a copy of the Handbook had been sent to Archbishop Byrne in 1928.

One could only imagine the anxiety and uncertainty surrounding the Legion of Mary at this point of its history. However, Frank Duff and the Legion of Mary's supporters, particularly the priests who believed in it, would never surrender. They knew that at the end, if Our Lady wanted the Legion of Mary manifests itself to the world, it would happen and prevail. This is what postponed success meant, after all.

On September 16, 1933, Frank Duff and some members of the Legion of Mary, had an audience with Pope Pius XI wherein he gave another strong endorsement for the Legion of Mary. He begins his letter as follows: "We give a very special blessing this beautiful and holy work of the Legion of Mary. Its name speaks for itself."

The following year 1934, saw some progress being made regarding the approval of the Legion of Mary. In May, a committee headed by Monsignor Waters, one of the vicars of the Archdiocese of Dublin, presented to Frank Duff a draft of a proposed Constitution of the Legion of Mary. Having reviewed the draft, Frank Duff was a bit disappointed on what had been proposed on two accounts: the draft limited the membership of the Legion to only women and that the Spiritual Director would be afforded a veto on all of its proceedings.



FR. CREEDON, VERONICA O'BRIEN (ENVOY TO FRANCE), FRANK DUFF AND FR. TOHER C.1942

The virtue of obedience, a Legionary characteristic was being tested. Muriel Wailes, a Legion member, having heard from Venerable Archdeacon Peter that the Legion of Mary's application for official recognition as an official association of the Catholic Church was still being deliberated by authorities, told the Archdeacon that the Legionaries are completely loyal to the archbishop.

She said that if "Dr. Byrne (referring to the archbishop) said tomorrow that he wished us to leave the Legion, not one of us would attend another meeting. That this was the spirit inculcated in the Legion." (*Frank Duff: A Life Story* by Dr. Finola Kennedy)

On July 27, 1934, a final meeting between the vicars of the Archdiocese of Dublin (Monsignors Waters and Cronin) and the Legion of Mary was held (Frank Duff and May Mortell, the Vice President of the Concilium in 1932). On August 14, 1934, Cronin told Frank Duff that he was submitting the final draft of the Legion Constitution to the Archbishop.

Finally, after almost six years, **the Legion of Mary received from the Archdiocese of Dublin its official recognition as an association of the Catholic Church on January 3, 1935!**

Two years later, the first edition of the Legion of Mary Handbook would receive its imprimatur from the Archdiocese of Dublin on March 7, 1937. The nihil obstat was from Michael Dempsey. To further ascertain that nothing in its contents would contradict any official teachings of the Catholic Church, Dempsey sought the help of a Dominican Theologian, Thomas Garde, O.P. As always, the struggles were there, but in the end, there would always be a 'silver lining' for the army of Our Lady.



The Life of Francis Michael Duff

Legion of Mary Founder and Servant of God

(Ando Perlas)

Over a period of one hundred years, Frank Duff's life has been chronicled in books, magazines and in an endless number of articles allowing one to take a glimpse of his beautiful life. The real reflection of this man of faith, a Servant of God, can be best seen in the results of his efforts, particularly the foundation of the largest lay apostolic organization in the world, the Legion of Mary. Further, Frank Duff's reflection on the Legion does not lie on the many apostolic achievements of its millions of members but rather on the members' ordinariness wrapped in their holiness as simple lay folks of the Church. He understood the role of the laity and their special place in the Church. He was inspired by holy and learned men of the Church such as Cardinal Newman and Cardinal Suenens. He was respected by Popes, Cardinals, Bishops and priests for his vision. But it was the simple folk with little formal education such as Joe Gabbett of Saint Vincent de Paul Society who influenced him the most and molded his spirituality. Frank Duff, in spite of his brilliance and extra ordinary intelligence and talents, was a 'regular' and ordinary guy with a great sense of humor. He was sports-minded an avid reader, yet profound in his spirituality. He had a soft heart for the simple people. This spirit was carried upon the Legion of Mary members whose knowledge of the faith would may never come close to any scholar or theologian and yet, they were the ones whose simplicity wrought havoc on Satan because of their determination to inspire, teach evangelize, what the Legion and Frank Duff called "the most wretched and dejected members of the population". It was then providential that Mrs. Kirwan, the oldest and considered the poorest woman in the group of Pioneer members would become the first president of the Legion of Mary in 1921 – guiding Frank Duff to bring forth this spirit of simplicity and poverty in the Legion of Mary. His extra-ordinariness is his holiness expressed sincerely for his love of Jesus Christ, His Mystical Body, the Church, and his unyielding devotion and dedication to His Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Frank Duff's legacy will live on forever in every faithful and loyal member of the Legion of Mary. He was quiet, unassuming but filled with passion for God's mission. He was a rebel of his time, armed with the Rosary and nourished by the Body of Christ. This is his story.



SUSAN LAETICIA AND JOHN DUFF - PARENTS OF FRANK DUFF



Catholic Family - Frank Duff, founder of the Legion of Mary, was born in Dublin (at 97 Phibsboro Road) on June 7, 1889, is the eldest of seven children of John Duff (died on December 23, 1918) and Susan Laetitia Freehill (who died on February 27, 1950). The Duffs were blessed with seven children - Frank, being the eldest of the siblings - Isabel Maud (born in 1891) was next to Frank, then followed by the twins born in 1893: Letitia (who lived only for nine months) and Eva (who died only at the age of 14); John Edwin (born in 1895), Sara-Geraldine (born in 1897) and Ailish (born in 1902). It should be noted that John Duff (Frank's father) was a very dedicated husband and father and did very well in his work and career. Susan Laetitia (Frank's mother) was

an accomplished pianist and singer who lived in England and returned back to Dublin to be with her family.

Michael Freehill, Frank Duff's grandfather was a retired schoolmaster from Co. Meath. In 1849, during one of the most difficult times in Ireland (food crisis and fever epidemic), Michael Freehill became the first Catholic appointed to head a State-run school, the Model School in Trim, Co. Meath. One of Michael Freehill's pupils was a student named John Duff to whom he would later introduce his daughter, Susan Laetitia - the future Mrs. John Duff, mother of Francis Michael Duff.

After the death of his father, Frank Duff, the eldest, was to become the main financial support of his family. He performed this new role to the best of his ability taking seriously his career in Ireland's Land Commission. He took care of his mother and his siblings and was extremely affected by their sickness and deaths, which eventually left Frank the last survivor in his family. He later described this period of his responsibility of becoming the head of the Duff family in this way: "Of course, after Blackrock, I would normally have proceeded to the university. Now all that had to be jettisoned and I went to the grinders at Skerry's College... and then I passed into the Civil Service. I got first place in Ireland in the examinations, 16th place in the United Kingdom... From the first minute my money was of great importance. My father died in 1918. He died of cancer and from that moment, and even before, I had to be the mainstay, but from that moment on, you see, I was head of the house, and I was completely necessary and there was no thought in my mind of anything else but attending to that. I had the fullest sense of responsibility for my brother and sisters. I regarded myself as responsible for them. I had no idea of marriage for instance." (*Frank Duff: A Life Story by Dr. Finola Kennedy*).

“Big Brother Loyal and Loving Son” – Frank Duff had a wonderful and loving relationship with both his parents. From his father, he learned much of life and was well provided for – a comfortable life, family values which would become the foundation of his caring and loving attitude towards his younger sisters, brother and mother. He helped in the education of his sisters who, like Frank Duff, had brilliant minds and qualified to enter medical school, eventually becoming medical doctors. He was also very fond and loving particularly, of his youngest sister, Ailish.

His relationship with his mother was special. His mother was the pillar of the Duff household, always patient and loving. After the death of his father, Frank purchased a house in Dartmouth Square for his mother and sister Isabel. “Old reliability” was what his mother called him because of his dependability, always being there for her. “But whatever he could do for her he did. When he was twenty-one years old, he was already earning a good salary and so he took her to a holiday in Paris. Practically ever (sic) year,



he took her to London.” (*“Frank Duff”* by Fr. Robert Bradshaw). This relationship he had with his own mother - his love, loyalty and faithfulness to his earthly mother, would be made more special and real upon his deepening relationship with the Mother of God, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Education and Career - In 1899, when the Duffs moved to a larger house in Clarinda Park in Dun Laoghaire, he transferred from the Jesuit Belvedere College to Blackrock College under the charge of the Holy Ghost Fathers. While the Duffs enjoyed a relatively comfortable and wealthy lifestyle, thanks to a stable salary of John Duff and some inheritance received by Laetitia, it did not last forever. The

Duffs suffered financial misfortunes as a result of the devaluation of the Railway Stocks. Thus, upon the ill-health of his father, John, who was forced to an early retirement and received very little pension, the Duffs eventually had to move back to their old home in Drumcondra which meant that unless Frank stayed in Blackrock College as a boarder, he would be forced to make a long and difficult commute. This he did in spite of the pleading of the Holy Ghost Fathers to keep him as a boarder. “For the remainder of his school days, Frank’s schedule was as follows: At 7:15 he had breakfast. At 7:30 he set out from his Drumcondra home to walk two miles to Westland Row Station. As yet he had no bicycle. Then a train journey and after that another ¼ mile walk to Blackrock College.” (*“Frank Duff”* by Father Robert Bradshaw). He repeated this routine in the evenings as well.

Owing to the health of his father, Frank Duff, unlike his contemporaries in Blackrock College and his other siblings, would not enter the university. Instead in 1907, after garnering first place in the civil service examination, he would work in the Civil Service (Ireland’s Land Commission) beginning May 27,1908. He also briefly acted as private secretary to Michael Collins, the chairman of the Provisional Government and

Commander-in-chief of the National Army. In 1924, he was transferred to the Department of Finance. He would eventually retire from the Civil Service in 1934 to devote all of his time to the Legion of Mary.



**A YOUNG FRANK DUFF
(AROUND ELEVEN YEARS
OLD) FIRST COMMUNION
PICTURE.**

At this point, Frank Duff's life was essentially good - he had a stable job and a prospect of career advancement. However, he also lived at a time where poverty in Ireland was simply too overwhelming to ignore. During Frank Duff's youth, the level of prostitution and infant mortality in Dublin were both among the highest in Europe. These conditions would eventually lead Frank Duff to caring for the poor - this love for the poor would become a founding principle of the one of the tenets of the Legion Handbook (i.e., working for the most dejected of the population).

Brilliant Student and Athlete - Frank Duff was a brilliant, talented student as his academic records would attest. He loved literature and in his final year at Blackrock College he was given a First-Class Exhibition Award for Modern Literature. He also had a gift for languages as well. He studied Irish, English, Greek, Latin and French - missing first place by half a mark for the Irish Examinations, and as you might now know, prayed the Divine

Offices later in his life in Latin.

In her biography "*Frank Duff: A Life Story*" Dr. Kennedy writes: "In the Junior Grade Examination in June 1904, he was awarded a first-class exhibition valued at £20 in the Modern Literary Group... In the 'house' exams before the public exams, Frank had come first in Irish, winning a book prize. That year he was among the college 'galaxy' of prize winners who went on to an outing to a beauty spot in Wicklow."

More academic awards were received by Frank Duff during the course of his academic career (1906 - he won first prize in History and Geography in the mock up exam for Middle School, with Latin as his best mark; 1907 - he passed with distinction from the Senior Grade Examinations and was again awarded in literature with a first class exhibition in Modern Literary course; he also won second place in Ireland, in Irish, English, History and Geography). - *From Frank Duff: A Life Story by Dr. Finola Kennedy.*



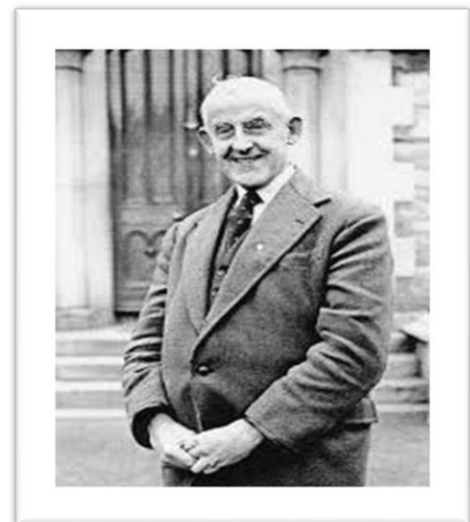
Frank Duff was just like any other young kids who love sports and athletics. We all know of his famous cycling ability and his trusty

bike as seen in many of his photographs. In addition to that, he played cricket, loved tennis, playing in tournaments, even joining the tennis club in Drumcondra. He also was a cross-country runner. Among his many athletic feats not well known to many was his completion of a 155-mile day cycling trip on May 31, 1914. Dr. Finola Kennedy recounted this trip in her book "Frank Duff: A Life Story": "On Sunday, 31 May 1914, he completed a 155-mile cycle trip in a day. Following early Mass in Whitefriar Street Church, he set out from Drumcondra at 8:00 am, and headed for Drogheda, then on to Ardee and Dundalk. He sent postcards at least four colleagues in the Land Commission en route..."

Prolific Writer and Author - Writing was a passion for Frank Duff having authored books and countless number of articles and correspondence not only to important members of the civil government, Church authorities but also to the members of the Legion of Mary. From his books and articles, you could feel this man's heart oozing with such a tremendous love of God. Every word he had written lead others to God. According to some account, he had written personal letters totalling to at least 40,000. "To the Legion in Australia alone he wrote more than 400 letters between 1932 and 1956..." (*Frank Duff: A Short Biography by Nancy Huddock from Mariae Legionis Magazine, Oct 1998 Issue*)

At a young age, in 1921, he wrote a book, "*Can We Be Saints?*" Perhaps it is no coincidence that Frank Duff clearly and primarily established as the object of the Legion of Mary, the sanctification of its members. He believed that everyone is called to be a saint. Thus, for him every person has been handed by God a chance to attain salvation. It is up to each of us to respond to this grace. Frank Duff also believed that ordinary people such as the beggar, the uneducated, ordinary men and women of society are also called for God's kingdom. Sainthood for him is living our lives ordinarily but in an extraordinary way for God. "And I do not ask for the big things - the life of the missionary or the monk, or those others I see around me so full of accomplishment. I do not ask for any of these but simply set my face to follow out unswervingly, untiringly, the common life which day by day stretches before me, satisfied in it I love you, and try to make you loved." ("*Can We Be Saints?*" by Frank Duff).

Another book he had written is "*Miracles on Tap*" a non-fictional story of the actual events that proved that with prayer and hard work, nothing is impossible with God. Beautifully written with just the right pacing, this book would keep his readers engaged in imagination of those days that he and his friends were engaged in high drama for those poor souls that they might find their way back to God. "*Miracles on Tap*" vividly portrays the story and dialogues that transpired between those characters in a plot that led to one of the greatest victories of the Legion of Mary over evil - the



establishment of weekend retreats, the establishments of hostels and the closing down of Bentley Place.

Frank Duff also wrote numerous articles on the Catholic faith (on Mary, on Christ, the Mystical Body, Sacraments, etc). and the Legion of Mary, that are compiled in books (anthologies) such as *"Mary Shall Reign," "Victory Through Mary"*, *"The Woman of Genesis"*, *"Virgo Praedicanda"* and *"Walking with Mary"*. A closer look into his writings will reveal his Catholic orthodoxy and very solid doctrinal knowledge, though never trained or even educated as a theologian. His writings are a reflection of his spirituality.

Member of Saint Vincent De Paul - In 1913, Frank Duff, upon the invitation of his friend, *Jack O'Callaghan* decided to join Saint Vincent de Paul Society - his decision would (as history would show) change the whole landscape of Frank's life and the entire world as it was a key event leading to the formation of the largest missionary and evangelization unit made up of ordinary lay people, the Legion of Mary. However, Frank Duff's decision to join the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, an organization for the poor, came as a mild surprise for those who knew him. He was brought up in a wealthy and privileged environment and as Father Bradshaw would describe in his book, "Frank Duff," he was somehow distant from the reality of poverty in Ireland:

"As a boy, Frank had never come into close contact with poverty. In his home there was abundance and cleanliness and refinement. He had of course, seen poverty at a distance, had seen children poorly clothed, had seen drunken men on the footpaths and had recoiled in fear. But he had never really "rubbed shoulders," as it were with the "down and outs" of the society, had never experienced the conditions in which very poor people live." (From "Frank Duff" by Father Robert Bradshaw).



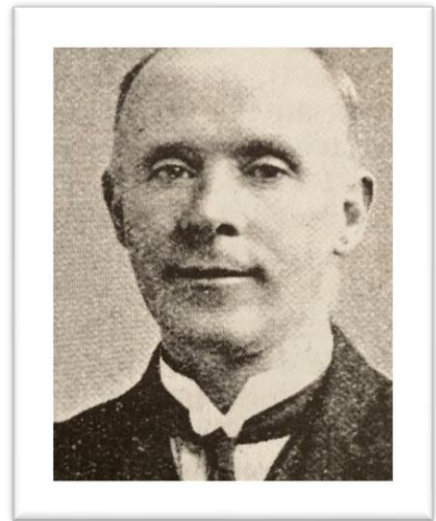
JOE GABBETT, A MEMBER OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY INFLUENCED FRANK DUFF'S APOSTOLIC LIFE.

As member of Saint Vincent de Paul, Frank Duff would eventually meet some great Catholic Irish gentlemen who would have a profound impact and influence in his life. There are four who stood out - *Joseph Gabbett, Matthew Lawlor, Tom Fallon and Ulick McNally.*

Joseph Gabbett, a tall muscular fellow who by trade was a maker of boots and shoes, had a profound influence on Frank Duff because of his commitment to evangelization, zeal for souls and his love for the Church. "Looking back, Duff marveled at Gabbett's enterprise: 'He was fearless, he was resourceful. He had a magic gift of handling people; His sincerity was such that he would gift faith to a stick. (Frank Duff a Life Story by Dr. Finola Kennedy).

Many of the apostolic works conducted by Gabbett influenced Frank Duff greatly – instructing children about the sacraments, works of mercy such as calling on soldiers who had venereal diseases, conversion of non-Catholics into the Catholic Faith and others. Among the first works of evangelization of Gabbett was to set up his own Center to serve Sunday breakfast to the poor of Dublin. This was as a direct response to the proselytizing Protestant Center located in 6 1/2 Whitefriars Street. Soon Frank Duff became Gabbett’s “right hand man” as he took on more responsibilities in preparing Sunday breakfasts. However, it was Gabbett’s spirituality that had a profound impact on Frank Duff’s faith and new-found interest in apostleship. On Sunday morning breakfasts, Gabbett would deliver a sermon on the Catholic Faith, and Frank Duff took part in catechism classes whenever Gabbett was not available. Frank Duff was inspired by the sermons or talks Gabbett gave to the people coming to the breakfast center. Unpolished as they were his talks were well understood and inspired and motivated his listeners. Gabbett also had a very special devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus – another gift of influence he would bestow on Frank Duff.

When the war of 1914 broke out, Gabbett began teaching soldiers about the Faith in the Portobello Military Barracks – there he prayed the Rosary with them, taught them about salvation, the importance of the Sacraments and the sacramentals of the Church, particularly the Brown Scapular and the Miraculous Medal. Enthralled with all these experiences was an apprentice keenly observing, absorbing everything he could. His name was Frank Duff.



MR. TOM FALLON MEMBER OF THE SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL ENCOURAGED FRANK DUFF TO RE-READ TRUE DEVOTION TO MARY.

Mr. Matthew Lalor – “Mr. Lalor” is how Frank Duff addressed him as he was at least thirty years his senior. He was a wealthy businessman who found success as a tobacconist. A deeply religious man, Mr. Lalor was also very generous and charitable. It was Tom Fallon who introduced Matthew Lalor to Frank Duff, brought him to his house and soon the two of them became very close allies and friends in the work of the Church. Many of Frank Duff’s challenges in life, found their way to Matthew Lalor’s consoling heart, wisdom and openness to assist his friend the best way he could possibly offer.

Tom Fallon – Another member of the Saint Vincent de Paul was a civil servant named Tom Fallon. He convinced and encouraged Frank Duff to re-read Saint Louis Marie de Montfort’s book. “True Devotion to Mary.” The spirituality of Saint Louis Marie de Montfort is the core of the Legion’s spirit – that of Our Lady. Frank Duff’s consecration

to her Immaculate Heart became the foundation of the Legion's way of expressing itself to the souls of men and women. Tom Fallon died at the age of ninety-six after becoming a missionary priest in Mexico.

Ulick McNally - A fellow member of the Saint Vincent de Paul, Ulick McNally, his co-worker in the Department of Finance taught him the art of home visitation. He learned from McNally that no matter how hopeless the situation they would encounter in the dwelling places or tenements they visited, he would treat the residents with much respect and dignity. This approach Frank Duff would describe in the handbook as 'cap in hand.'



Frank Duff's Spiritual and Prayer Life - Early on in his life, Frank Duff's spiritual and Catholic life can be described as "average Catholicism." According to Father Bradshaw, "It must not be thought, however, that Mr. and Mrs. Duff were exceptionally



holy people or that their home was a home of great piety. Frank described his mother as an 'ordinary good Catholic woman.' She taught her children their prayers, trained them in virtues and ensured that they went to Sunday Mass. The Duffs were simply 'honest to goodness Catholics.' (from "Frank Duff" by Father Robert Bradshaw). The development of Frank Duff's spiritual and prayer life, though having begun at home, was without a doubt, may be best described as routinary and indifferent, simply doing what it takes to 'fulfill one's obligations' before God and Church.

**FRANK DUFF WITH LEGION MEMBERS
OUTSIDE REGINA COELI HOSTEL**

Father Bradshaw describes his faith as follows: "Perhaps he lamented that for the first twenty-five years of his life, he had been indifferent enough for the service of Our Lord, fulfilling his basic duties alright but looking on religion more or less as a routine affair that must, somehow or other, be "fitted in." ("Frank Duff" by Father Robert Bradshaw).

Divine Providence drew Frank Duff to a large framed picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus that was hanging in Gabbett's Breakfast Centre in Cheater's Lane. "This picture had an extraordinary fascination for Frank. Very often times over the next sixty-five years he

would gaze lovingly on the picture." (*"Frank Duff" by Father Robert Bradshaw*). Thus, his love of and devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus opened many new doors in his life, eventually paving the way for his love and care for the poor (and the most downtrodden of God' people), and his unyielding devotion to Our Lady and the Holy Catholic Church.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Holy Rosary – In 1914, Frank Duff decided to attend Mass daily during the forty days of that Lenten Season. However, by the end of Lent, not content with what he had just accomplished spiritually, he decided that he would now attend Mass daily. Also, he began to recite the Holy Rosary every day. According to Father Bradshaw, Frank Duff's daily prayer life was truly astounding, spending at least four hours each day in prayer before the tabernacle. To Frank Duff, his prayer life was independent from his apostolic works. For him, prayer had its own intrinsic value "apart from the necessity of prayer for a fruitful apostolate" For him apostleship was only a "filler in." (*"Frank Duff" by Father Robert Bradshaw*). Thus, he regarded prayer as the central and most important aspect of his spiritual life. And since he could not possibly pray all day long, his apostleship was a way to "fill up" the rest of his day.

The Divine Office and Retreats – About the year 1915, he met Fr. Michael Browne, S.J, and went regularly to him confession and spiritual direction. In 1917, under the guidance of Fr. Browne, he began to recite the Divine Office daily in Latin. Frank Duff considers the Divine Office as "pure communication with God." He was never to leave home without his breviary. He also made his annual retreat in Mount Mellaray every year for 48 years. He would also make many pilgrimages to Lough Derg.



***POPE PAUL VI WITH FRANK DUFF
IN 1965.***

Papal Encounters and the Second Vatican Council Decree on the Laity – Any Catholic would cherish and love to have a single moment of a papal encounter in his lifetime. In the case of Frank Duff, he met and had an audience with every Pope who reigned within his life time. Such was the respect afforded to this man of faith by the Church. On May 23, 1931, Frank Duff and Monsignor O'Brien were received by ***Pope Pius XI***. In his first audience with a Roman Pontiff, their conversation about the Legion of Mary lasted for about twenty minutes. Frank Duff visited Rome again in 1952 and was received by ***Pope Pius XII***.

On March 21, 1960, Frank Duff along with Gavin and O'Floinn were received quite enthusiastically by ***Pope John XXIII***, future Saint, who spoke highly of the Legion of Mary developments and

contributions to the Church. It was Pope John XXIII who later would define the significance of the role of the Legion of Mary in the Church when he said: *“The Legion of Mary shows forth the true face of the Catholic Church.”*

In 1965, Frank Duff received an invitation from a future saint Pope Paul VI to be a Lay Observer at the Second Vatican Council. By this time, the Legion’s reputation had vastly increased and its work as a lay apostolate accepted by the ecclesiastical authorities in the Church. We must also understand that the Legion was also met with some opposition due to the prevalent thinking prior to the Council that the Church’s evangelization and missionary activities belonged to the priestly vocation. The laity’s role in evangelization was not completely defined at this point in our Church history. The Council Fathers recognizing the potential of lay people in evangelization formed a commission to define the laity’s role on the Church’s missionary purpose or evangelization of the world as commanded by Jesus Christ Himself. The result was Pope Paul VI’s decree called *“Apostolicam Actuositatem”* (Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity). **Cardinal Leon-Joseph Suenens**, a great ally of the Legion of Mary, an advocate of True Devotion to Mary and author of the biography of Edel Quinn, summed up the Legion’s influence on this decree by stating that the Legion evangelizing spirit *“anticipated Vatican II.”* It has also been revealed that at the commission level for the formulation of the Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, the Legion of Mary Handbook was consulted by the formulators.

On September 14, 1965, in one of the sessions of the Second Vatican Council, Frank Duff was introduced by Cardinal Heenan of England. The vast assembly of 2,500 bishops gave him a longstanding ovation of applause as a sincere appreciation and gratitude to what he had accomplished for the Church. Later that year, on December 11, 1965, Frank Duff had a private audience with the future saint Pope Paul VI. In that meeting Frank Duff recalled the words of the Pope: *“I am happy to receive your visit. I want to thank you for your services to the Church and also to express appreciation for all that the Legion of Mary has done.”* (*Frank Duff: A Life Story by Dr. Finola Kennedy*. In May 1979, a year before his final days, Frank Duff had an audience with another future Saint of the Catholic Church **Pope John Paul II**.

Last Day - In the morning of November 7, 1980, First Friday of the month, Frank Duff attended two Masses - his regular Mass as part of his Devotion to the Sacred Heart and a Funeral Mass for a great member of the Legion of Mary, Joan Cronin, an envoy of 17 years to many countries. After the Funeral Mass, already not feeling that well, he was still very accommodating and friendly to those who approached and greeted him. Little did they know they would be his final set of good-byes to his many friends in the Legion of Mary.

After the Mass, Jack McNamara, a close friend for fifty years, drove Frank Duff home. Upon arriving Frank Duff told his housekeeper, Mrs. Nellie Jessop that he was not feeling

well and that he wanted to rest. Later in the afternoon, on her way to bring him a cup of tea in his room, Mrs. Jessop, found Frank Duff already dead, seated with arms closed and eyes opened towards the picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Mrs. Jessop immediately sought help and providentially a young priest by the name of Father Michael Ross, S.D.B. was only two doors away from the Morning Star Hostel. Within a

few moments he arrived at the bedside of Frank Duff to give him blessing and Conditional Absolution. Another priest, Father Mulligan arrived later and administered the Holy Anointing.



OUR LADY WELCOMES YOU HOME!!!

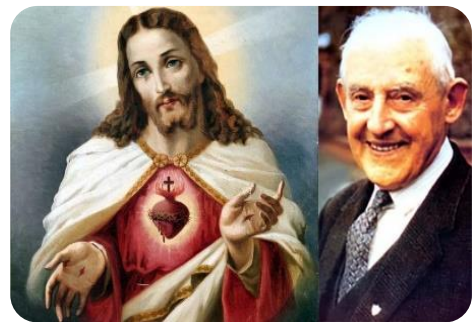


FRANK DUFF'S FUNERAL MASS.

Frank Duff's funeral was attended by more than 4,000 people made up of Church and government dignitaries, members of the Legion of Mary, and of men, women, children, ordinary men and women of Dublin. On this day, we lost a great man of steadfast faith. He was a holy man and lived a life devoted to the salvation of countless souls. He lived a beautiful life teaching the world the meaning of Christian love and service and taking care of the least of our brothers and sisters,

members of the Mystical Body of Christ. His life would be memorialized not so much by books about his life, but more so, by the power of his influence in changing the lives of millions of people. These are the people whose eyes and hearts, closed and far away from God, came back to His fold.

FRANK DUFF WAS BORN ON JUNE 7, 1889, FIRST FRIDAY. HE DIED ON NOVEMBER 7, 1980, FIRST FRIDAY. HE HAD AN OVERWHELMING DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS.



KEY FACTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE LEGION OF MARY AND THE LIFE OF FRANK DUFF

- 1889 June 7 - Frank Duff is born in Dublin to Laetitia and John Duff. He is the oldest of seven children. Enters the Jesuit's Belvedere College in 1896.
- 1913 Frank Duff becomes a member of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society upon the invitation of his friend Jack O'Callaghan.
- 1917 The Myra House located at 100 Francis Street came into the possession of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. This was gifted by its owned Mrs. Keogh Donnelly mainly in part of her relationship with *Frank Sweeney*, a member of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society.
- 1918 Frank Duff became president of Saint Patrick's Conference of Saint Vincent de Paul Society and also in the same year, the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association ("The Pioneers") was also formed. The Pioneers (women members) played an important role in the formation of the Legion of Mary. Frank Duff was also introduced to the book of Saint Louis Marie de Montfort, "True Devotion to Mary."
- 1921 September 7 - A group of fifteen people, members of the Pioneer Association, Frank Duff and Father Toher met at Myra House (Francis Street) to discuss how members could do similar works as that of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society by visiting cancer patients of the Union Hospital. Upon their arrival at the meeting, a member of the Pioneer Association, Mrs. Alice Keogh, had already set up the meeting place with an image of the Immaculate Conception, two candles, and two vases with flowers. It marked the beginning of the first praesidium meeting of the Legion of Mary.
- 1922 Legion work for street girls began with an invitation from Legionaries to attend a weekend retreat, and thus arrangements were made for twenty-three women to come to Balydole Convent. As a need arose for a 'safe haven' for the girls, Frank Duff sought an interview with W. T Cosgrave, Minister for Local Government (Housing). With a letter in hand from Mr. Cosgrave, Frank Duff and Father Creedon met with the Minister and on the following day, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, July 16, they were handed the keys to 76 Harcourt, which became to be known as the first Legion hostel, "*Sancta Maria*"
- 1923 Legion of Mary members began their work at Monto (Bentley Place), an infamous area in Dublin known for prostitution and other vices. The Legion system of personal contact and its cardinal rule of never giving up on anyone, led to the conversion of young women to a 'new life.' The stories behind these Legion work adventures are written in the book "How to Conquer the World".
- 1926 Bentley Place was successfully closed through the perseverance of the members of the Legion with the help of the Dublin Police.
- 1927 Foundation of the "*Morning Star Hostel*", an accommodation for homeless men in Dublin (March 25). First Presidium was established outside Dublin in Waterford in South Ireland.
- 1928 The Legion of Mary reaches Scotland, soon afterwards also London.
- 1930 *Regina Coeli* Hostel was opened.
- 1931 First Presidium formed in Madras, India (Feb 2, 1931). The Legion of Mary introduced to North America (United States forms its first Praesidium in Raton,

New Mexico (November 28). Frank Duff in an audience with Pope Pius XI, received Papal Blessings for the Legion of Mary.

1932 *Eucharistic World Congress* held in Dublin. Bishops from all over the world learned of the Legion of Mary for the first time and as a result, the Legion began to spread rapidly around the world.

1933 September 7: First Presidium of Africa established in Ifuho, Calabar, Nigeria.

1934 Departure of the first ambassadors of the Legion of Mary, Mary Duffy, to the USA and Canada with the task to make the Legion known and spread there. **The Legion of Mary Handbook received its imprimatur form the Archbishop of Melbourne on Mary 1934.**

1935 **January 3 - Formal approval of the Legion of Mary was given by Archbishop Byrne, Archbishop of Dublin.** (This was also the same year that Book Barrow apostolic work was started).

1936 Edel Quinn traveled to East Africa as a legionary and arrived in Nairobi on 24 November. Edel was the founder of the Legion in the area of Nairobi. She began to undertake strenuous expeditions through Kenya, Uganda, Nyasaland and Tanganyika and set up hundreds of Legion praesidia.

1937 **The Legion of Mary Handbook received its imprimatur from Archbishop Byrne (Archdiocese of Dublin) on March 7, 1937.**

1944 Edel Quinn died on 12 May and was buried at the cemetery of Nairobi, Kenya, near the missionaries. The first Legion praesidium founded in Ravensburg, Germany.

1945 Hilde Firtel from Austria was appointed envoy for Germany. (Hilde Firtel authored the book, "Alfie Lambe: Legion Envoy")

1946 Monsignor Riberi, former nuncio for Central Africa, becomes Internuncio in China. He had observed the work of Edel Quinn in Africa which will later prove an important piece of our history in the growth of the Legion of Mary in Communist China.

1947 Archbishop Riberi, now the Internuncio in China, ordered Father Aedan McGrath to spread the Legion in China

1948 At the beginning of 1948 P. McGrath began his activity as an envoy first in Shanghai, but later in North, Central and South China. By quickly moving from town to town, he was able to form at least one thousand praesidia within a year.

1950 Insecure by the growth of Catholicism in Communist China, the Communist Party proclaimed the "Patriotic Church of China", which, under the name of "Movement of the Three Independents", strove to guide the Church through government supervision and control, detaching the Catholic Church from Rome. Legion of Mary members opposed separation from Rome and informed the Chinese Catholics that this was wrong. This, and the fact that the Legion of Mary as a movement was growing, led the Communist Party to forbid the Legion from its operations. Foreign missionaries were expelled from the country. The communist persecution of the Catholic Church resulted in the imprisonment of Fr. Aedan



HILDE FIRTEL FROM AUSTRIA BECAME THE LEGION OF MARY ENVOY TO GERMANY. SHE AUTHORED A BOOK ON THE LIFE OF ALFIE LAMBE.

McGrath and the death of at least 4,000 Legion members. The Society of the Patricians was founded as a means to develop among Catholic lay people a deeper knowledge of the Faith.

- 1953** Seamus Grace and Alfie Lambe flew to South America as Legion envoys (July 16)
- 1958** First “Peregrinatio Pro Christo” held at England.
- 1959** Alfie Lambe dies in Buenos Aires. In just over five years, he made great strides for the spread of the Legion of Mary in Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay.
- 1963** Opening of the beatification process for Edel Mary Quinn.
- 1965** Frank Duff, at the invitation of Pope Paul VI attended the Second Vatican Council as a lay observer.
- 1969** Legion members and priests from Ireland traveled to the Soviet Union for the first time on “Peregrinatio Pro Christo”.
- 1976** Irish priest Father Robert Bradshaw begins his missionary work in Iceland and is supported by many Legion members from all over the world. He was there as a volunteer for a year (“Incolae Mariae”).
- 1979** Frank Duff was received in audience with officials of the Council of Pope John Paul II. They held a long talk about the situation of the Church throughout the world.
- 1980** February: the beatification process for Alfie Lambe is initiated by Cardinal Armature of Buenos Aires. Nov 7 - Frank Duff, our Legion founder dies in his house in Dublin after having attended two Masses, First Friday Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and a Funeral Mass for a great Legion envoy, Joan Cronin.
- 1992** Fr. Bradshaw moves to Siberia to work as a pastor until his death in 1993.
- 1998** The process of beatification of the Servant of God Frank Duff is officially opened by Archbishop Desmond Connell (January 14).
- 2011** The Legion of Mary celebrates its 90th year anniversary of its foundation.
- 2013** The Legion of Mary in Australia celebrated the 80th anniversary of its foundation meeting on September 7, 1933.
- 2014** ***Legion of Mary Receives Official Vatican Approval*** - In April 2014, the Legion of Mary received one of the greatest news in its history! The Vatican gave its official recognition of the Legion of Mary as an international lay association. Bishop Josef Clemens, secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Laity presented the Decree of Pontifical Recognition of the Legion to its president, Sile Ni Chochlain.
- 2015** The Legion of Mary celebrated its 75th Founding Anniversary in the Philippines. Its founding date is July 21, 1940 and their founding spiritual directors being Fr. Manuel Gracia and Fr. Michael Doherty. The founding members were Joaquina Lucas and Pacita Santos who became Legion envoys.
- 2018** The Legion of Mary celebrated its Silver Jubilee in Yaounde, capital city of Cameroon.
- 2020** The Legion of Mary continued its worldwide apostolate, establishing numerous praesidia in all continents, with plurality of memberships of different cultures and languages. In March 2020, a pandemic that resulted in a global lockdown which curtailed Church services. The Legion of Mary continued its apostolic works.
- 2021** The Legion of Mary celebrates its Centenary Anniversary (September 7, 2021)



San Francisco Opens its Heart to the Legion -

On November 27, 1931, the first Legion of Mary praesidium in the United States composed of all men was formed in Raton, New Mexico. The Legion spread westward through the envoyship of Mary Duffy. During her time of service various councils were formed in California. In 1933, two years after the first praesidium was formed in New Mexico, the first praesidium was established in the Archdiocese of San Francisco at Saint

Monica Parish, thanks to Father William Cantwell, its pastor.

The San Francisco Curia and San Francisco Comitium - The first praesidium at Saint Monica, Our Lady of Perpetual Help formed on November 14, 1933 was composed entirely of women. Fr. Cantwell then formed a second praesidium, this time composed of all men, named Queen of the Apostles. This was followed by a junior praesidium, Our Lady of Lourdes. Father Cantwell's love for the Legion of Mary attracted more parishes in San Francisco to follow suit. Thus, praesidia were formed at Saint Agnes Parish (Our Lady of the Annunciation, March 19, 1936) and Our Lady of the Rosary (founded on May 5, 1936). Extension works of the Saint Agnes legionaries resulted in the formation of a praesidium on January 28, 1937 at Most Holy Redeemer Parish.



THE FIRST SET OF SF SENATUS OFFICERS (L TO R) - DAVE MARTEN, (VP); TESSIE VELICARIA (SECRETARY); FR. LAWRENCE GOODE (SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR); RAY FROST (PRESIDENT) AND VIC DAVO (TREASURER)

With the establishment of these praesidia, the San Francisco Curia was formed and held its first meeting on June 10, 1937. *Mary Duffy*, the Legion envoy to the US, was present and presided the first meeting of the San Francisco Curia. The first president of the San Francisco Curia was Mrs. Hicklin. Four years later, the San Francisco Curia was raised to the status of a Comitium and held its first meeting in May 4, 1941. This was made possible due to the successful extension of the Legion in the East Bay, under the

leadership of Father John Kelly, when in 1941, the Alameda County Curia was formed.

During the 1940's there were approximately 33 praesidia directly attached to the San Francisco Comitium and one Curia, the Alameda County Curia. The praesidia were spread out throughout the Archdiocese of San Francisco which at that time included 13

counties around the Bay Area and the Peninsula, Oakland, San Jose, San Leandro, Stockton, Gilroy and Contra Costa. In 1957, the Stockton Curia was formed and was followed by the establishment of the Contra Costa-Solano Curia in 1959.

The San Francisco Comitium up until 1959 directly corresponded with the Concilium Legionis in Ireland. However, in February of the same year, former president and the late Mary Foudy and Oakland Curia president Vicky Cotter attended a meeting of the Los Angeles Senatus (we can surmise that this effectively is the period when the San Francisco Comitium began reporting to the Los Angeles Senatus. From then until its official elevation and formation as a Senatus, the SF Comitium was under the direct supervision of the Los Angeles Senatus. To them, we owe a debt of gratitude for their guidance and especially for the wealth of Legionary knowledge we received from its late president, Brother William Thompson.

The San Francisco Comitium Elevated to Senatus - In the year 2004, the San Francisco Senatus under the presidency of Brother Raymond Frost, received from the president of Concilium Legionis Mariae in Dublin Sile Ni Chochlain with the very good news that would change our history forever. The San Francisco Comitium was elevated as a Senatus, the highest-ranking council after the Concilium Legionis in Ireland. With that news came the definition of its territorial boundaries expanded the scope of its responsibility. In addition to the Archdiocese of San Francisco, the new territorial and diocesan boundaries now include: ***in the state of California:*** Diocese of San Jose (San Jose Comitium), Diocese of Sacramento (Sacramento Comitium and the Northwest Coast Korean Comitium), Diocese of Oakland (Oakland Comitium), Diocese of Stockton (Stockton Comitium), Diocese of Monterey (Monterey Curia, formerly Salinas Curia); ***in the state of Oregon:*** Diocese of Portland (Portland Curia); ***in the state of Washington:*** Archdiocese of Seattle (Seattle Comitium); ***in the state of Utah:*** Diocese of Salt Lake City (Utah Curia); ***in the state of Nevada:*** Diocese of Reno (there are two directly attached praesidia to the Senatus); ***in the state of Alaska:*** Diocese of Fairbanks, Archdiocese of Anchorage-Juneau (Anchorage Curia, and directly attached praesidia from Fairbanks and Ketchikan); ***in the state of Idaho:*** Diocese of Boise (Idaho Curia)



***FR. WILLIAM CANTWELL PASTOR
(LEFT) OF SAINT MONICA WITH FATHER
WILLIAM FLANAGAN.***



RAYMOND FROST - FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE SF SENATUS WITH NOREEN MURPHY, CORRESPONDENT TO THE BOSTON SENATUS DURING HIS VISIT AT THE CONCILIUM HEADQUARTERS IN IRELAND.

In May 2004 in order to learn from Concilium officers the duties and practices required of Senatus officers, Brother Raymond Frost President and Brother David Marten, Vice-President traveled to Dublin to meet with Concilium officers and participated at the monthly Concilium meeting and had the opportunity to visit the home and grave of Frank Duff. In July 2006 four of the San Francisco Senatus officers (Brother Dave Marten, Brother William Wehrmeister, Sister Tessie Velicaria

and Brother John Dymond participated in a conference for officers of American councils at the Concilium Legionis Headquarters in Dublin Ireland and met with our Concilium correspondent and other Legion of Mary officials. As a new Council, the San Francisco Senatus was not without challenges. As the city embraced and welcomed a more diverse population of immigrants, the Catholic landscape seemed to have hit rough edges as the Catholic forerunners became elderly with a good number of younger generation Catholics moving out from the city looking to find a more viable and affordable living situation. This has made somewhat more difficult for Legion of Mary to replace active members who have grown older and now have retired from their Church activities.

Mission Excelsior Curia - Thankfully, over the years, the San Francisco Senatus has managed to weather the storm of potentially dwindling membership through the tireless efforts of its officers, members, spiritual directors and of course, with the help of Our Blessed Mother. In fact, in spite of these demographic changes, in 2008, the SF Senatus had around 23 directly attached praesidia, in addition to its 17 directly attached councils. Because of this sustained growth within the San Francisco Senatus area of responsibility, the Concilium requested the Senatus to create a new Curia within the San Francisco Senatus by dividing its directly attached praesidia. Over three months of careful deliberation was dedicated to ascertaining on how this could be best achieved. As always, the help of the Blessed Mother was sought. Proposals were submitted whether to form a SF Sunset Curia or SF Downtown Curia or SF Mission Excelsior Curia. A vote was taken and it was decided to form a new Curia to be called the SF Mission Excelsior consisting of parishes within the Mission and Excelsior district of the city (including Epiphany Church, Saint Emydius, St. Elizabeth, Saint Kevin, Corpus Christi, Mission Dolores). With excellent leadership, the SF Mission Excelsior Curia has done a wide variety of works of apostleship. Its current spiritual director is ***Fr. Jesse Montes*** of Corpus Christi.

San Mateo Curia - In the early 1960's, the Legion of Mary in San Francisco continued to sustain its growth down the Peninsula particularly in San Mateo County. This was as a result of the extension work from San Francisco Comitium Legion members and spiritual directors in the likes of Lorraine Bush, Mary Peterson and Mary Foudy with the support of Father Lawrence Goode. The San Mateo Curia began its early years of extension and formation work in the parishes of Saint Catherine, Our Lady of Angels, Saint Gregory, Saint Bartholomew and Saint Gregory. Afterwards, the Legion spirit spread like wild fire in San Mateo County. In 1985, the San Mateo Curia was divided into two Curiae - **the South San Mateo Curia** (parishes located from Millbrae and East Palo Alto) and the **North San Mateo Curia** (parishes from Daly City to San Bruno, including Pacifica). The North San Mateo Curia was founded on December 3, 1985, with the late Father Antonio Rey as its first Spiritual Director.

Daly City-Colma Curia - In 2012, a new Curia was founded in San Mateo County from the split of the North San Mateo Curia as a result of streamlining the Legion organization in the San Mateo County. An unprecedented growth in the number of praesidia in the North San Mateo Curia (which at one point had twenty-eight praesidia) necessitated this split. To the North San Mateo Curia belonged praesidia in the parishes of Saint Augustine, Saint Andrew, Saint Robert, Saint Bruno, Good Shepherd, Saint Veronica and All Soul's Church. Forming the new curia, the Daly- City Colma Curia are the nine praesidia that belong to the parishes of Holy Angels, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Our Lady of Mercy. Father Augusto Villote is the current Spiritual Director of the Daly City Colma Curia.

San Mateo County Comitium - With the formation of the Daly City Colma Curia, there were now three Curiae in San Mateo County - South San Mateo Curia, North San Mateo Curia and the newly formed Daly City-Colma Curia. Later that year, 2012, Brother Ando Perlas, past president of the North San Mateo Curia and the San Francisco Senatus proposed to the SF Senatus Board, the formation of a new council in San Mateo County. This proposal was to 'consolidate' all the three San Mateo curiae under one council in order to alleviate the reporting 'traffic' in the SF Senatus but more importantly to facilitate operational efficiencies and expansion of the Legion in parishes through smaller councils. The San Mateo County Comitium was officially formed with the North San Mateo Curia as the 'surviving' council, and with the South San Mateo Curia and the Daly City Colma Curia as its two directly attached curiae. Father Joe Richard is the current Spiritual Director of the San Mateo County Comitium.

San Mateo County Spanish Curia - In 2021, propelled by the rise of the Latino or Hispanic members joining the ranks of the Legion of Mary, a new *San Mateo County Spanish Curia* was organized and is currently headquartered at Saint Francis of Assisi Church in East Palo Alto with Father Lawrence Goode as its Spiritual Director.

“Why I Love the Legion of Mary?”

Solicited by Carmen Perlas and Tessie Velicaria



Shirleen Rannals “I live in Anchorage, Alaska and have been a Legion of Mary member for 42 years. The Legion has made me a better person Spiritually, commitment wise, and taught me how to have a true concern for all souls, family, friends, and strangers. I would have an empty part in my soul without it. I thank Our Lady and Frank Duff every time I think about my life in the Legion of Mary.” (*Shirleen Rannals is a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Praesidium, Saint Patrick’s Church, Anchorage, AK*)

Rachel Naidu “I joined the Legion of Mary of Mary in 1998 and have remained an active member since because I immediately fell in love with Our Blessed Virgin Mother. It was through the recitation of the Holy Rosary daily that my relationship with Jesus & Mary began to improve. The weekly meetings strengthened my faith and deepened my spiritual life. The main purpose of the Legion of Mary is the holiness of its members and our formation is found in the Rosary, spiritual readings and discussions. It creates a family bond, a special love and trust with each other and develops lifelong relationships. It is no wonder that once you become a legionary, you will always be a legionary! Thank you for your leadership and faith and trust in each member.” (*Rachel Naidu is a member of the Mother of the Holy and Eucharist and Family Praesidium, Mater Dolorosa Church, South San Francisco*)



Ana Bordallo “Having been a member of the Legion of Mary for 35 years, I found the Legion of Mary to hold a treasure trove that must be shared... a true wonder filled with love, faith, trust, courage and perseverance. I love serving in an army under the banner of Mary and that Mary is its Commander-in-Chief. In this army I learned to be in sync with each other, to be in union with each other, to be united in mind, body and soul. Humility and obedience play a great part in our Legionary duty. By studying Mary, I learned the essence of true humility and obedience. Through devotions to Mary, I love honoring her by



serious meditation and zealous practice. I love that by giving my all to Mary, I know definitely that I am in the best hands. Finally, I love that the tried, and true system of the Legion made it easy for me to strengthen my Catholic faith to work on my personal

sanctification and that of others and to fulfill the Legionary aim of bringing Christ, her son to the world. *(Ana Bordallo is a member of Mary, Queen of Peace Praesidium of Good Shepherd Church, Pacifica)*



Violy Carnero “Jesus said that it was not you who chose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruits that will last. I feel so blessed to be one of the chosen soldiers of our Blessed Mother and I am deeply committed to make her Son known to others. I have been a member of the Legion of Mary for 25 years and have been humbly trying to reach the unchurched and people with spiritual needs. I am inspired to live this vocation because it has changed me from being very timid and now very inspired to share my faith.” *(Violy Carnero is a member of Mater Dolorosa Praesidium, Mater Dolorosa Parish, South San Francisco).*



Demy Barozo “I love the Legion because it has allowed me to cherish and value my faith formation as Legionary since I was 9 years old. My mother and godmother passed on to me the legacy of their spiritual gifts of commitment, servanthood and fidelity. Without regret, my mother until her death was a catechist and a Legionary. Like her, I would carry on my duties as a Legionary until my dying breath. Ad Jesus per Mariam.” *(Demy Barozo is a member of Our Lady of the Nativity Praesidium, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Daly City).*



Rosalinda Lopez “I always have a special love for the Lord and his Blessed Mother. Yet, they did not really become central in my life until I joined the Legion of Mary. And that started my love for the Legion. The activities were exactly what suited me. At the weekly meetings, we have communal prayers, sharing of apostolic experiences and fellowship. Enabling me to live out the call to discipleship, apostolic work has given me a sense of fulfillment. Consecration to Jesus through Mary became a focal point in my life. I witnessed my life transformed spiritually.” *(Rosalinda Lopez is a member of Our Lady of Mercy Praesidium, Saint Augustine’s Church, South San Francisco)*



Jun and Emy Pasion In 1984, 37 years ago, we migrated from the Philippines to San Francisco, CA. We prayed for guidance and direction in our new life and trusted God's plan for us. Life was hard and finding a job without local work experience was extremely difficult. It was during this time that someone recruited us to join the Legion. The first company that hired us with no experience required

was the "Legion of Mary". Since then, there was no turning back and even retiring was not an option for the call of the Legion is service without limit or reservation. It gave us an opportunity to be better Catholics, with a balanced spiritual life through prayers and good works. It deepened our faith and trust in God. Our love for the Legion is our love for Mary and the Holy Trinity. We are all blessed to be part of the Legion of Mary and blessed to be able to share our faith with others with Mary, our Mother, working with us. *(Jun and Emy Pasion are members of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Praesidium, Saint Patrick's Church, San Francisco. Jun is a former President of the San Francisco Comitium and Emy a former Treasurer of the Comitium)*



Juliet Tabajonda "Joining the Legion of Mary has helped me focused on my goal in life which is to be a saint. The system has guided me to live a spirit filled life. Not only it encourages me to stay in union with God through my prayers but also motivates me to show my love for God by serving His people." *(Juliet Tabajonda is a member of Mary, Model of Youth Praesidium of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Daly City and currently serves as VP of the San Mateo County Comitium)*



Lydia Flor Evangelista "I love the Legion of Mary because to me, this is the only way I can show my love to the Blessed Virgin with my services which we are doing in or apostolate. The Legion of Mary helps me fulfill my Catholic faith every day - praying the Holy Rosary and attending Mass. I have also developed the virtue of kindness when I joined The Legion." *(Flor Evangelista is a member of the Mary Help of Christian Praesidium, Corpus Christi Church in San Francisco)*



¿Por qué amamos a La Virgen Maria?

(By Angela Jimenez-Miller, SF Senatus Correspondent to the Santa Rosa Spanish Curia)

Ella es Nuestra Madre Amorosa y la amamos porque La Biblia es clara: La Santísima Madre, llena del Espíritu Santo, intercede por nosotros ante su Hijo. La Virgen María estuvo presente en el momento de la encarnación, nacimiento, primer milagro, Pasión y muerte de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo; estuvo presente cuando los apóstoles recibieron el Espíritu Santo en Pentecostés. Hoy, María sigue participando en la historia de nuestra salvación, llevando a todos los fieles a su Hijo, Nuestro Señor.

No se puede superar a Dios. Nadie ha amado y honrado a María más que Dios Padre; la escogió para ser la esposa del Espíritu Santo y la madre de su Hijo unigénito. Como la más humilde sierva del Señor que esta “llena de gracia” María, es el instrumento perfecto de Dios.

Jesús sigue el Cuarto Mandamiento y honra a su madre. Por lo tanto, nosotros, hijos de Dios, debemos hacer lo mismo. Jesús hizo su primer milagro publico porque su madre intercedió. Cristo dijo que todavía no era su “hora”, pero su Madre, sabiendo que El tenia el poder de ayudar, les dijo a los sirvientes, “Hagan lo que El les manda hacer”.

Durante los tiempos del Antiguo Testamento, la madre del Rey, como Reina, era a ella a quien la gente acudía con sus peticiones. La mejor oportunidad de obtener una buena respuesta del Rey era la petición de su madre. Así fue, como se hizo durante el tiempo del Rey David, y Jesús desciende de la Casa de David.

Una multitud de apariciones marianas aprobadas por la Iglesia, muestran que Dios continua enviando a su madre para que nos ayude.

Por ejemplo, en Fátima, el 13 de octubre de 1917, hubo 70,000 personas que presenciaron el denominado “Milagro del sol”, en el que la Virgen María se aparece a los pastorcitos: Jacinta, Francisco y Lucia. Su mensaje para nosotros es orar y hacer reparación por los pecados de los hombres.

El Padre Pio y muchos santos lo llamaron una arma contra el mal y lo rezaron continuamente. Hay muchas historias de milagros documentados e historias personales atribuidas al rezo del Rosario. Nadie podría argumentar que Ella no es la más justa, por ello, la Biblia da fe del poder de sus oraciones. “La oración del justo tiene gran poder en su efecto” (Santiago 5:16) y “Dios oirá las oraciones de los justos. (Prov.15:20)

En la revista *Maria Legionis no. 4 del 2012* (1937-2012) edición 75 del aniversario de esta misma, aparece en la página 30 este reporte, África **El Accra Senatus**: Consejos siguen extendiéndose en la Legión. Un numero de praesidia se han formado en escuelas, seminarios y colegios de tercer nivel. Trabajos apostólicos que hacen: visitas de casa a casa, hospitales,

trabajos callejeros, preparación para adultos y niños para que reciban los sacramentos. Por eso, amamos la Virgen María, porque, Jesús en la cruz, (Juan 19:26, 27), cuando vio a su madre, y junto a ella al discípulo a “quien él quería mucho”, dijo a su madre: “Mujer, ahí tienes a tu hijo”. Luego le dijo al discípulo: “Ahí tienes a tu madre”. Desde este momento, la Virgen es Nuestra Madre Celestial de toda la humanidad. En la Legión de María estamos enamorados de nuestra Madre María Santísima. Nosotros Legionarios trabajamos con mucho amor para llevar el amor de Cristo Jesús a través de la Virgen María, guiados por Ella y el Espíritu Santo.

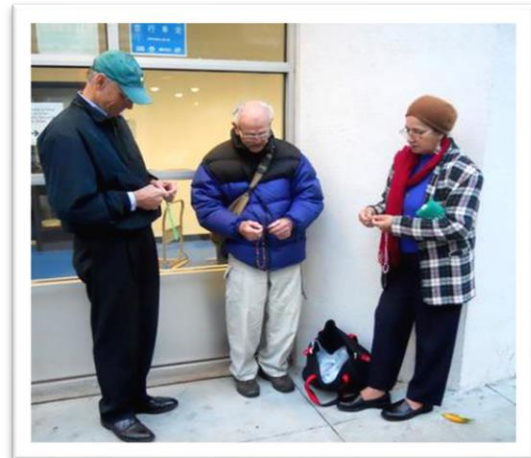


The Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity and the Works of the Legion of Mary

“WE ARE WITNESSES!”

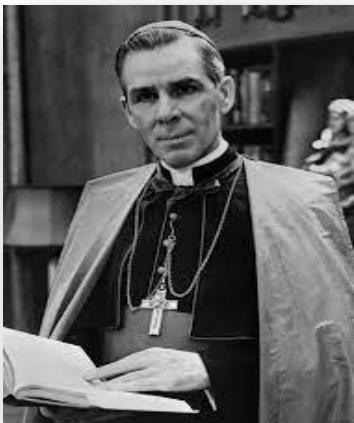
When the Legion of Mary was founded in 1921, it was quite clear that it was formed to serve God and man. “The object of the Legion of Mary is the sanctification of its members,

under ecclesiastical guidance, in Mary’s and the Church’s work of crushing the head of the serpent and advancing the reign of Christ.” (HB p, 4. 1937 Edition). To the Legion of Mary member, belongs the duty of fulfilling our baptismal calling of living holy and sanctified lives through prayer, sacraments and apostleship towards the salvation of souls. The spirituality of the Legion is that of Mary herself, the Mother of the Church and the Queen of Apostles. In her, we can find Christ, and therefore, to lead others to Christ, Mary must be at the very root of our apostleship. The involvement and active participation of the laity in the missionary works of the Church were still undefined and obscured in the 1920’s. This is one of the reasons that Frank Duff experienced a slow acceptance of the Legion charism of lay apostleship. This was the challenge presented to the Legion of Mary when it sought formal ecclesiastical approval from the Archdiocese of Ireland. In spite of this, the Legion persevered in doing what it believed was necessary for a Christian to do – to guide, lead and direct men and women to Christ. The Doctrine of the Mystical Body was the very principle of the Legion system. We are, by virtue of our adoption as sons and daughter of God, are to bring others



to this light. The Second Vatican Council invited Frank Duff as a lay observer in part as an acknowledgement of the Legion of Mary in its example as a lay apostolic movement, anticipating the Second Vatican Council's own general direction towards the participation of the laity in evangelization. The Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity (**Apostolicam Actuositatem, 2**), solemnly promulgated on November 18, 1965 by Pope Paul VI, states this Christian duty: *"The Church was founded for the purpose of spreading the kingdom of Christ throughout the earth for the glory of God the Father, to enable all men to share in His saving redemption, and that through them the whole world might enter into a relationship with Christ. All activity of the Mystical Body directed to the attainment of this goal is called the apostolate, which the Church carries on in various ways through all her members. For the Christian vocation by its very nature is also a vocation to the apostolate. No part of the structure of a living body is merely passive but has a share in the functions as well as life of the body: so, too, in the body of Christ, which is the Church, "the whole body . . . in keeping with the proper activity of each part, derives its increase from its own internal development" (Eph. 4:16). Indeed, the organic union in this body and the structure of the members are so compact that the member who fails to make his proper contribution to the development of the Church must be said to be useful neither to the Church nor to himself. In the Church there is a diversity of ministry but a oneness of mission. Christ conferred on the Apostles and their successors the duty of teaching, sanctifying, and ruling in His name and power. But the laity likewise share in the priestly, prophetic, and royal office of Christ and therefore have their own share in the mission of the whole people of God in the Church and in the world."*

This solemn proclamation must be taken to heart by all baptized Christians. The Legion



Handbook exhorts the Legion members to encourage all Catholics to take part in lay evangelization in any form of ministry towards the growth of the Church or for the sake of the Mystical Body of Christ. The one who refuses or neglects this duty is deemed not useful to the "Church or to himself." Further, there are many and diverse ways to participate in this apostolic movement, however, keeping in mind one purpose - to bring all men and women to the Bread of Life or the Holy Eucharist. For the Legion of Mary, the principal means of our apostleship is PERSONAL CONTACT, particularly, those who are 'outside the Church.'" Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen best describes this as follows in his address to the Legion of Mary in New York City:

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

the apostolate, though the apostolate was reserved for the clergy. So, you swept back about 20 centuries. Read over the list at the close of the Epistle to the Romans, members of the Legion of Mary, so that you will see that you have brought up to date the apostolate of the early Church. Also, in the Acts of the Apostles, it is in the third Act whereby the Church becomes established in a certain house; first a catechist works among the group and finally the Church itself. That is the first way you anticipated the Vatican Council. The second and more important still is that you belong to the out-ministry. We priests belong to the in-ministry. That's not what God intended, but that's what happened. We wait for people to come to us and we build bigger rectories. We are failing because we are an in-ministry, waiting. You were from the beginning an out-ministry, commissioned to do the same sort of thing as Our Blessed Lord did -walking up and down alleys. Third, you anticipated it even in relation to the Blessed Mother. This may seem strange but it's true. Your service is dedicated to building up the Church. It's not just merely the devotion to Our Lady, it's a devotion to Our Lady as the Mother of the Church. At the Council, we voted on the question of whether or not to give a new title to Our Lady. Our Lady has many as you know. It was decided not to give her another title. Two weeks later Pope Paul read his Encyclical Letter on the Blessed Mother as the "Mother of the Church". We gave her a new title. That's the Mother you love and who is your patroness. You are a small group — you have to be. Remember this! The Holy Spirit never works with the majority, only with minorities. You are the only present effective apostolate that we have in the world. My good legionaries, this is what you are. From what I have told you, you know how much esteem and affection I have for you. I say you have anticipated the Vatican Council — the future apostolate of the Church, and you are only at the beginning, just the beginning. Pray often to the Holy Spirit that your zeal will spread and that others will have the courage to do it. I consider it an honor, really an honor, to be in the midst of you. Just as sometimes oil gets outside of a bottle by osmosis, so too, by being near you, I hope to get some of your spirit."

The Three C's of the Legion Apostolic Works - The Apostolic works of the Legion of Mary are categorized into what it calls as the 3 C's - **Conversion, Conservation and Consolation**. Conversion works of the Legion are apostolic works motivated towards bringing a soul a step closer to Jesus Christ, through His Church and by the means of its sacraments. Conversion works are therefore meant for the unity of all Christians for they are still separated from the one true Church and are also for unbelievers unto becoming members of the Mystical Body of Christ. The works of conversion begin by taking 'baby steps' very gradually introducing the Catholic faith to others (with the hope of seeking one's conversion). There are many means to bringing this into fruition among which is the Legion's favorite means of evangelization - **door to door visitation**. Like the Mormons and the Jehovah's, the Legion similarly go from house to house establishing friendships and engaging people into conversation and dialogue about almost anything that interests them, and then somehow end with talking about their faith. During the home visits, a prayer in front of the home is also said for the family. Under the guidance



of the Holy Spirit, countless of conversions had been wrought through the efforts of the Legion of Mary. Protestants, unbelievers and people of other faith and religions had found their way into the Catholic Faith. Thousands of lapsed Catholics have returned to the Church and have begun once again to receive the sacraments. There are on record a great number of infants baptized and young teen agers receiving the sacrament of confirmation - thanks to the Legion members who took the initiative to encourage and remind parents of their Christian duties. The Legion's signature work, home visitation, has proven an invaluable asset to the continuing growth of the Church.

Included in the works of conversion are **Peregrinatio Pro Christo, Incolae Mariae and Exploratio Dominicalis** - these are missionary activities where a team of Legionaries over an extended period of time, in a distant place, would evangelize an area deemed to have a great

need of God and the Church. Over the past hundred years, the Legion in many parts of the world, has done these missionary works to complement the work of our missionary priests throughout the world.



In addition to home visitations, the Legion of Mary is also engaged in apostolic works in the public square or '**apostolate to the crowd**' **street evangelization** and what has been established by Frank Duff in 1935, called the **Book Barrow**. There have been thousands of miracles and life changing moments that have happened through these ministries. From the very beginning of our history to today, through the miracles and power of personal contact, people's lives have been touched by God's grace.

The hopeless and the 'most wretched' of the population

have been transformed and given new beginnings, new hope in Christ. The Legion of Mary never gives up on a poor soul in need of God. On the streets of any city, the Legion fights for the salvation of a soul. We pray for them and we pray with them. We are on the streets to inspire and to teach them about God's love and mercy.

The **Book Barrow** consists of a team of Legionaries setting up a table in the public square (such as a street corner, a mall, a park or a train station) made up of Catholic religious books and materials. Its purpose is not only to disseminate books and literatures or information about the Catholic faith but more importantly, to find a means of engaging people in dialogue or conversation about religion. Hearts open when there is someone willing to listen. And from the listening, many miracles happen. **Apostolate to the Crowd/Tourist** work is where members of the Legion, in pairs, talk to the people on the streets, establish friendship and engage them in conversation about God and their faith.





**FOR THE LEGION, THE SHOW
MUST GO ON...**

At these apostolates, the Legionary might hand them some religious articles such as the rosary or a prayer card. **Apostolate to the Tourist** serves to welcome people in a show of Christian hospitality opening to them the doors of one's city. Here we provide information about Catholic church services, particularly Mass schedules to tourists from all over the world. **Evangelization near Abortion Clinics** is an apostolic work intended to enlighten those contemplating abortion as well as those who are passing by. Following city ordinances and the law, members of the Legion give literature about the sanctity and dignity of life and information where the women can obtain help to care for themselves and their child. They also give sacramentals such as the Miraculous Medal, the Brown Scapular and the Rosary in order that those contemplating abortion may be graced through these sacramentals. These efforts have led to the saving of thousands of babies.

The works of **Conservation** pertain to efforts of strengthening the Catholic faith among the baptized Catholics. Examples of these works would include teaching **Catechism or Faith Formation** classes, **organizing faith study groups such as Bible study and other forms of seminars or workshops**. Since the Legion is an extension of the priest, under works of 'conservation' are parish-based ministries such as the Holy Hour or **adoration program**, devotions such as **First Friday and First Saturday, Enthronement of the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary** and the **Family Rosary** (or the Pilgrim Virgin).

Works of **Consolation** are those apostolic activities that bring comfort, solace and inner peace to God's people. These are visitation of institutions such as the **prison, hospital, convalescent, nursing or retirement homes**. In these apostolates, the main focus is to bring forth the love and mercy of Jesus Christ to the suffering. Holy Communion is given to 'shut in' Catholics. During hospital visitations, the Legion also seek out those in need of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. As needed, they make the necessary arrangements for the priest to administer the sacrament. In the prison cell, the Legionaries bring comfort and hope to those who have been incarcerated, far away from their friends and away from society. Legionaries build friendships through God's word. As new needs arise, the Legion finds itself engaged in new apostolates. The Legion is not afraid to try untested waters. During the pandemic of 2020, the Legion evangelization works continued in spite of the lock-down and different government regulations. The Legion does not go on vacation for the work of salvation could never stop for a moment, lest we lose a soul because we failed to make an approach to win them to Christ. During this critical time in our Church history, when the Holy Mother Church is under attack, it needs support to withstand the storm. It needs Catholics who would fight for the lost. It needs evangelizers, teachers and apostles. It needs witnesses to the reality of God. It needs you to speak of the truth. Time to stand up and be counted upon. **WE ARE WITNESSES!**



Auxiliary Membership - "You are the wind beneath our wings... thank you, thank you..."

(Ed Miller, SF Senatus Correspondent to the Oakland Comitium)

There are two types of membership in the Legion of Mary: active and auxiliary membership. Although having distinct duties and responsibilities in the Legion system, both of them are vital to the success of the Legion of Mary. The active members are at the forefront in the battle for souls, while the auxiliary members are the 'spiritual backbone' of the frontliners. The auxiliary members pray for the nourishment and strength of the active members.

The Legion Handbook* states that it is an essential duty of the praesidium to raise up and preserve around itself a strong body of Auxiliaries. *(Ch. 14 #2, pg. 89) This membership is open to priests, religious and the laity and is subdivided into two degrees: more fully described in the Handbook Ch. 16* and referred to as (a) "Auxiliaries" and (b) "Adjutores Legionis" or "Adjutorians". "It should be the object of every praesidium to bring every Catholic in its area into auxiliary membership." * "To the extent that members of other Catholic societies and activities are brought into this auxiliary degree...they are thereby united in prayer and idealism, under the auspices of Mary, but without the slightest interference with their own autonomy or characteristics and without alienating their prayers from their own movements. For note, that those auxiliary prayers are offered in honor of Our Blessed Lady and not on behalf of the Legion." *(pg. 99 (f) (g)

Active members of the praesidium should keep in touch with the auxiliaries on a regular basis. A regiment of soldiers, courageous, perfectly disciplined and armed, has the potential of being irresistible. Yet, it depends from day to day on a great supporting host of workers who furnish it with munitions, food, clothing and medical help. The auxiliaries form that vital part of the Legion system! The praesidium is incomplete without them! The keeping in touch with the auxiliaries for the purpose of preserving their membership and interest will be necessary; in fact, it is essential to set up amongst the auxiliaries some loose form of organization comprising meetings or rallies of its own (*pg. 101(o); some suggestions might be a Confraternity or inviting them to participate in the Patricians**, which would aid them in their knowledge of the Faith. Likewise, in the interest of their full development as auxiliary soldiers of Mary, the *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin* should at least be explained to them. Many of them might be glad to undertake this fuller service of her. (*pg. 101(n).

It is the Legion's world-wide adventure and battle for souls, rather than the local needs, which are to be represented to the auxiliaries as the object of their service of prayer, that they play an essential part, without which, the fighting forces are powerless. With this in view, they should be made aware of the Legion magazine, "*Maria Legionis*" and encouraged to subscribe to it, in order to develop a deeper Marian spirituality and keep informed regarding the Legion's world-wide activities. In the words of Cardinal Riberi, formerly apostolic Delegate to missionary Africa and later internuncio to China, "The Legion of Mary is a miracle of these modern times." *(Ch. 10 #3, pg. 61). *Revised Edit. 2014; **HB Ch. 38, pg. 260



The Legion of Mary from a Youth's Perspective

Jeremy Perlas (former Junior, now Senior Member, Mary Mother of the Holy Eucharist and Family Praesidium at Mater Dolorosa Parish, South San Francisco. He is a junior at San Jose State University and works as a para-professional at Spruce Elementary School, South San Francisco Unified School District)

I got to know the Legion of Mary in the most unusual way. I was not recruited into it by another Legion member, young or old. I would say, that I was born into it, would be a better description of how I got into its active ranks. I was only two years old when my parents started taking me to their Legion meetings. Bored to death at first, I gradually learned how to pray the Holy Rosary even before I would learn how to ride a bike, shoot a basketball or swim. That's why I would say that my growing years were not the standard, normal childhood experience most boys my age would have encountered. It was for me, God and Church first, then play later. While I might feel a bit odd compared to the other 'normal lives' my friends lived, I believe I am blessed with all these experiences of growing in faith, in understanding and in prayer. Spending two hours each week for a meeting is just what I really needed to experience some form of structure in my life. The Legion has given me the opportunity to look at life from the eyes of faith and thus because of this broader spectrum, I have a better grasp of life's many challenges. Today I stand on solid ground. I can make tough decisions because there is always that guiding voice of my spiritual mother, Mary. Young people are challenged by today's world – the pandemic, high (and sometime unreasonable) expectations, peer pressures for a successful life, uncertainties in building friendships and the never-ending insecurities of approval are but a few of the challenges that the young people deal each day. Life is tough for us at times, but it only gets tougher without prayer. The Catholic youth are vulnerable to all kinds of attacks from the outside world. Our Christian values are hardly accepted by the society. We are the outsiders looking in, the odd balls of today's culture. Thus, we might give in at times in order to 'belong' and make mistakes along the way. Our redemption comes from our faith and from the things we had learned from the allocutios. As we fall, we wake up and start anew and keep trying). On behalf of the youth, I ask for your patience and understanding of us. Try not to judge us as we are still learning. We only ask for your prayers, your guidance and a little room in your hearts. The Legion youth is a joyful group with an abundance of hope in Christ and Mary. We have become who we are today because we have found Christ and Mary in our lives. When I



finally became a senior Legion member (at the age of 18), and did my Legion Promise, it seemed that the Legion apostolic spirit finally has taken over my soul for today I am now ministering to younger people as part of the Confirmation Retreat team of our parish community.



EJ BERNABE, SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH, STOCKTON, CA.

EJ Bernabe is the Vice President of the Sanctissima Maria Praesidium of Saint Michael's Parish, Stockton, CA. He is currently studying at the Xavier School of Nursing.

Why Do I Love the Legion of Mary? Well, there are many reasons why I love this organization that I'm still in today. Both my grandma Mama Jovita and my mother were legionaries. The Legion has been in my family for a long time now. From the moment I was able to read and go to school, I was already being exposed to prayers of the Legion of Mary. When I was old enough to be able to attend weekly meetings, I stuck with the routine for years to come. I don't want to sugar coat anything but when I was a young boy, personally I thought the Legion was boring. I'd rather play at home and not come to meetings but as I grew into the young man that I am now I started to appreciate why I'm a member of the Legion of Mary. The Legion has been there for my whole life. I aspire to be so devoted like my 96-year-old grandmother who everyday still prays the rosary and Tesserà. She would tell me stories about how the Legion helped her as a person and it's so inspiring. For me, I think what makes me so thankful that I'm a legionary is the way it uplifts me whenever I'm feeling down or whatever. The legion helps me get closer to Mother Mary and through her, Jesus. Living a life of a legionary and upholding its values makes me a better person. Through constant prayer and good deeds, I have become the person I am today. The members I've met in the Legion of Mary are so kind, loving, and inspirational in the way that their stories inspire others. It's a loving community of people around the world that reminds us that we're all brothers and sisters in the eyes of Christ. Since I'm the vice president of my own little junior Legion group in Stockton I'm able to be that role model these young children have to look up to. I was just like them not so long ago, I had good role models to look up to but coming from my perspective it can be hard to get to them on the same level because of age. I love the legion because I can be that young leader I am and guide them to love, appreciate, and cherish their time at Legion. They are the future of the Legion to me, so it's a way where we all can experience life as legionary together. I'll end it short by saying the legion is a big part of my life right now, there's no way I'm leaving it. We may stray a little bit but down the road somewhere we still have a place in the Legion of Mary. I love the Legion!!!





True Devotion to Mary Obliges Apostleship

“Foundation of the Legion’s Christ-Centeredness in its Missionary Purpose”

Much has been written about this great book, of a great saint, that has transformed many lives unto holiness and sanctity. The foundation and principles that Saint Louis Marie de Montfort had proposed in his book, “True Devotion to Mary”, are at the very core of the Legion spirituality and its scheme for the salvation of souls. The object of the Legion; first and foremost is the sanctification or holiness of its members.

This is accomplished through a life of prayer and active participation in the sacramental life of the Church, particularly in partaking of the Holy Eucharist and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Saint Louis Marie de Montfort’s states that holiness is through one’s total consecration to Jesus and in his Sacred Heart and proposes that this consecration or union in Christ is through the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is the surest, most efficacious manner to find Christ through our Blessed Mother, and in our consecration to her Immaculate Heart. *“It follows therefore that to be slaves of Jesus Christ, we make ourselves to be the loving slaves of the most holy Virgin so that by this very means, the more perfectly we become more perfectly the slaves of Jesus Christ.”* (“True Devotion to Mary” by Saint Louis Marie de Montfort).

The spirit of the Legion of Mary is that of Mary herself and thus, all its apostolic works, are rooted in the works of Christ Himself – the giving of Himself to others, His Divinity, from the hands of the Mother of His Mystical Body, Mary. Therefore, Christ is at the center of all Legion activities from its prayers, meetings and of course, in all its evangelizing works – where Christ is, Mary is. Without Mary, there would be no Redeemer and his redeeming mission rendered impossible.

The Handbook expounds on the Christocentrism of the Legion of Mary – *“The whole purpose of the Legion of Mary consists in the making of its members holy so that they in turn may bring holiness to others of the Mystical Body. Now the Eucharist is the center and source of grace: therefore, it must be the very keystone of the Legionary scheme. The most ardent activity will accomplish nothing of value if it forgets for a moment that its main object is to establish the Eucharist in all hearts.”* (HB 1985 Edition, page p. 139) The Legion of Mary strives to fulfill the evangelization mission of the Church – we are united with our priests and bishops and we are, as the Legion handbook says, a complement of the missionary. *“To the hard-pressed missionary, the Legion offers itself as a tried and tested instrument for winning converts and ensuring their perseverance.”* (HB p. 321)

Therefore, for Frank Duff true devotion to Mary is not just devotion in its traditional sense of prayer and inner spiritual movements. True devotion is apostolic. True devotion to Mary obliges apostleship!



REV. FR. LAWRENCE GOODE, SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR OF THE SAN FRANCISCO SENATUS ADDRESSING THE CROWD IN THE FIRST ROSARY RALLY IN 2011 AT THE UN CIVIC CENTER PLAZA (BEHIND HIM, SEATED IS FR. ANDREW APOSTOLI, CFR)

The Annual Rosary Rally in the Archdiocese of San Francisco

By Bro Dave Marten

Assistant Treasurer, Former President, SF Senatus

In San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, October 7, 1961, Fr Patrick Peyton, CSC, led the Family Rosary Crusade. Over 500,000 people attended. This was the largest public event ever to take place in San Francisco. The Legion of Mary (San Francisco Senatus) in 2011 wished to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of this important event in San Francisco history. Legion Spiritual Director, Fr Lawrence Goode, encouraged the Legion of Mary to organize and host a public

outdoor rosary. Archbishop George Niederauer gave his approval for a Rosary Rally to take place on October 15 at Civic Center Plaza in front of San Francisco's City Hall but withheld permission to have the Blessed Sacrament present. After a procession and rosary, **Fr Andrew Apostoli CFR**, author of "Fatima for Today" addressed the 2,500 attendees. **Bishop Dan Walsh, Bishop Ignatius Wang and Bishop William Justice** spoke on the importance of the Rosary in daily life.

The event was broadcast live on Immaculate Heart Radio. Many who were present had attended Fr Peyton's Rosary Crusade in Golden Gate Park in 1961. Attendees came by chartered buses from all over California. For the 2012 Rosary Rally, newly appointed Archbishop Cordileone authorized a procession of the Blessed Sacrament from St Mary's Cathedral to San Francisco's UN Plaza, in the heart of San Francisco for rosary, homily, and benediction. In 2013, Fr Goode suggested outdoor confessions be available at UN Plaza. The Rosary Rally has taken place each October since 2012 with a



THE ROSARY RALLY IN 2011. MEMORIES OF 50 YEARS AGO, 1961.

procession of the Blessed Sacrament by the Archbishop following Mass from the



2015 ROSARY RALLY WITH ARCHBISHOP SALVATORE CORDILEONE AS MAIN SPEAKER.

Cathedral to UN Plaza for rosary, homily and benediction. In the 2017 Rosary Rally, Archbishop Cordileone approved the Consecration of the Archdiocese of San Francisco to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Mass, rosary and homily were at the Cathedral. Following the Mass, a procession of the Blessed Sacrament took place on the streets around the Cathedral. After the procession, Archbishop Cordileone returned to the Cathedral for consecration and

benediction. In recent years the procession route for the October Rosary Rally has varied. In 2020 during the pandemic, Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone processed from St Anthony Padua parish on Cesar Chavez Street to the Cathedral for rosary, renewal of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart and evening Mass outside on the Cathedral Plaza. This year the 11th Annual Rosary Rally will take place during the 50th Anniversary of St Mary's Cathedral. Special processions will



"THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER, STAYS TOGETHER." FR. PATRICK PEYTON (1961 POLO FIELD, SAN FRANCISCO)

make their way from four parishes to the Cathedral for rosary, homily by Fr Chris LaRocca UCD, and Mass with the Archbishop. The annual Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and investiture of the Miraculous Medal will take place. The Rosary Rally has been made possible by the generous donations of time, talent, and treasure of many individual and organizations. The Cruzada Guadalupanas, Knights of Columbus, Ignatius Press, Barbara and Jay Fritz Charitable Foundation and the Archdiocese of San Francisco contributions have made the Rosary Rally possible. Speakers from the World Apostolate of Fatima, Fr Andrew Apostoli CFR and Deacon Robert Ellis, Fr Mark Mary, of EWTN and Fr Robert Elias Barcelos, OCD have addressed the Rosary Rally. Archbishop Cordileone, since 2012, has celebrated Mass, led the procession and preached at every Rosary Rally. We thank him for his support.

The Legion of Mary... Graced by Priestly and Religious Vocations

Over its hundred-year history, an important and invaluable contribution of the Legion of Mary to the Church is its role and influence in developing from its members countless number of priestly and religious vocations. There are many possible reasons - tangible and intangible factors that might have led these men and women into opening their hearts and minds into a lifetime of service to God and Church. Different circumstances have shaped their decisions but it's really difficult to pinpoint an exact factor into their decision with the exception of this: Our Blessed Mother said so, and thus, Jesus her son, called them and the rest is history. These are their stories...



Rev. Father Felix Lim, Junior Member, Past Treasurer, Philadelphia Senatus Pastor, Saint Anthony of Padua Parish (Novato, California)

"I have been an active member of the Legion of Mary since I was 12 years old in Singapore. When the news of the sexual abuse crisis broke in Philadelphia, I was an Extension Worker for the Philadelphia Senatus, and my job was to organize new praesidia of the Legion in several parishes throughout Philadelphia. I experienced first-hand the difficulty of finding people my age to join the Legion. I also experienced the anger of many Catholics who were shocked by the crisis and who were leaving the Church left and right, including some of my friends. I began to pray: What is my personal response to the crisis? What is going to happen to this Church that I love? I was a portfolio manager with the Vanguard Group at that time, managing more than twenty billion dollars of assets for the company. It was clear to me then that the world needed more priests than more money managers. I am grateful for the example of the many holy men and women of the Legion of Mary who inspired me and encouraged me to explore my vocation. What impressed me the most about the Legion of Mary is that it is the only Catholic lay group I know that prays daily, meets weekly, and requires a weekly two-hour assignment, with the goal of personal sanctification of its members."

Fr. Lim currently serves as Pastor at St Anthony of Padua parish in Novato, CA. Fr Lim was a junior member of the Legion of Mary growing up in Singapore. After obtaining his MBA in Finance and while working in Philadelphia, Pa., he was Senatus Extension Chair for seven years and served as the Philadelphia Senatus Treasurer. Fr Lim was promoted by his company and relocated to the Bay Area in 2004. While living in Oakland he realized his calling to the priesthood. In 2005 Fr Lim enter St Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, Ca. At St Patrick's he and Fr. Goode started a Legion Praesidium for the seminarians. On May 19, 2012 at St Mary's Cathedral Fr Lim was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of San Francisco by Archbishop Niederauer.) - ***Contributed by Dave Marten, Assistant Treasurer, San Francisco Senatus***



Rev. Father Cameron Pollette
Former VP - Mary, Star of the Sea Praesidium
(Star of the Sea Church, San Francisco)
Parochial Vicar, Saint Veronica Catholic Church

June 19, 2021 will be a day etched forever in the memory of Rev. Father Cameron Pollette. It was his priestly ordination day at the Saint Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco. This day was a culmination of his hours of sacrifice, studies and very serious discernment to a

lifetime of commitment to God. It was an awe-inspiring moment for our Legionary brother, Cameron in front of hundreds of witnesses to his priestly vows. Not born a Catholic, Fr. Pollette attributes his conversion to his loving parents – to his mother who together with him started to visit Catholic churches around his city of birth, San Francisco. Later he would find himself interested in the Church's many beautiful statues, stained glass window and sacred music- to his father, who bought him a catechism book which led him to regular visits at Star of the Sea Church in San Francisco. He considers his membership to the Legion as an influential factor in his vocation, *"I was a member of the Legion of Mary at my home parish before entering the seminary. The Legion helped encouraged within me the spirit of evangelization: clergy, laity and religious all share the duty to spread the Gospel. The members of the Legion do this work under the patronage of the Mother of God, and they do so in a bold and systematic way. The apostolate helped me the joy of sharing my faith."*

Fr. Pollette, who studied at Saint Patrick's Seminary and University of California (Davis) believes that the Blessed Mother and his devotion to her, had a profound impact to his vocation: *"Mary has always been a part of my life, even before I became Catholic in my last year of college. The Rosary has been a constant companion. I wear the Brown Scapular and the Miraculous Medal, and I have made the Total Consecration according to the method of Saint Louie de Montfort. I have always believed in the importance of going to Jesus through Mary. As priest, need her now more than ever. Surely, the Blessed Mother played a major role in bringing me to the Church and in helping me to discover my vocation. I have always trusted in her intercession – there were moments of challenge and doubt as I was discerning the Lord's will for me. I knew I could turn to Mary for help through her trial."*

Fr. Pollette's first assignment in the Archdiocese of San Francisco is at Saint Veronica Church (South San Francisco), where he currently serves as a Parochial Vicar. This is a 'match made in heaven' as there are two Legion of Mary praesidia at this parish. At his ordination, Archbishop Cordileone stated that his ordination came during one of the most challenging times in Church history. The pandemic has also brought to the Legion of Mary many obstacles in evangelization. To this, Fr. Pollette gives the following encouragement: *"First, I would like to advise Legionaries simply to do whatever is in their power. The saying is true: "where there's a will, there's a way." This is a time for creativity. If we truly want to spread the gospel, we will find a way to do it. Second, even though we have a call to spread the Gospel actively, we can never forget that we only cooperate in God's work. It is the Lord who touches hearts and draws them to Himself. This extended period of rest from apostolic efforts might be an invitation to devote more time to the interior life, without which there can be no apostolate."* – ***(Contributed by Lorna Garcia, president San Mateo County Comitium)***



Rev. Father Robert Hurd, S.J.
Past Member, Our Lady of Guadalupe Praesidium
Holy Name Church, San Francisco)
Professor at Xavier University (Cincinnati, Ohio)

Born on September 8, Our Lady's nativity and ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop John R. Quinn at Saint Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco, Fr. Robert Hurd, S.J. is originally from San Francisco, attended the University of San Francisco, medical school at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska and is a medical doctor. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1983, was ordained in 1991 and is currently a professor at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. Father Hurd became a member of the Legion of Mary during medical school after several members of the Legion of Mary in the parish church he attended asked him if he "would like to help the priest". Although he was already playing the organ and guitar at the parish church, he decided that it would be good to also work with the Legion members whom he described as "holy and happy". Among his assignments were home visitation, taking the census and "reaching out to those attending AA meetings".

The Legion of Mary members were very encouraging to him when he decided to enter the Jesuits and he would make time to visit his praesidium members from time to time over his years of seminary training. While studying for a year at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley he also attended the Our Lady of Guadalupe praesidium of the Legion of Mary at his boyhood parish of Holy Name of Jesus in San Francisco and worked on assignments with them visiting the elderly homebound. Fr. Bob is grateful to the Legion of Mary members for the encouragement to him throughout the years and urges the Legion of Mary to keep up the good works helping their parish priests. *(Contributed by Raymond Frost, president San Francisco Senatus)*



Sister Rosana Mary of the Cross, LSP
Past Member, Mary, Queen of Apostles Praesidium
(Saint Patrick's Church, San Francisco)

At an early age of nine, the former Rosana Dimayuga, a past member of Mary, Queen of Apostles Praesidium at Saint Patrick's Church realized that she had a vocation for religious life. Thus, it was not surprising that this woman of faith, a Marian devotee, would finally decide to enter the Little Sisters of the Poor Congregation in 1994. Her decision to commit herself to the service of God and His people is due to her prayerful and sacramental life from which graces flow through the hands of Our Lady who led her to the discernment

of her vocation. In 1997, she took her Temporary vows in Queens, New York and her Perpetual vow in their Mother House in France. Ever since that day, her life would forever be changed as she had made a promise to commit to the vision of their founder (Saint Jeanne Jugan), to make the people under their care joyful and hopeful in Christ. She was assigned to Saint Joseph's House in Palatine, Illinois and now she serves at S. Peter and Paul Home in Pittsburg. Pennsylvania. Sister Rosana Mary will be celebrating her Silver Jubilee in 2022. - (Contributed by Emy Pasion, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Praesidium, Saint Patrick's Church)

The Greatest of these is Love (Legion of Mary Handbook)

"Towards the Pastors of the Church there should be shown the filial love due to them as spiritual fathers and shepherds. Legionaries should share their anxieties and help them by prayer, and as far as possible, by active work so that they may be better able to overcome difficulties and carry out their duties with greater success."

Words of Inspiration (by Frank Duff)



"The Legionaries' essential mainstay must be this knowledge of the companionship of God, their good Father, in their twofold work of sanctifying themselves and serving their neighbor."

"Legionary your firm support is Mary. Lean upon her with complete trust. She will not fail you, for she is deeply rooted in that humility which is vital to you."

"You are a Legionary during what might be called your secular hours, that is during your whole life."

"Real achievement is dependent upon sustained effort, which in turn is the outcome of the unconquerable will to win."

"The Legion's battle for souls must begin in the heart of the individual legionary. Each one must wage the battle with himself, determinedly conquering in his heart the spirit of pride and self."



The Holy Ghost and the Legion of Mary

The Vexillum Legionis is an adaptation of the standard of the Roman Legion. The eagle which surmounted the standard is replaced by the Dove, the emblem of the Holy Spirit. Beneath the Dove a cross-bar bears the inscription "Legio Mariae" (Legion of Mary). Intermediate between cross-bar and staff

(and joined to the former by a rose and a lily) is an oval frame bearing a representation of the Immaculate Conception (the Miraculous Medal). The staff is set in a globe which, for use on a table, stands on a square base. The whole design conveys the idea that the world is to be conquered by the Holy Spirit acting through Mary.

If then, the Legion of Mary's goal is the sanctification of its members through prayer and apostleship, then it would have to first of all address in all its endeavors, the Holy Ghost. It is significant that the first corporate act of the Legion of Mary was to address itself to the Holy Ghost, letting the Holy Ghost work its miraculous wonders in shaping its destiny and the lives of its members and those that are touched by their missionary efforts. The Legion of Mary Prayers opens with the invocation of the Holy Ghost. The Legion Promise, directed to the Holy Ghost as well (and not to the Queen), conveys the message of the role of the Holy Spirit in the works of evangelization and conversion. If

hearts are changed, it is because of the graces of the Holy Spirit, where Mary is His agency.



Frank Duff in his article, "The Legionary and the Holy Spirit," states that RED is the color of the Legion (and not as might be expected, blue). A minor detail in the Vexillum and the Tessera picture shows that Our Lady's halo is red to symbolize that she is full of the



Holy Spirit. The Tessera picture also depicts Our Lady as the Biblical Pillar of Fire, all luminous and burning with the Holy Spirit.

Finally, if the Legion of Mary were to succeed towards the next hundred years, it would have to depend on the guidance of the Holy Ghost, listen to His calling and be open to its direction coming from the holy men and women of the Most Holy Catholic Church. Of course, as it has always done in its first hundred years, it also needs the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary from evil and error of today's secular world. O come Holy Spirit...and make us truly wise!

A Tribute to Our Blessed Mother (In your own words...)

One way to honor the Blessed Mother is to offer her words of praise from the bottom of your heart. So, rather than writing these beautiful praises for everyone, we thought to encourage each one of you to write your own praises of Mary. Thus, in your own words, tell her just how much she means to you. Maybe what you will write will become part of your daily prayer to her and to Jesus her Son. Use the space below and of course, use a really nice pen.

