

WE ARE ALL YOURS

The Legion of Mary

North San Mateo Curia
25th Anniversary Celebration



1985 -2010

“WE’VE ONLY JUST BEGUN”

*“Who is she that cometh forth as the morning rising,
fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an
army set in battle array?”*

“O Mary, conceived without sin.”

December 11, 2010
Saint Veronica Church South San Francisco CA

Our Queen, Our Mother

And all that we have is yours.



The North San Mateo Curia 25th Anniversary Newsletter
Commemorative Issue
Foundation Date: December 5, 1985



Today, the Legion of Mary North San Mateo Curia celebrates the 25th year anniversary of its foundation and its 25th Annual General Reunion in honor of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. As what we have done in the past and in accordance with the Legion



Handbook, our General Reunion would be one of a social, fun and entertaining event. However, unlike the 24 previous Annual General Reunions, this is a bit special. After all, 25 years is a milestone, an achievement in its own right that we should somehow in our busy schedule stop, celebrate and think about. Twenty five years - yet our work in the salvation of the countless of lost and wandering souls has only just begun, barely scratching the surface of this ever-growing population and changing landscape of our parishes. It would be wrong and presumptuous for us to even think that after 25 years we have done so much for the Catholic Church and for God that we now rest in our quest for the salvation of souls. Sorry, for Legionaries in this on-going battle there is no rest. We have an unfinished and on-going business in the work of redemption and salvation of man. Our 25th year anniversary is only a momentary pause in time to recall the blessings of the past years and to pray for health, strength and courage to complete the course that we have all started in this journey, our own personal fiat to Our Lady.



Sentimentality has no place in the Legion, only sustained and constant work for souls.



Over the past twenty five years the North San Mateo Curia had been blessed by so many committed and devoted Legionaries and Spiritual Directors who have all contributed to the growth of the Legion of Mary in this part of the world. To name all of them would be an impossible task and frankly, an unnecessary endeavor. The Legion has no individual awards, plaques or medals to handout. We work anonymously without expectations of fame and wealth. Our sacrifice of time and energy is our humble way of giving back to the Mother of God in the hope that at the moment of our death, she will be there presenting our soul and begging for it from her son, Our Lord Jesus. This will be our final and only reward for all the ridicules, spits, sour looks and insults the world has given us working under the banner of Mary, the Immaculate Conception.



We would like to take this moment to recall our humble beginnings in 1985 when the North San Mateo Curia only had eleven Praesidia to where it is today- twenty six strong and dynamic Praesidia. To all our priests and Spiritual Directors, we dedicate our 25th Year Anniversary celebration. Without your love and support we would not be standing where we are now. To all our former Curia officers, your leadership and dedication of service have molded us and to you we will be forever indebted. To all our auxiliary members, our gratitude for your prayers for without them we would have succumbed to our human frailties. And finally, to all our active members, thank you, enjoy this moment for tomorrow we should all be back on the streets bringing Jesus and Mary to the world.

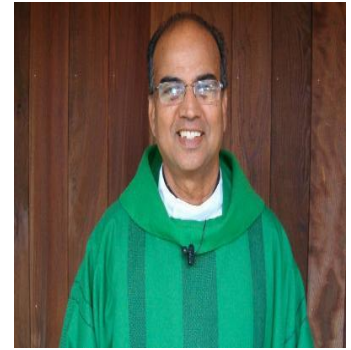




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Former Spiritual Director of the North San Mateo Curia, our beloved **Fr. Bala Govindu** is now the Administrator of Saint Aloysius Church in Point Arena, CA in the Santa Rosa Diocese sends to all of us this message on the occasion of our 25th Anniversary. We all miss him!



SAINT ALOYSIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH, P.O.BOX 66,
 POINT ARENA, CA 95468

Sister Carmen Perlas, President
 North San Mateo Curia
 Dear Sister Carmen,

Congrats to you, your team of Officers, and all the Legionaries of the North San Mateo Curia on reaching a great milestone, the 25 years of service under the banner and guidance of Our Heavenly Mother Mary. I recall today with joy and pride of my association with the Curia as its Spiritual Director for a couple of years in the past. I thank all of you for the excellent cooperation you've given. Together with yours, my heart too brims with joy and praise to see the wonderful progress and service you've made so far.

I personally think that the Curia has done wonders of grace not only in the lives of the legionaries and auxiliary members, but also in the lives of many people through your prayer and apostolate. Your efforts of evangelization are praiseworthy. As Christians, you have all understood the spirit of baptism and risen on many occasions to fulfill the two obligations that stem from baptism, namely seeking holiness and doing apostolate. Be true Christians always, and as such, be courageous apostles!



Best wishes and blessings to one and all!

Wish and pray that the Jubilee Celebration will be fruitful and successful leading you and many more to the Golden Jubilee. God bless us all in our humble ministry! May Mary our Mother protect and guide us in all our efforts of evangelization!

Fr. Bala on his bids farewell to the officers of the North San Mateo Curia – June 2010

Sincerely,

S/d: Fr. Balaswamy Govindu, Administrator



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Message from Sister Carmen Perlas- President, North San Mateo Curia

Can you feel the happiness in great measure that fills every corner of this room tonight? I can guarantee that every Legionary you will meet tonight illuminates that Legion spirit of love and enthusiasm that for the past twenty five years have been the persona of our council. Yes, we are young, dynamic and forever young! Many lasting friendships have been formed over the past twenty five years uniting us together in our quest for souls.

Each one of us here has given our strength and energy to do our Legion apostolic works to the fullest of our abilities. Looking at all of us I ask myself what has caused us to endure all the challenges and sufferings in order to carry out His mission and to keep the faith growing in all of us and in others? What have made us all want to finish this course that we have all begun? The Legion course is not easy, it is full of road blocks and temptations – often times we have wanted to quit and just drop off. But the Legion is not a college course that you can simply drop for there is a lot at stake here – a sinner waiting for The Light of the World. Often times we tell ourselves how challenging the work of conversion is and how incapable we all are. And yet, in spite of all of these, we are still here engaging ourselves with one of the loftiest ambitions of apostleship, to reach out to every person and to tell the world of Jesus.

All around us are soldiers chosen by the Blessed Mother, the apostles of Christ that he had picked not randomly but in close consultation with his Mother. It does not matter how old you are, he picks the elderly and the young children – education is not an issue, he picks the simple-minded people – timing is of no significance – he picks one at the height of his career, at the most difficult time of his life even while you are at school or even on the day of your First Holy Communion.

I tell you fellow Legionaries while we have done



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Message from Fr. Jess Labor, Parochial Vicar Saint Andrew's Church

On behalf of the Pastor of Saint Andrew, Rev. Fr. Alex Legaspi, and on my own behalf as Spiritual Director of the Legion of Mary, Saint Andrew chapter, I would like to convey my warm congratulations to all of you on your coming reunion in December of this year. The work of building God's kingdom on earth particularly on the parochial level is made easier because of the tremendous help done by different groups and organization within the parish. The Legion of Mary without doubt, plays a huge role on this task of building God's Kingdom. The Legion of Mary continues to do evangelization day after day without much noise but with great zeal and enthusiasm. The Legion of Mary is the "silent operator" of Evangelization.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary our mother and our model continue to inspire us in our work of spreading the good news. May the blessings from God continue to pour out into our lives thru the powerful intercession of our Blessed Mother. And may our lives and work please and glorify God.

Rev. Fr. Jesus G. Labor

Church of the Good Shepherd

901 Oceana Boulevard ♦ Pacifica, CA 94044-2341 ♦ (650) 355-2593



Greetings!

In behalf of the Good Shepherd community and our pastor, Fr. Piers Lahey, and the members of the Legion of Mary, Queen of Peace Praesidium, we praise and thank God for the Northern San Mateo Curia on its 25th Anniversary. We congratulate you and all who work with you for your faithfulness and success in heeding Mary's call to serve the people of God. Because of you, many churches in our Archdiocese have also heard their call to bring God in a compassionate way, especially to the needed and 'lost sheep' in our fold.

May God and the Virgin Mary continue to inspire and empower the Curia to be as creative and effective as God desires it to be. The Church is truly blessed to have the Legion of Mary active in our community. In Christ,

Deacon Noel Santillan

Spiritual Director
Mary Queen of Peace Praesidium, Legion of Mary, Good Shepherd Church



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OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH
60 Wellington Avenue
Daly City, CA 94014-1123
Tel. # (650) 755-9786

30 October 2010

My heartfelt congratulations go to the Northern San Mateo Curia of the Legion of Mary as they mark a special milestone in celebration of their 25th year anniversary.

Our spiritual life is a journey of faith with Jesus and Mary. Along the way we stumble and fall as part of human frailty but together with the material strength of Mary and the ever constant love of Jesus to us, we always stand up from where we fall realizing that it is only in learning our past mistakes that we can create a new atmosphere for us to grow and bear fruit.

The Legion of Mary has been in existence for a long time in the Catholic Church. They have been a potent source of Marian spirituality wherein each member is encouraged to imbibe the spirit of Mary in terms of her being the first disciple who followed the very footsteps of her Son Jesus. In Mary, we have a mother who can guide us along the path of everlasting life; in Mary we have a woman full of grace who brought to us the child Jesus as the light of the world; in Mary we have everything we need in life but always together with her Son Jesus; in Mary the mysteries of the Holy Rosary is alive.

As you celebrate your 25th year anniversary it is my hope and prayer that you will continue to be the beacon of Christ's love in the world and be able to bring Mary into the stream of everyday life and become part and parcel of every man's business and happiness in this world. May Mary be carried as a burning torch of love in every household and every family so that rays and light that will come from the torch will burn away all divisiveness and keep away from the dark stark of life.

Your journey of 25 years doesn't end here but it continues on and on as you fulfill your own personal mission to carry out the message of Mary and Jesus to the world so that the world will be evangelized and baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Once again, my warm congratulations to all members of the Legion of Mary in the Northern San Mateo Curia. Keep the love of Mary and Jesus burning of hearts and in your life.

With my every good wish and blessing, I remain

Rev. Fr. Antonio G. Petilla
Spiritual Director – OLPH
Legion of Mary



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Dove House

Dialogue and Career Discernment Center
460A San Mateo Avenue, San Bruno, CA 94066

Dear Legionaries,

As chaplain of the Mater Dolorosa Praesidium of the Legion of Mary in South San Francisco, it is a great pleasure to give a testimonial to the wonderful work I witness of the Legionaries there.

Each praesidium considers it is a blessing to have a priest chaplain, but it is also a blessing for the priest. So often nowadays, priests encounter apathy on the part of parishioners; it is uplifting to see zeal and prayerfulness on the part of the legionaries.

My sincere hope and prayer is that many more Catholics will join the Legion to be Mary's troops to conquer many souls for her Divine Son.

Sincerely,

Fr. Joe Richard

Fr. Joe Richard
Pastor Emeritus of St. Cecilia's Church of Lagunitas, CA

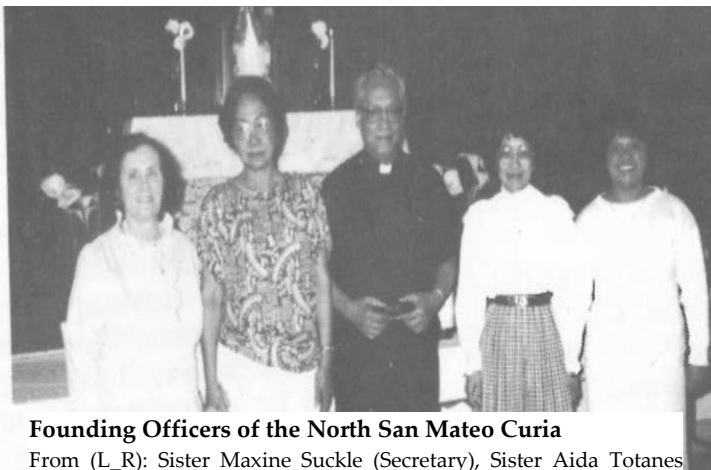


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All beginnings are hard. When the North San Mateo Curia began its formation in 1985 we were a council of eleven Praesidia uncertain of what the future holds. Our birth came from the split of the San Mateo Curia into two separate Curiae, the North San Mateo Curia and the South San Mateo Curia. With 36 parishes under the geographical responsibility of the San Mateo Curia, it became somehow necessary to reevaluate its scope and area of responsibility.

A smaller and a more compact curia can better serve the needs of the Legion of Mary because a smaller organization would be easier to supervise and manage. More importantly a sense of belongingness and unity among the parishes and their Praesidia would also ensue as it has always been proven that the bigger you are, the more difficult to know each other. Communication and transportation issues were also important factors that played in during the deliberation process. After several discussions and correspondence among the officers of the San Francisco Comitium, Los Angeles Senatus and the Concilium, the San Mateo Curia was granted the permission to split between North and South.

With deepest humility and sincerest gratitude to all our fellow Legionaries, former North San Mateo Curia officers, Spiritual Directors and Auxiliary members, we offer this year's 25th Year Annual General Reunion celebration in their honor. Although not all of their names would have been written in the archives of our history, their names rest assured have been sketched in our Blessed Mother's heart. They always would be responsible for the success of her army in this part of the world. Because of their effort this fighting unit of the Blessed Mother's Legion has become one of her most formidable units against the onslaught of evil and darkness lurking in our world today.



Founding Officers of the North San Mateo Curia
From (L_R): Sister Maxine Suckle (Secretary), Sister Aida Totanes (Vice President), Fr. Antonio Rey (Spiritual Director), Sister Elvie Felix (President) and Sister Marilyn Perez (Treasurer)

1985 – North San Mateo Curia Founded - On December 5, 1985 the

North San Mateo Curia was founded under the spiritual guidance of its first Spiritual Director, the late **Father Antonio Rey**. While Fr. Rey's vision and dream were eventually realized during his lifetime, little did he know that twenty five years later, the little seed he had planted had undergone unparalleled growth! Today, the North San Mateo Curia has twenty six (26) Praesidia and

present in ten of the original twelve parishes

assigned to our geographical boundaries. Our first set of Curia officers from 1985 to 1991 were the pioneers and the stalwarts of the North San Mateo Curia. They had set very high standards of leadership in which all future officers and leaders of the Curia are to be measured with. The momentum they had created is still that invisible force of energy that keeps us going to this very day.



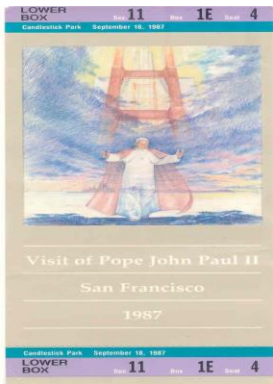
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With **Sister Elvie Felix's** leadership first president of the North San Mateo Curia, the first Curia Meeting was held on December 19, 1985. Elected as vice president was the **late Sister Aida Totanes** (Saint Andrew's) with **Sister Maxine Suckle** as Secretary (Saint Augustine's) and the **late Sister Marilyn Perez** as Treasurer (Holy Angels). This first set of officers cemented the foundation on which we stand today strong and vibrant as we had first started.



Sister Elvie Felix and the late Sister Marilyn Perez steered the North San Mateo Curia in the late '80s.

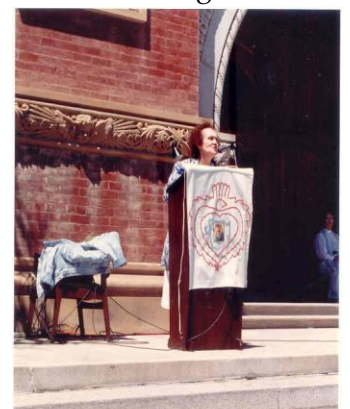
1986 – Action Starts. Not losing any momentum from the previous year, the North San Mateo Curia opened its first year of foundation with gusto. In 1986, the first Curia Acies (March 22, 1986) was held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Not long after that, there were two major **Book Barrows** at the Tanforan Shopping Center and the Westlake Shopping Mall. The first Patrician Meeting was also held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on October 16, 1986. By the end of 1986, the Extension Drives conducted by the Curia resulted to two additional Praesidia. At Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, the Mary Morning Star Praesidium (OLPH) was founded. At All Souls Church in South San Francisco, a Spanish Praesidium, Madre del Buen Consuejo was also formed. On December 5, 1986, the first Annual General Reunion of the North San Mateo Curia was held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.



1987 – Welcome Good Shepherd Church to the Curia! This year was highlighted by the visit of Pope John Paul II to San Francisco. He also declared 1987 as the **Marian Year** (June 7, 1987- August 15, 1988) bringing joy to all devotees of the Blessed Mother. The Curia established a planning committee to develop a program of activities in conjunction with the Marian Year. The Praesidium **Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe**, the Spanish Praesidium at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church closed in 1987. However, with the efforts of our Extension workers, we were granted permission by **Father Ted Shipp** to establish the Legion of Mary at Good Shepherd Church in Pacifica. Thus, on December 14, 1986, the Mary Queen of Peace Praesidium was founded and affiliated to the Curia this year. 1987 ended with a very memorable Annual General Reunion on December 11,

1987 at Saint Andrew's Church. That evening we "roasted" our Spiritual Directors... never had the guts since then to do it again.

1988 – The Curia Celebrates the Marian Year. The Curia entered 1988 with much excitement and anticipation with the Marian Year celebration in full swing. Part of the Marian Year program were several pilgrimages to parishes in the San Francisco Bay Area including St. Mary, Star of the Sea in Sausalito (Jan 9, 1988); Our Lady of the Pillar in Half Moon Bay (March 12, 1988); Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Redwood City (May 14, 1988) and Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Daly City (June 25, 1988). A Rosary Rally held on August 6, 1988 at Saint Patrick Seminary culminated the Marian Year. On November 17, 1988, the Curia held its second election of its Curia officers. Re-elected for their second term were Sister Elvie Felix (President);



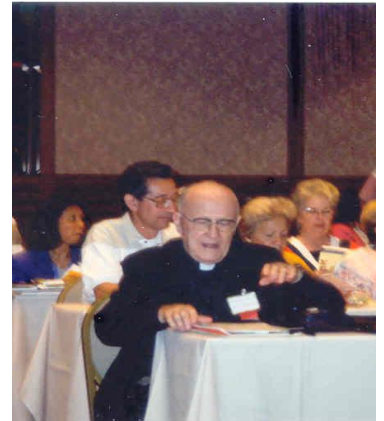
Sister Maxine Suckle addressing the Legion at the Rosary Rally at Saint Patrick's Seminary



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Sister Aida Totanes (Vice President) and Sister Maxine Suckle (Secretary). Elected as Treasurer for the first term as Brother Rafael Lahoz.

1989 – Meeting Fr. Aedan McGrath, a Legionary Hero. In the annals of the history of the San Francisco Bay Area, 1989 will forever be remembered for the Loma Prieta Earthquake and of course the Bay Bridge World Series. For the Legion of Mary, this year brought into our midst, a very holy priest who suffered in the hands of Chinese authorities as he tried to bring about not only Christianity in China but as well as the expansion and extension of the Legion of Mary, Fr. Aedan McGrath. The Chinese Communists arrested Fr. McGrath on the founding date anniversary of the Legion of Mary, September 7, 1951 where he was incarcerated for three years. Under the orders of Bishop Pin-Mei “Ignatius” Kung, Fr. McGrath was on a mission to establish the Legion of Mary in China, only to be declared as a subversive counter revolutionary by the Communists. Fr. McGrath arrived in San Francisco on February 22, 1989 and was met by the late Sister Aida Totanes and Brother Guido Bothelo where a dinner in his honor was hosted by Sister Elvie Felix in her residence. On May 6, 1989, a new junior praesidium, **Our Lady of Grace (OLPH)** was affiliated to the Curia. What made 1989 extra special was that it marked the 100th Year Anniversary of the birth of Frank Duff, the founder of the Legion of Mary. A special Mass was celebrated on June 7, 1989 in his honor. It was also this year that our first Correspondent, **Sister Margaret Bird** was replaced by a new correspondent, **Sister Madge Caughman**.



1990– Change in Curia Leadership – Sister Elvie and Maxine Bid Farewell. Still nursing the pain and the tragic loss of lives from the Loma Prieta Earthquake, the North San Mateo Curia was ready to accept the challenges of a new decade. However, this was to be a year of transition in its leadership. Due to health reasons, Sister Elvie Felix resigned as president creating a leadership void that would be very hard to fill. To complicate matters, Sister Maxine Suckle whose husband was ill at that time also had to resign from her post as secretary. Under their leadership, many accomplishments were made by the North San Mateo Curia but nothing more important than creating a momentum so great that while their presence would surely be missed never became an impediment to our continued growth and success.



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Curia Officers attended the Los Angeles Synod (L-R) Sister Ana Bordallo, Secretary; Brother Joe Jackson, Correspondent to the LA Senatus, Sister Helen Pyle, Treasurer; Bro. Ando Perlas, President and the late Sister Bebs Delos Santos, VP

Church. In November 1991, the late Sister Aida Totanes completed her second term as Vice President of the Curia. The late **Sister Bebs Delos Santos** was elected Vice President on November 21, 1991.

1991 – Welcome Mater Dolorosa Church to the Curia! Bro. Vergel Gutierrez Elected as New President. We ushered 1991 with a new president (**Brother Vergel Gutierrez, Saint Augustine**); a new Secretary (**Sister Ana Bordallo, Good Shepherd Church**) and a new Praesidium, **Mater Dolorosa** the parish of Mater Dolorosa Church. Thanks to years of diligent work of the late Brother Guido Botelho in extending the Legion of Mary at Mater Dolorosa, it was finally founded on March 2, 1991 and eventually affiliated to the North San Mateo Curia on April 25, 1991. For the first time in our history, the **Summer Function was combined with the San Francisco Comitium**

and was held at on August 4, 1991 at the Junipero Serra Park. 1991 would also be best remembered as the year when the Curia intensified its efforts to learn the art of home visitation by conducting a workshop at Our Lady of Perpetual Help

1992 – Bro. Ando Perlas Elected as President. We began 1992 with the Church Unity Octave beginning January 18. It was also this year that our Extension Workers continued their work at **Saint Veronica's Parish Church in South San Francisco**. As history would have it, it had taken ten years for the Legion of Mary to get the nod to begin the Legion in this Parish. The 3rd Legion Congress sponsored by the Curia was held on October 10, 1992 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. **Father Floro Arcamo**, newly-appointed pastor at Saint Augustine's Church and Spiritual Director of the Legion of Mary released a hit single "Christmas in San Francisco." With the same dynamism and enthusiasm under the leadership of the new president, Bro. Vergel Gutierrez the Curia forged ahead and accomplished many undertakings. Thus, it was sad that after only a year of his presidency, Bro. Vergel had to resign his position on December 1992 paving the way to the election of a new Curia President. On December 17, 1992, **Brother Ando Perlas** (Mary, Mother of Christian Families, OLPH) was elected as the third President of the North San Mateo Curia.

1993 – The Honeymoon is over. Sister Lu Bite, Spiritual Director Passes Away. Officially the honeymoon of the North San Mateo Curia was over in 1993. It was this year that we began to encounter problems or what the Legion of Mary Handbook calls "postponed success." Some of the officers of the junior Praesidia resigned and threatening the closure of these junior Praesidia. The results of the extension work at Saint Veronica and All Souls parishes were very frustrating and discouraging. The only men's Praesidium in the Curia, **Mary Mother of Christian Families** was down to three remaining active members not to mention that the **Our Lady of Holy Angels Praesidium** was also challenged with membership issues. Brother Rafael Lahoz's resignation on January 1993 as Treasurer of the North San Mateo Curia made matters worse as he was truly an experienced Legionary that would be missed. All these opened the presidency of Brother Ando Perlas.



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On May 20, 1993, the Curia Board called a meeting among the Praesidia presidents to discuss all these issues. This meeting was to be a wake-up call to all that if we are to continue to succeed in strengthening the Curia, we needed to intensify our active membership drive, get more committed officers and live up to the expectations of our responsibilities as stewards of this great organization. Heeding to this call, the second half of 1993 brought many positive changes and blessings to the Curia. Mary, Mother of Christian Families Praesidium grew in membership from three to nine. Our Lady of Holy Angels also experienced an increase in membership and above all, a new Praesidium Mary, Mother of Youth at Mater Dolorosa was formed in September 1993. On July 22, 1993, **Sister Helen Pyle** (Mary Queen of Apostles, Saint Augustine) was elected as the new Curia Treasurer. The North San Mateo Curia suffered the loss of a great Legionary of Mary and Spiritual Director of Mary, Mother of Christian Families (OLPH) **Sister Lu Bite who succumbed to cancer on October 14, 1993.**



The late Sister Lu Bite,
Spiritual Director, OLPH

1994 – The Year of the Family. We welcomed 1994 as the **International Year of the Family**. Every time there was an opportunity that year, the Curia promoted the value and importance of the Christian family. The late **Brother Guido Botelho** in his Legion Talk at the Summer Function pointed the importance of prayer in families and exhorted parents to pray with their children, especially the Most Holy Rosary. On September 17-18, 1994 the North San Mateo Curia officers attended the **Los Angeles Synod** and there met Brother William Jackson, correspondent of the LA Senatus to the Concilium.

1995 – Preparing for the New Millennium of Christianity. There were challenges that faced the Archdiocese of San Francisco at the start of this year. Several Churches or parishes were earmarked for closure due to different reasons such as low Mass attendance or earthquake retrofitting problems. For the Legion of Mary, the closure meant lending more support in taking care of the spiritual needs of the Archdiocese. It was also this year, that the North San Mateo Curia evaluated the document **“The Call to Discipleship – A Journey of Hope Toward the New Millennium.”** The Legion of Mary must be in a position to support the evangelization plans of the Church in order to be an effective force in carrying out the plans and goals not only of the Archdiocese of San Francisco but also of the universal Church. Our Extension Workers continued to work on the parishes of Saint Veronica, All Souls Church and Our Lady of Mercy but still nothing to show for their efforts. But we knew then that it would be just a matter of time and the right situation that our Blessed Mother would open the doors for us in these parishes.

1996 – The Passing of Father Antonio Rey, First Curia Spiritual Director. Fr. Ed Dura Appointed as North San Mateo Spiritual Director - This year would bring new changes in the leadership of the North San Mateo Curia. It was on February 6, 1996 that shocking and sad news spread like wildfire among the members and officers of the Curia. **Fr. Antonio Rey**, our Spiritual Director, friend, close ally of the Legion and an intellectual of a priest had died. The loss not only brought sadness to many of us, but a definite void in our leadership. We were spoiled by him in so many ways. For him, the Legion of Mary was his ally and knowing how smart and learned he was how could anyone argue with



Father Rey displaying his sense of humor that endeared him to all of us.



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that. He set the tone and the direction of the Curia for years to come. And because of him, we have made it to 25 years standing strong as ever. We also learned and enjoyed every bit his Allocutio, digesting every word he uttered and taking it heart. But now he was gone, shoes too large to fill but then we have to move on. On **September 7, 1996** we celebrated at Saint Cecilia' s Church along with members of the San Francisco Comitium the **75th Anniversary** of the founding of the Legion of Mary. In the middle of 1996, history was made when the North San Mateo Curia successfully received approval for the Legion of Mary at **Archbishop Riordan High School**, an all boys Catholic High School run by the Marianists. Finally, this year was also highlighted by the appointment of **Fr. Ed Dura** (then Parochial Vicar at Mater Dolorosa Church) as the new Spiritual Director of the North San Mateo Curia.

1997 – Business as Usual. There was anxiety in the air in 1997 as China was about to take over Hong Kong from British rule. A question of religious freedom for Catholics in this tiny island lured over. Of course, for the Legion of Mary, this event thousands of miles away had some implication for us. What if China suppresses Catholicism? While this monumental event was unfolding, there was a cursory look being taken by some of us,



One of the trademarks of the North San Mateo Curia is ensuring that its young Legionaries have an enjoyable time every once in a while. Here we took them to Great America in the early 90's.

watching from afar and yet, having to work for the Blessed Mother as usual. Extension Work at Archbishop Riordan High School was in full swing. Eventually, the Praesidium at Riordan High School was transferred to the jurisdiction of the SF Comitium effective January 1997. It was also this year the **Los Angeles Synod** was held on June 13-15 at Universal Sheraton at Los Angeles. A leadership workshop was held at Saint Augustine's Church followed by three Columban Drives at Saint Bruno and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

1998 – A Transition Year for the Curia – This year ended the second term of Brother Ando Perlas as president, Sister Bebs Delos Santos as Vice President, Sister Ana Bordallo as Secretary and Sister Helen Pyle as Treasurer. Thus, while the usual activities and functions

were being planned and organized as usual, the Curia Board was gearing up for the election of a new set of officers. What needed to be done was to ensure that the transition be as smooth and seamless as possible, not losing any kind of momentum because of the change in officers. Sister Bebs Delos Santos who has served six years as Vice President was the logical choice of course. The Vice President position was an open field. The success of the extension work at Archbishop Riordan High School in 1997 also inspired the Curia Extension workers to try other schools such as the Immaculate Conception Academy and even the City College of San Francisco as there is a strong presence of Catholic students in this campus. The **Patricians** at Our Lady of Perpetual Help was also growing strong this year. The late **Brother Mandy Labayen** began attending the Patrician in order to share his wealth of knowledge and with the plan of starting a new group at Saint Andrew's Church.



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1999 –New Set of Curia Officers Elected - By 1999, the North San Mateo Curia had a complete set of new officers. **Sister Bebs Delos Santos** was elected unanimously as president and **Sister Lillie Villaluna** of Mater Dolorosa was also elected Vice President. **Sister Carmen Perlas** was elected as Secretary. Sister Lourdes Zambales of Holy Angels was elected as Treasurer. The new set of Curia officers did not lose any ground or momentum in preparing the North San Mateo Curia face the challenges of the new Millennium. In addition to the usual preparation and coordination of the Legion functions, 1999 was involved a number of activities in preparation of the **Jubilee Year** in 2000. Likewise, many of the Legion Praesidia were involved in **RENEW 2000**, making this year an unusually busy year for all of us. We ended the year with a memorable Annual General Reunion on December 4 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

2000 – The Year of the Great Jubilee - The New Millennium was a scary time for many of us. Not only did we hear our technical experts worry about the possible effects of Y2K in our personal lives (computers not being to properly process the “00” time stamp, etc.), but there were soothsayers out there declaring the beginnings of the Apocalypse. For the North San Mateo Curia, the year 2000 would be best remembered for the activities surrounding the Jubilee Year. On October 28, 2000 braving the heavy winds and rain, members of the Legion of Mary together with thousands of Catholics in the Archdiocese of San Francisco attended the Jubilee Mass at the newly-opened Pacific Bell Park. Prior to that, there were several Church Pilgrimages culminating in a Mass at Saint Mary’s Cathedral. In August 2010, the North San Mateo Curia affiliated the men’s Praesidium at Saint Andrew’s Church, **Mary Gate of Heaven**.

2001 –The Legion Mourns the Loss of Lives in the 9/11 Tragedy -_The tragic events of 2001 (9/11 Attacks) brought many of us to standstill. The whole world was at a shock at the loss of innocent lives. To this day, there is no human explanation to justify such cruelty and violence. If there is consolation that came out of this is that at least for one moment in time, thousands of Catholics and other Christians around the world were united in prayer. For the Legion of Mary, 9/11 would always be a somber reminder how fragile and delicate one’s life is as such the importance of reminding others to constantly make their lives acceptable to God. The Legion has no time to rest. We are to stay as vigilant lest souls might be lost forever. Towards the end of this year, Sister Bebs Delos Santos and Sister Lillie Villaluna decided that they were not going to seek another term

of office. On April 26, 2001, upon the resignation of Sister Carmen Perlas as Secretary, the North San Mateo Curia re-elected Sister Ana Bordalla for the third term as Secretary. Finally, on October 21, 2001 Curia meeting there was an a bit of an excitement in the air as it was announced that Mater Dolorosa had formed a Men’s Praesidium, Queen of All Hearts.



In 2002, members of the North San Mateo Curia posed with Fr. Ed Bohnert at the Los Angeles Synod.

2002 – Welcome Saint Veronica Parish to the North San Mateo Curia - Health issues prevented Sister Bebs Delos Santos from continuing on as the president of the Curia for another three years. Indebted forever to her generosity are the Legion of Mary members whom she persistently recruited. Because of her, many of these members are still here serving



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the Blessed Mother opening their lives to a new and heavenly direction. **Brother Ando Perlas** was elected as the Curia president serving on his second tour of duty. **Bro Loy Banez** (Saint Augustine) was elected Vice President. On July 2002, the North San Mateo Curia published its first quarterly newsletter as a commemoration of its 200th Council Meeting. It was also this year, that **Msgr. Fr. John Pernia of OLPH** took his Sabbatical welcoming its new pastor, **Fr. Antonio Petilla**. But who would have thought that after more than 15 years of knocking on the doors of Saint Veronica Church the Legion of Mary would finally open its first Praesidium! The Legion of Mary joined the Catholic Church in promoting the Rosary as declared by Pope John Paul II in his declaration of “**Year of the Rosary**” (October 2002 – October 2003). Thanks to **Father Ed**

Bohnert, its new pastor who only after a few months of his administration decided to start the Legion right away. The seed has already been planted at this parish by our Extension Worker the late **Brother Guido Botelho**. On November 3, 2002, **Our Lady of Mount Carmel** was founded at Saint Veronica Church with sixteen founding members. Today there are a total of five Praesidia in this parish. On October 18, 2002, eleven Legionaries from the North San Mateo Curia attended the **Los Angeles Senatus Synod**.



In 2002, the great Extension Chairperson of the North San Mateo Curia, Brother Guido Botelho had passed away.

2003 Pro- Life Activities and the Beginnings of the Family Praesidium - The North San Mateo Curia leadership would take another step in uncharted territory that of developing a blueprint for the Legion’s active involvement in the Pro-Life Movement of the Catholic Church. A meeting to discuss Pro Life plans and activities was held at Saint Veronica Church among the Curia Board members with

Brother Raymond Frost, San Francisco Senatus President. A decision was made that among the many possible Pro-Life activities, the Legion would first initiate awareness among fellow Catholics about the Church’s stance on the sanctity of life. Thus, for the next two years, weekend Pro Life Awareness Masses were to be scheduled in different parishes of the Curia. Likewise, in the next phase of the program, members of the Legion of Mary were to start training in Side Walk Counseling and praying outside abortion clinics. It was also this year that a new concept was born – a family Praesidium. It all started when parents of the junior Praesidium, Mary Model of Youth (Mater Dolorosa) wanted to join the Legion of Mary active memberships only if they could be together with their children. Late night discussions between Brother Ando Perlas and the late **Sister Guina Tablante** (President, Mary Model of Youth Praesidium) yielded one of the most novel ideas in the Legion – that of forming a praesidium of families.



Legion members from OLPH and Holy Angels parish during a Columban Drive at Holy Angels. The North San Mateo Curia has always kept focused on getting the young to the Legion.



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On December 28, 2003 on the Feast Day of the Holy Family, Brother Ando Perlas formally submitted a position paper to the San Francisco Senatus and the Concilium Legionis on the Family Praesidium. In May 2003, Archbishop William Levada appointed **Father Eugene Tungol** (Pastor, Saint Augustine) as the new Spiritual Director of the North San Mateo Curia. Our beloved **Sister Bebs Delos Santos passed away** on August 22, 2003 a loss that up to this day is being felt by many of us, especially those whom she had recruited personally to the Legion of Mary.



Fr. James Mweyunge, Spiritual Director, Saint Veronica in his native African costume during the Annual General Reunion presentation of the "Lion King"

2004 – Campaigning for Young Members to the Legion - Mel Gibson's most awaited movie, "**The Passion of the Christ**" which was released in February 2004 was the major event that awaited the Christian world at that time. However, for the North San Mateo Curia, 2004 would bring the much awaited workshop on "**The Dogmas on Mary**" (held **June 12, 2004 at Good Shepherd Church**). The format of the workshop was to be different – it was a debate between Catholics and Protestants about the Blessed Virgin Mary. Legionaries who participated in the workshop presented the both the Catholic and Protestant position on Mary (Immaculate Conception, Perpetual Virginity, Mother of God and Assumption). There was intense preparation involved in this as both camps wanted to outwit each other in a friendly but heated discussions on Mary. The lessons learned from this workshop were very invaluable in our defense on the Blessed Mother against the Protestant onslaught on our Blessed Mother.

However, 2004 would be best remembered as a **Youth Recruitment** awareness campaign (Sponsor a Youth Campaign) to the Legion of Mary. While we already had nine (yes nine and this is not a typo) junior Praesidia in 2004 it was felt that we needed more emphasis on recruiting children and young adults to the Legion because if we don't attract the young, we would be failing in our purpose. To keep the young interested and balance their activities in the Legion, the Curia added the Junior Bowling Day. The Annual General Reunion was held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on December 4, 2004 with the theme "Life is a Celebration" that showcased the many musical and acting talents of our members as we presented some of the most popular Broadway Musical Plays like "Evita", "Fiddler on the Roof", "Les Miserable" and the "Lion King."

2005 - The Year of the Eucharist - This year, we celebrated our 20th founding anniversary of the North San Mateo Curia. During the Annual General Reunion held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, we had a memorable and fun program with each parish taking a page from a Broadway musical. We also welcomed to the Curia the newest Praesidium from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Our Lady of Nativity under the leadership of its first president, Sister Demie Barrozo. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Praesidium of Saint Veronica heeded to the challenge of its Spiritual Director and Pastor Fr. Ed Bohnert to begin extended Adoration Hours in celebration of the Year



Legionaries show their support of life at the Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco.



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Junior members of Saint Andrew's pose with their certificate of completion of the Junior Workshop held at Mater Dolorosa Church.

of the Eucharist. The Adoration Program at Saint Veronica was successfully launched in the summer of 2005 under the banner of the Legion of Mary. This year, the Legion joined the first **Walk for Life in San Francisco**.

2006 – Curia Undertakes Study of the Faith, Sister Marilyn Perez Elected Curia President

– The late Brother Mandy Labayen would forever have a profound impact on the lives of many Legionaries – because of him we have all become more knowledgeable of our Catholic doctrine and faith. Each month Brother Mandy would prepare a monthly summary from one of the chapters of

the Catechism of the Catholic Church summarizing key points for our discussions. On July 2006, the Family Praesidium gave its first annual report to the North San Mateo Curia. Also on July 22, 2006 at the parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, a **Senior Workshop** reviewing the Legion apostolic system in its entirety. In the meantime, the Curia continued to hold its Respect Life Awareness Weekends in different parishes. In May 2006, Brother Ando Perlas resigned as president of the North San Mateo Curia as he was elected as Vice President of the San Francisco Senatus, a position he still holds today. On August 2006, the North San Mateo Curia elected **Sister Marilyn Perez** as its president. Replacing her was **Brother Ambrose Calonsag** as Vice President.

2007 – North San Mateo Curia Hosts the first San Francisco Senatus Conference - Under the leadership of Sister Marilyn Perez, the North San Mateo Curia did not lose any momentum as it headed into another busy year for the Curia. Back to back weekends in January saw members of the North San Mateo Curia participate in two major activities. On January 20, 2007 our members participated in the annual Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco. The following week, **January 27, 2007**, the North San Mateo Curia hosted the first **San Francisco Senatus Conference** at Saint Veronica Church, an event attended by more than three hundred Legionaries from all the councils and Praesidia attached to the San Francisco Senatus. This event is a recognition given by the Senatus of the Curia's well-oiled machinery, and organizational ability to be able to host a large number of legionaries.

2008 – “The Pauline Year - Year of Saint Paul” – This year would be best remembered as the “Jubilee Year of Saint Paul (June 28, 2008 to June 29, 2009)”, one of the Patron Saints of the Legion of Mary, and one of the greatest saints of the Catholic Church. The Legion of Mary joined the universal Church in the celebration of the birth anniversary of the great apostle of the Gentile. Most importantly was to remind all of us that same message Brother Frank Duff had



The late Brother George Grivas of Mater Dolorosa as Saint Paul, one of the many roles he played in our Annual General Reunions (Don't think the women are taking him seriously)



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been emphasizing to all of us, the bringing the Good News to all peoples through our apostolic works in the same breadth that Saint Paul had began for all of us. During the Annual General Reunion at Saint Andrew's Church, we honored Saint Paul by depicting his life, work and travel in the skit performances. Sadly, this year the health of our Curia President Sister Marilyn Perez showed some signs of weakening due to the effects of her cancer treatment. Her resiliency was manifested by her determination to keep going and to "finish the race."

2009 – "Year of the Priesthood" - Sister Marilyn Perez's Swan Song. Sister Carmen Perlas Elected as New Curia President. Sister Judy Lagowski Elected as New Curia Secretary. - The year began with a major Legion event, the celebration of the "Year of Saint Paul" Evangelization Conference at Saint Paul Church in San Francisco on January 25, 2009. This was sponsored by the San Francisco Senatus with Steve Ray a regular feature at EWTN and authority on the life of Saint Paul as the main speaker. In June, Pope Benedict XVI declared the period June 19, 2009 – June 19, 2010 as the "Year of the Priesthood" putting in our consciousness the value, integrity and profoundness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders.



Sister Marilyn Perez did not pass away until the following year but this year was to be the swan song of her legionary journey. Still able to preside as the Curia president she was going in and out of the hospital attending to her cancer treatments, truly a remarkable feat that left many of us speechless and at awe for her courage. As such, if this was to be the only year that we would ever remember her, it was a testament of her love for the Blessed Mother, another banner year for us as we continued to maintain the momentum and growth of our council. Given these health issues, Sister Marilyn ended her three year term as the Curia president which meant that once again, a new leader has to emerge and be able to sustain the driving force behind the Curia's success over the years.

The year would not be complete without the Annual Retreat at Saint Clare's Retreat House in Soquel, California.

On August 2009, **Sister Carmen Perlas, the Curia Secretary was elected as President.** With that, it became necessary to elect a new Curia Secretary. **Sister Judy Lagowski of OLPH** was elected the following month. Once again, the Curia was as busy as ever with functions and activities. For the first time, a combined Mass for deceased active and auxiliary members of the Legion was held at Mater Dolorosa on November 20, 2009 with Fr. Brian Costelo as celebrant. We ended 2009 with the Annual General Reunion at Our Lady of Perpetual Help honoring our priests and Spiritual Directors with musical number and skits in honor of "The Year of the Priesthood."



Junior members enjoy a bit of a respite at the Annual General Reunion at Saint Andrew Piro Hall in 2008.



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2010 – The 25th Year Anniversary of our Foundation. Sister Marilyn Perez Finishes the Course – We began this year knowing the fact that we are now entering the 25th year of our foundation as a Curia. Conscious of this, the Curia Board early on met and planned all Legion functions and activities culminating with the 25th Annual General Reunion and Anniversary Celebration. In between the months of January and December there were challenging and trying times for the Curia. Of course, we had the annual “get together” in the early part of January, the **Walk for Life West Coast** in January 23, 2010 which for the first time challenged its participants with down pour rain and winds. The following month, on February 7, 2010, the Curia sponsored the “**Investiture of the Brown Scapular**” following the Traditional Latin Mass at Mater Dolorosa. As usual, the Legion functions including the Summer Function together with the San Francisco Senatus and the San Francisco Mission Excelsior Curia were all well attended and were done in the spirit of Mary, unity and friendship among the Legionaries of Mary. It provided an opportunity for recruitment and inviting other people to participate in the Pilgrim Virgin. **On March 2, 2010 our dear Sister Marilyn Perez** passed away after a heroic battle against cancer. At the end of her beautiful life we all came together as one family not to mourn the death of a leader but to celebrate the beauty that life promises to those who serve well the Mother of God. She had finished the course, yes, with flying colors.



2010 North San Mateo Curia Officers

(L-R) Sister Vickie Gevana, Treasurer, Sister Norma Capule, Secretary, Sister Carmen Perlas, President and Brother Ambrose Calonsag, VP

The activities of the North San Mateo Curia this year were focused on two important aspects of the Legion system – evangelization through the usual apostolic works and special events such as the “Day in the Park” event at South San Francisco and Legion membership recruitment through the Legion Awareness Weekend Masses held at each parish. On June 7, 2010, we celebrated the first anniversary of the **Traditional Latin Mass at Mater Dolorosa Church**. At the **June 27, 2010** Curia Meeting, Fr. Bala, our Spiritual Director bided farewell to the North San Mateo Curia as his tenure with the Archdiocese of San Francisco was not renewed. A few months later, he was appointed at the Diocese of Santa Rosa and became the administrator of Saint Aloysius Church in Point Arena, California a four hour drive from South San Francisco. The Legion Workshop for Seniors and Juniors was held on July 10, 2010 at Mater Dolorosa Church.

On August 5, 2010 **Brother Jay Naidu, Sister Rachel Naidu and their son, Brother Jonathan Naidu** went to the Concilium Legionis in Dublin, Ireland and met with **Sister Maureen McManus, correspondent to the San Francisco Senatus, Brother Ray Mulroney, Concilium Assistant Secretary and Sister Sile, former president of the Concilium** presented to them the five year report of the family praesidium, Mary, Mother of the Eucharist and Family. The following month, September Sister Judy Lagowski announced her resignation as Curia secretary. On October, we elected long time Legionary **Sister Norma Capule (OLPH)** as the new secretary of the North San Mateo Curia. As we bring another year to a close with the celebration of the Annual General Reunion in honor of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, our hope for all is that everyone perseveres in their vocation as Legionaries of the Mother of God – “O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee!”



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church
“Setting the Standards for Legion Growth and Leadership”

The parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help is the face of the North San Mateo Curia and for good measure. It was through the efforts and vision of the late **Fr. Antonio Rey**, long-time pastor of this parish that the North San Mateo Curia came into existence. It is also at this parish that many of the early meetings, functions and activities of the Curia were held. OLPH has by far the largest number of Praesidia and membership in the North San Mateo Curia serving as a model dynamic growth in the Legion. Many of the former and current Curia officers came from this parish. **Sister Elvie Felix**, the first president (1985-1990) of the North San Mateo Curia; the late **Sister Bebs delos Santos**, former president of the North San Mateo Curia (1998 – 2001); **Brother Ando Perlas**, former president (1991 to 1997 and 2001 to 2006) began his Legionary journey at president of Mary, Mother of Christian Families. Other officers of the North San Mateo Curia from OLPH include **Sister Violy Carabeo** (Curia Vice President, 2005-2007; Curia Treasurer, 2002-2005); **Sister Vickie Gevana** (current Curia Treasurer); **Sister Judy Lagowski** (former Curia Secretary); Sister Norma Capule (current Curia Secretary, **Sister Carmen Perlas** (current President) and Brother Ambrose Calonsag (Curia VP)



OLPH Praesidium in the early '90s with Fr. Antonio Rey.



Current members with their Spiritual Director, Fr. Antonio Petilla

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Praesidium –

Founded on **June 25, 1980** this praesidium is considered to be the “Mother Praesidium” of the six other Praesidia in this parish. The efforts of their officers and members through the years have made the Legion of Mary grow exponentially not only in this parish but in the North San Mateo Curia. It can be said that this Praesidium set the standard for membership expansion of the Legion of Mary in this part of the world and has sustained thus far. **Father Antonio Petilla** is the current Spiritual Director. Their role as “mother Praesidium” is an important one as they are charged with the responsibility of making sure that the other six Praesidia at this parish are taken cared of. When other praesidia suffer in membership they are always ready to lend a helping hand.

Indeed, for more than 30 years since its foundation, this praesidium has lived up to its top billing as “mother.” **Sister Virgie Cimikowski**, current president has provided the leadership for this praesidium left void when Sister Bebs Delos Santos’ passed away in 2003. Since then, she along with her officers has been upholding the highest form of Legionary standard that all praesidia will be measured against. Thanks to the leadership of this praesidium officers and members such as Sister **Lourdes Cuizon**, **Sister Perlita Parayno**, **Sister Nelia Isleta** and long-time Legionaries such as **Sister Clara Lagasca**, **Sister Ellen Peralta** and **Sister Nellie Murphy**, Our Lady of Perpetual help praesidium will continue to uphold lofty Legion standards.



Mary Mother of Christian Families

Founded on **June 26, 1983** this Praesidium was originally the first all men's Praesidium in the North San Mateo Curia, the San Francisco Comitium and arguably in Northern America. Fr. Antonio Rey, its first Spiritual Director was always overjoyed to see the involvement of men in the Church and in the Legion of Mary. The late **Sister Lu Bite** became its second Spiritual Director. Obviously she was the only woman among a group of men which was a blessing as she would put them "in their proper places" at every Weekly Meeting. However, in the midst 90's its male membership dwindled and thanks to the insistence of Sister Bebs Delos Santos, rather than closing the

Praesidium she began sending members from other Praesidia to prevent its closure. Today, Mary, Mother of Christian Families is a mixed praesidium under the able leadership of their president, **Sister Ismaela Cruz** and their long time Legionary officers and members such as the housewife/husband teams of **Brother Tony Calagui** and **Sister Nita Calagui**; **Brother Tito Ballesteros** and **Sister Rose Ballesteros**, **Sister Dommie Cruz**, and **Sister Ellen Marcaida**. Additionally, with the assistance and inspiration of their **Spiritual Director, Fr. Dennis Barlaan**, Mary Mother of Christian Families is destined to do greater and bigger things for Our Blessed Mother and her children.



Our Lady of Hope- (Seniors)

Founded as a junior Praesidium on **June 18, 1981**, Our Lady of Hope is one of the oldest Praesidia in the North San Mateo Curia. Through the ears of and has given many of its former junior members the gift of faith and hope - where they are all now only God knows. Those who have passed through the ranks of Our Lady of Hope are well equipped to face the challenges of their Christian journey as they have been taught and guided by senior members of this praesidium. As its junior membership dwindled it became a senior praesidium

and presently has fifteen (15) active members. Its current officers and members have shown remarkable determination to move on and sustain the momentum that was first began many years ago. Under its current president and North San Mateo Curia Secretary, **Sister Norma Capule**, **Brother Jonas Salva Cruz**, **Sister Merlinda Go** and **Sister Carmelita Untalan** there is no doubt that this praesidium will continue to uphold the Legion apostolic system. Their praesidium emphasizes the study of the Handbook, the spiritual formation of their members through Bible Study, Patrician Meeting, Pilgrimages and various novenas. The by-product of their spiritual formation is the tremendous apostolic works they do as Legionaries. Our Lady of Hope's formula for success mirrors that of Frank Duff, by imitating Mary, her holiness and obedience, by having her as the mother of our soul, we can overcome all challenges and bring to the world love and hope.



Mary, Morning Star (Seniors)

Founded on **May 5, 1986**, the Mary Morning Star Praesidium was meant for all retired seniors of the parish. As envisioned by Fr. Rey this was to be the composition of this Praesidium, allowing members of the Church that have lots of time in their hands to serve its needs. He used to joke that unless you were already receiving Social Security, you could not be recruited in this praesidium. However, he did not exempt them from all the apostolic works of the Legion. Over the years

members of Mary Morning Star Praesidium have accepted the challenge in good spirits. Thus, you will see members of this praesidium conquering the cold and foggy days of Daly City, bringing the Blessed Mother to homes, knocking on doors and giving Communion to the sick. Those of us in the Legion who tend to whine and complain about the difficulty of Legion apostolic works would be put to shame by the members of this praesidium. Though no longer exclusive to Social Security recipients as they have opened their doors to younger members, Mary Morning Star shines brightly as our inspiration to “finish the course” and in spite of transportation and health issues that seem to constantly hover over this praesidium, they have amazed us all with their ability to still do door to door visitations under the cold breeze of Daly City. Under the leadership of **Sister Sonia Nanon, Sister Leonila Bonifacio, Sister Elizabeth Igtanloc, Sister Magdalena Aquino and Sister Vickie Gevana**, North San Mateo Curia Treasurer, this praesidium will continue to be a shining star for the Blessed Mother. Somewhere out there, Father Antonio Rey must be smiling for indeed his yet another brilliant idea has been realized.

Our Lady of Grace (Juniors)

Founded on **May 6, 1989** Our Lady of Grace Praesidium is a model of determination and quite frankly stubbornness to give in to the idea of closing a Praesidium because of membership problems. The courage of its officers, **Sister Conchita Playda** and **Sister Nellie Murphy** should be an inspiration to all, that in spite of the seeming difficulty in recruiting young men and women to the Legion of Mary, they have conquered all odds and have come up triumphant in the end. As an intermediate Praesidium made up of members “too young to be seniors and too old to be young juniors,” Our Lady of Grace presents the future of the Legion of Mary, holy, young, devoted and dedicated soldiers of the Blessed Mother. **Sister Dionie Ferrer** has also been a long time stalwart of this praesidium – who along with Sister Conchita Playda would recruit their grandchildren to this praesidium. This is a great example to all of us that evangelization and holiness of our families is a top priority for the Legion of Mary. While, the young generation of Catholics, in this modern day find themselves preoccupied with video games, social networking such as Facebook and Twitter members of Our Lady of Grace have not lost sight of their baptismal calling. It’s a beautiful thing to behold that grace still flow to the young of the Legion in spite of the secularization of our modern world.





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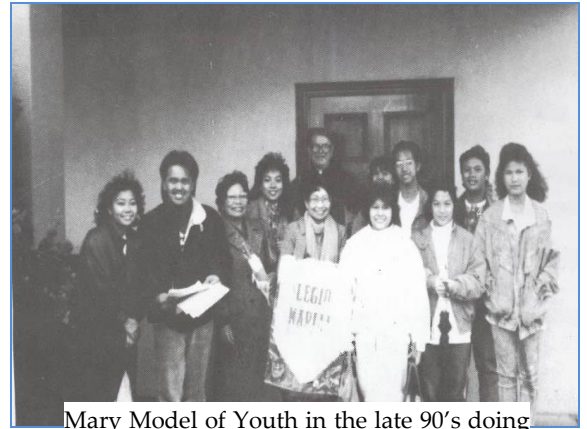


Mary, Model of Youth today...

Mary, Model of Youth (Seniors)

Founded on **November 3, 1985**, the Mary Model of Youth Praesidium has had a long and memorable history of young and vibrant Catholic teen-agers, who eventually became very active in the life of the Church. This Praesidium has been the second home to many of its members planting the seeds of faith in their young lives. Friendships were also formed here over the years. And these are the ones that would last a life time. Its former officers such as **Sister Elvie Felix and Sister Porre Olivares-** and their former members to this day still meet for lunch

or special occasions, a testament of that deep bond of friendship that to this very day characterize the spirit of Mary, Model of Youth Praesidium. Today, through the leadership of **Sister Julie Tabajonda and Sister Lina Martin**, they have managed to keep the praesidium intact and active, full of the Marian character and spirit. In October 2010, the Mary, Model of Youth Praesidium organized a Rosary Workshop, four weekend course on the history, merits and benefits of the Most Holy Rosary, followed by Rosary making activities. In their immediate plan is the establishment of a new junior praesidium.

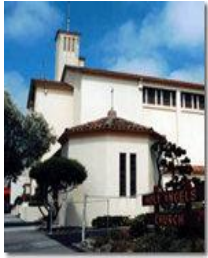


Mary Model of Youth in the late 90's doing Extension Work at Holy Angels. The late Fr. Edward Cleary is standing at the back.

Our Lady of Nativity (Seniors)

The foundation the seventh praesidia at the parish of OLPH, Our Lady of Nativity Praesidium on **January 30, 2005** symbolizes the many good things that the Legion of Mary North San Mateo Curia stands for – development of Legionary leaders with great zeal for the Legion and then letting them take the initiative to extend, expand and manage new praesidia. Through the leadership of **Sister Judy Lagowski (former Secretary of the North San Mateo Curia), Sister Demy Barrozo, Sister Geri Timms, Sister Marykuty Joseph and Sister Tita Castillo** this praesidium has been setting an example for all of us in the Legion by creating new avenues of evangelization such as the “Jericho Project” where they would walk around the streets of the parish together with a cart of religious materials. They planned a Summer Bible Camp for young people. Their outstanding work to promote the sanctity of life should be a model to all – in addition to their work outside Planned Parenthood they also took the initiative to write a Pro-Life strategic action plan that summarizes different thoughts and ideas on how the Legion could effectively participate in the pro-life movement of the Church.





Our Lady Queen of Holy Angels (Holy Angels) – “Model of Steadfastness”

The parish of Holy Angels in Colma has a rich history and tradition. Its original name was Saint Anne, a mission of Saint Michael in the Ocean View District of San Francisco. It was in 1914, a few years after the 1906 earthquake that its name was changed to what it is now,

Holy Angels Parish. The importance of this little history about this parish was to demonstrate the steadfastness of the Legion of Mary here that just like the history of its parish that had survived a major earthquake, gone through a period of transition (name change and a status change from a mission to a parish) and many changes, the Legion of Mary, Our Lady of Holy Angels Praesidium continue to remain strong in spite of all its challenges in the past. It is a model of steadfastness, an example to all of us of the commitment and dedication of all its former and current officers and members. Founded on **April 9, 1977** almost eight years before the formation of the North San Mateo Curia, Our Lady Queen of Holy Angels Praesidium can take pride that it has produced not only



Our Lady of Holy Angels in 2010

amazing works of evangelization but Legionary leaders that have contributed to the growth and expansion of the Legion in the Archdiocese of San Francisco. From its first president, the late Sister Marilyn Perez, Sister Lourdes Zambalae (former president of Our Lady Cause of Our Joy and former Treasurer of the Curia) and Sister Priscilla Llamido to its current set of officers and members, this Praesidium has been a great asset to the



Some of their former members who have also devoted their time in serving the Blessed Mother

Legion and more importantly to the Holy Angel parish. Additionally it has had many priests and clergy who became its Spiritual Directors - **Father Moises Maramba** was its first Spiritual Director followed by others such as **Fr. John Cloherty** (now in residence at Saint Anne of the Sunset), Fr. Johnmark Marrald, Fr. Vic Balagapo, Fr. Arturo Albano (now the Pastor of Mission Dolores Church), whose wealth of knowledge, experience and spirituality have remained within its members inspiring them to carry on the works of the Church to this very day. Today, with the loving support of its pastor, **Fr. Manuel Curso** and the parish community of Holy Angels, this Praesidium is ready to tackle more challenges and climb more mountains in looking for that one lost lonely soul uncared for.



Saint Andrew's "The Extension and Expansion of the North San Mateo Curia Began Here"

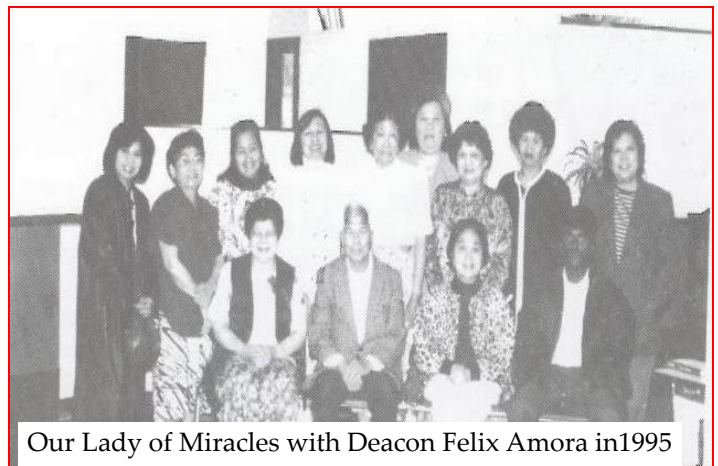
Unbeknownst to many, the expansion and growth of the North San Mateo Curia was made possible by the members of Our Lady of Miracles Praesidium under the leadership of **Sister Elvie Felix** who successfully extended the Legion of Mary at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in 1980, Saint Robert's Church in 1985 and later on became instrumental in the formation and foundation of the North San Mateo Curia. Thus, true to its early beginnings, Legionaries from Saint Andrew's Church have shaped the leadership of the North San Mateo Curia. They have also provided a great example to all of us how to grow the Legion in a parish (and to take care of it men!). They are the only parish with a men's Praesidium, Mary Gate of Heaven. In addition to the late **Sister Aida Totanes** (first Vice President of the North San Mateo Curia), other Saint Andrew Legionaries that have given their time and energy to the success of our Curia would include the late **Brother Mandy Labayen** who chaired the Study of the Faith in 2006, the late Brother Butch Cui who paved the way to the formation of the only men's Praesidium, **Sister Cecile Mateo** and **Sister Rosevida Sturtevant**. Of course, who could ever forget some of their former Spiritual Directors - **Deacon Mar Tano**, **Deacon Felix Amora** and **Father Nady Corales**. These are just a few of the unsung heroes that have made the Legion alive and kicking in this parish made popular by its proximity to Serramonte Shopping Mall.



Our Lady of Miracles today with Father Jesus Labor in 2010

community. During the past twenty five years, this Praesidium has shown tremendous leadership and commitment to the apostolic works of the Legion and has been a model of consistency and perseverance. Its history is filled with heroic works. Our Lady of Miracles produced some of the most memorable Annual General Reunion skits such as the "Fiddler on the Roof." The leadership of its president **Sister Lourdes Mamaril**, **Sister Rose Sharpan**, **Sister Rosevida Sturtevant** and **Sister Luchi Estay** and **Father Jess Labor**, Parochial Vicar as their current Spiritual Director are more than enough to carry on this praesidium into more years of Legion work and service to our Blessed-ever Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Miracles.

Our Lady of Miracles Praesidium - Founded on **September 29, 1978**, Our Lady of Miracles Praesidium is the second oldest praesidium in the North San Mateo Curia and to this day continues to provide the leadership role at the parish of Saint Andrew's. The strong membership recruitment of this Praesidium over the years of its existence has made it possible to increase the number of Praesidia in this ever-growing parish



Our Lady of Miracles with Deacon Felix Amora in 1995



Our Lady of Light Praesidium (Seniors)

The impetus of sustained membership recruitment Saint Andrew's Church brought to the North San Mateo Curia a new Praesidium in **January 20, 2005**, Our Lady of Light. Since then, this praesidium, aptly named Our Lady of Light during the year Pope John Paul II introduced to the Church the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, has not stopped from growing and doing great things for this parish and for the Legion of Mary. Their name was determined by Divine Providence (a lot of prayers) and by human intervention (drawing of lots) – and when all is said and done, what a wonderful

coincidence to the introduction of the new mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary. The leadership and commitment of **Sister Cecile Mateo, Sister Alice Sagaysay, Sister Athena Bumagat and Sister Ellen Laxamana** and the unceasing devotion of its other members and officers have transformed this very young Praesidium into a formidable army of Mary. Down to two members after a trying period in their history, Our Lady of Light Praesidium has bounced back with ten active members. That's what prayer and effort would do to any of us. As part of their many apostolic works is the supervision of a junior praesidium, Our Lady of Divine Love. In this Praesidium lives the spirit of the Legion - leadership, obedience, cooperation and loyalty. Truly, the hands, feet, eyes, mouth and ears of the priest, Our Lady of Light shall continue to shine forth for souls in darkness.

Our Lady of Divine Love Praesidium (Junior Praesidium) - By Accepting the challenge of the

North San Mateo Curia for each senior Praesidium to the Curia to establish a junior praesidium at Saint Andrew's Church, **Sister Cecille Mateo and Sister Ellen Laxamana Sister Sonia Redada** did not waste time to work right away. Their efforts paid off. Our Lady of Light Praesidium was formed in **May 1, 2005**, only a few months after Our Lady of Light was founded. With the support of their pastor, **Father Alex Legaspi** and new Parochial Vicar, Fr. Jess Labor and with their newly-appointed president **Sister Emiliana Gonzales**, and support of Sister Angelina Reguindin, the future is bright for this praesidium. The challenge of course, is how to maintain the interest of their eight junior members who seem to be growing each week. Rest assured that their senior members who have creative talents and quite a number of years of Legionary experience would find a way to hold on to them for many years to come. The secret to the supervision of junior members is patience, love and creating activities that are of interest to them.





Mary, Gate of Heaven (Men's Praesidium)

The beginnings of Mary Gate of Heaven Praesidium began at Saint Patrick's Church in San Francisco when in the late 1990's Brother Ando Perlas recruited the late Brother Butch Cui to become a member of the Legion of Mary at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Mary Mother of Christian Families men's praesidium. When Brother Butch Cui transferred residence near Saint Andrew's and eventually left OLPH, his love for the Blessed Mother inspired him to organize what would be the only men's praesidium today in the North San Mateo Curia but arguably in the San Francisco Senatus. The leadership of **Brother**

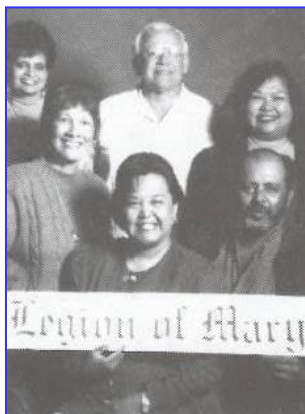


Marcel Balmeo along with the other officers **Brother Gene Fernandez, Brother Cesar Nalundasan and Brother Oscar Pecson** makes this praesidium as strong as ever since its foundation date on **September 19, 1994** being involved in many Legion activities and as well as parish activities. **Brother Joe Paras** provides great experience as he also began his Legion days at Our Lady of Perpetual Help. **With Fr. Jess Labor**, taking over as the new Spiritual Director you can expect these handsome gentlemen of the Legion to be there at the forefront of the Church's battle for souls.



Good Shepherd Church

Mary, Queen of Peace Praesidium *"Not even the cold and strong winds of the Pacific Ocean can uproot the foundation of this Praesidium"*



With Fr. Maurice McCormick in the 90's

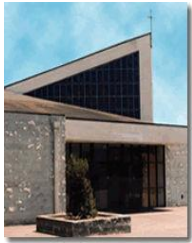
When **Father Ted Shipp**, former pastor of Good Shepherd Church approved the establishment of the Legion of Mary at this parish on **December 14, 1986** no one



With Deacon Noel Santillan in 2010

doubted that it would become a secret force in providing its priests and clergy carry out the missionary spirit of this "parish by the sea." What had come as a surprise almost twenty five years later is the fact that in spite of the challenges of health and other personal matters, the Praesidium, Good Shepherd Church has withstood the test of time (and the cold days of winter along the coast of the mighty Pacific Ocean). There is no denying that its two founding members, **Sister Ana Bordallo** and **Sister Milita Ribiero** are the two pillars that have been holding the fort for a long time. However, it is the love and support of its many Spiritual Directors and

former priests such as **Fr. Maurice McCormick, Sister Sheral Marshall, Deacon Tony Paulino** to its current pastor, **Fr. Piers Lahey** and its current Spiritual Director **Deacon Noel Santillan** that have made it all possible for this group of never-say-die Legionaries to have overcome all kinds of challenges.



Saint Augustine “A Legion Model for Growth in Membership”

Saint Augustine’s Parish was home to the Legion of Mary beginning as early as December 19, 1980 when its first Praesidium, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception was founded. The history of Saint Augustine since foundation began in July 1970 has been an amazing ride from its humble beginning from borrowed grounds in what was a Parish Center along Westborough Square. From the leadership of its founding pastor, Fr. Paul E. Duggan to its 5th and current pastor, **Fr. Rene Ramoso**, Saint Augustine has experienced unprecedented growth and active participation of its parishioners in the life of the parish community. Count the Legion of Mary among these active and vibrant members of this parish. In so many ways, members of the Legion from its five Praesidia (4 seniors and 1 junior) have been contributing quietly and unassumingly in the sustained growth of this parish community. Its cultural make-up of 98% Filipinos can call; this parish their home away for home and for the Legion of Mary, a tremendous opportunity to continue to grow its active and auxiliary membership for years to come.



With Fr. Balaswamy Govindu in 2010

(now retired and in residence at the Church of the Epiphany); **Fr. Domingo Orimaco** (now pastor at Our Lady of Mercy) and **Father Balaswamy Govindu** (former Spiritual Director of the North San Mateo Curia). With **Sister Lulu Cordero**, president and with the assistance of **Sister Lydia Paez**, **Sister Lynda Pelimiano** and **Sister Carmelita Padilla**, this praesidium should continue to remain a strong force for the Legion of Mary at Saint Augustine for years to come. Directly attached to this praesidium is the supervision Our Lady Queen of the Apostles (Junior Praesidium) which in itself has been in existence for 28 years now.

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Praesidium (Seniors)

Founded on **December, 19, 1980** as the first praesidium founded in the parish of Saint Augustine, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception has always had an overflow of active members, thus, an overflow of good works spilling over to the other praesidia in the parish. At the end of 1995, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception had 19 active members some of which have moved and started other praesidia, contributing to the growth of the Legion. This praesidium has been blessed with so many Marian priests and great supporters of the Legion as Spiritual Directors – **Fr. Rolano Caverte**



With Fr. Domingo Orimaco in 1995



Our Lady Queen of Apostles (Juniors)

Founded on **August 14, 1982**, Our Lady Queen of Apostles Praesidium has definitely defied the odds against the longevity of a junior praesidium in the Legion of Mary. The reason for that is simply the hard work and dedication of senior members who week after week, month after month, year after year, and in the case of **Sister Helen Pyle** its president, decade after decade untiringly and patiently endure all sacrifices to bring Jesus and the Blessed Mother to the lives of our young people. Since its foundation and up to this very day, members of this praesidium, some of them already in college, perhaps already have families of their own are forever indebted to those senior members who have brought to them the Catholic faith in live action and not just in words. The apostolate of the Legion of Mary is best tested on how well it runs junior praesidia and undoubtedly, Our Lady Queen of Apostles has set the highest standard of junior apostolic service bar none



Our Lady of Divine Mercy (Seniors)

Founded on **January 12, 2007**, Our Lady of Divine Mercy Praesidium is just a baby to the Legion but is already setting an example to all members in terms of engaging themselves in a diversity of apostolic works. From Pro-Life involvement to home visitation, this praesidium has been the trend setter in involvement and proactive membership recruitment. **Sister Rosalinda Lopez**, president is a fine example of how we should all recruit active members – approach, talk and invite unceasingly. It is no wonder that they have eighteen active members! Supporting her are some of the ever-dedicated and loyal officers – **Sister Claire Toraya, Sister Rosario Enriquez and Sister Estrelita**

Ramos. Their strong recruitment efforts are bringing younger members in the Legion at Saint Augustine. It also brings the spirit of the Legion alive and inspires older members to lead as example for their new members. **Msgr. Juan Alarcon, Jr. Spiritual Director** summarizes the many Legion activities of this praesidium as follows: *“One of the most active praesidia of the Legion of Mary in said parish of Saint Augustine is the praesidium Our Lady of Divine Mercy. As the Spiritual Director for sometime in the past months, I have observed the faithful and religious involvement of its officers and members in substantial Legionary works. Impressive in their work is certainly their involvement in the pro-life campaign that safeguards the rights of the unborn children. Other equally inspiring works are the home to home visitation, communion, sick calls, transferring the Pilgrim Virgin from family to family for the Family Rosary Crusade, and enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes of parishioners, practicing the spiritual works of mercy and assisting in the Church’s evangelizing works.”*



Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces (Seniors)

Two of their former Spiritual Directors, Fr. Floro Arcamo and Fr. Eugene Tungol have been strong allies and supporters of the Legion of Mary throughout their priestly ministry. Thus, it is no wonder that in spite of the health challenges that their members endured in the mid-90s this praesidium is still standing tall, ready to give more of themselves to the Mediatrix of all

Graces. Their Legion work accomplishments that include door to door visitation, sick visitation and corporal works of mercy reflect the dedication of this group of Mary's army. With them today are some of the tried and tested **Legionaries** like **Sister Loreta David** and **Sister Adele Wolf** who have been the stalwarts of this praesidium since its foundation date on **February 11, 1985**. Continuing on this fine example of Legionary leadership are its present set of officers led by **Sister Leticia Morales, Sister Lorna, Sister Gloria Cruz and Sister Adelina Rilles**. More importantly, the presence of their new Parochial Vicar and Spiritual Director, **Father Luello Palakpak** will send this praesidium of fourteen active members into greater heights so that more graces will flow to mankind through the hands of the Mediatrix of All Graces, the Blessed Mary ever-Virgin.



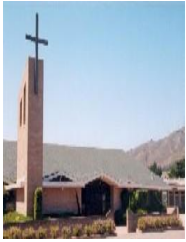
A Legionary (Sister Norma Evans) looking like a real Legionary of the Roman Army during the Annual General Reunion in 2008.



Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary (Seniors)

Founded on September 8, 1995 on the Nativity of the Blessed Mother, this praesidium has had a very interesting history, first founded as men's praesidium under the leadership of **Brother Joseph Bacolor** and **Brother Loy Banez**. Membership and health issues resulted in it becoming a mixed praesidium. However, in spite of its many "postponed successes," Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary has managed to remain open and now have eight active members. Their love for the Blessed Mother has allowed them to overcome great obstacles that would have normally conquered the weak hearted ones. With the

support of their veteran Legionary officers, the husband and wife team of **Bro. Benjie Baldomero and Sister Ruth Baldomero and Elba Millena** and of course, with the spiritual guidance of **Fr. Rene Ramoso, Pastor of Saint Augustine**, our hope is that they would continue to persevere in their apostleship despite all the odds.



Mater Dolorosa Church – “Slowly Becoming the Center of the North San Mateo Curia”

Not only because of its ample parking space, geographical centrality to many of the parishes belonging to the North San Mateo Curia made this parish the center of many Legionary activities and functions in the mid 2000’s but rather it was more of the welcoming spirit of its former **Pastor, Father Brian Costello** that has made the Legion and the Curia truly feel at home in this parish community. Thus, without any surprise at all this pastoral support of the Legion reflects the success of the Mater Dolorosa Praesidium.

Mater Dolorosa Praesidium (Seniors)

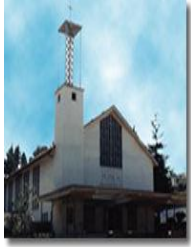
The late Brother Guido Botelho, Extension Chairperson of the North San Mateo Curia brought good news to the Curia when he reported that Mater Dolorosa Church would open its first praesidium under the leadership of **Sister Lillie Villaluna**. With the support of its first Spiritual Director, Fr. Arturo Albano this new praesidium would move quickly into becoming an active group of the Legion. Founded on **March 12, 1991** Mater Dolorosa praesidium would bring forth Legionary leaders and officers that would make major contributions to the ever changing landscape of the Legion apostolate. Here are a few examples of the leadership that came out from this praesidium. The extension in 2002 of the Legion of Mary to its nearby parish of Saint Veronica Church was made possible when Bro. Ando Perlas a former member of Mater Dolorosa worked with Fr. Ed Bohnert to open the Legion at this parish. In the middle of 2003, the formation of the Family Praesidium concept started to take shape spearheaded by the late Sister Guina Tablante. A junior praesidium was formed, Model of Youth Praesidium (Juniors). It was from this praesidium that the parents of the junior members wanted to become members of the same praesidium, thus out of these discussions the family praesidium concept came into existence. A



former member, **Brother Glen Grivas gave excellent talks on “Total Consecration and True Devotion” to members of the North San Mateo Curia.** There is no shortage of leadership in this praesidium – with the likes of **Sister Dina Grivas, Sister Violy Carnero, Sister Nieves Calara, Sister Gloria Flores,** its current president, **Sister Julie Cunanan** and **Pastor, Fr. Roland dela Rosa** and **Spiritual Director, Fr. Joe Richards,** expect bigger and better things to come from this Praesidium.



Mater Dolorosa Praesidium with Spiritual Director, Father Ed Dura.



Saint Robert “Living out its mission to be a service to others”

Mater Ecclesiae (Senior Praesidium) Founded on February 14, 1985, Mater Ecclesiae

Praesidium epitomizes the character and spirit of its first president, the late Brother Guido Botelho, that of dedication, perseverance and profound expression of the Catholic Faith in action. Though their contribution to the spiritual growth of the parish of Saint Robert’s Church will never be known, rest assured that the presence of this seven committed men and women have already changed many lives and that it has fulfilled it the mission of the parish to be a “service to others.” Every Legionary as expected would have to undergo some personal trial and sacrifice. But because of their love and devotion to Mater Ecclesiae, the Mother of Christ, their members simply overlooked all of these. Bro. Guido’s guidance and the inspiration of their long-time Spiritual Director, **Sister Ita Cleary PBVM** in the 1990’s and now with the leadership of its current set of officers, **Sister Josie Yee**, President and their **Spiritual Director, Sister Patricia Sullivan PBVM**, Mater Ecclesiae will continue to transform broken lives and dreams through the Mother of Christ.



Saint Bruno Church - “Mi Casa, es Su Casa... welcome to the North San Mateo Curia (again) finally a home for good!”

Reyna de la Paz (Spanish Praesidium)

For more than 15 years at least, Reyna dela Paz Praesidium was attached/detached from the North San Mateo Curia as they were in “transition” between the San Francisco Senatus (Comitium), the former San Francisco Spanish Curia and the North San Mateo Curia. It was only in 2008 that Brother Ando Perlas started the groundwork in seeking the approval of the SF Senatus and of course of the officers of Reyna de la Paz Praesidium for the latter to be affiliated back to the North San Mateo Curia. It took another two years (February 2010) before they finally came home to the place they once belong. So we welcome this Praesidium to the Curia! Established in **May 22, 1991** its first President was the late **Rafael Siero** who also served as the president of the closed Spanish Curia in San Francisco. Two of its founding active members **Brother Guillermo** and **Sister Xiomara Villanueva** continue to provide unyielding commitment to the Legion of Mary. With eight active members and strong leadership it is our hope that through this praesidium, more Spanish Praesidia will be established in the North San Mateo Curia and become the very instrument of salvation to many of our Hispanic brothers and sisters. Welcome... never to be lost again!





Saint Veronica Church “Extension of the Legion here is a miracle waiting to happen.”

It took almost 15 years since the initial Extension Work was started by the North San Mateo Curia at Saint Veronica Church. The foundation has been laid by many of the Curia’s extension workers but seemed to be getting nowhere as they received rejection after rejection. To a point of surrender, all the extension workers could do at that point was to pray for a miracle to happen. Thanks to its former pastor and Spiritual Director **Fr. Ed Bohnert** for his love and devotion to the Blessed Mother and his confidence on the Legion apostolic system that within the first few months as pastor he gave approval for the establishment of the Legion of Mary in this parish... a miracle waiting to happen in God’s own time.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Praesidium (Seniors) – Founded on November 3, 2002 with an

active membership of fifteen, the founding members of this Praesidium were former Legionaries from other parishes, who for so many years had been waiting for the Legion to finally arrive at Saint Veronica. **Sister Mila Fernandez Ronquillo and her mother, Sister Remy Fernandez** were former officers of Our Lady Queen of Holy Angels and **Sister Rose Enriquez** who was its first Vice President was a former officer of the Mary, Model of Youth Praesidium (OLPH). When **Brother Ando Perlas** (its first President) left to focus on the family praesidium,

Sister Isabel Golez became its next president. In 2007, **Fr. Ted Shipp** replaced Fr. Ed Bohnert as Spiritual Director as Our Lady of Mount Carmel Praesidium gave birth to Our Lady Refuge of Sinners. Today, through the leadership and devotion of its officers, **Sister Trish Sadaya, Sister Linnie Monterola, Sister Mary Wong, Bro. Dave Silva** and their very committed active members you can expect them to be more than ready to be the hands and feet of its priests for years to come.

Mary, Model of Love (Juniors)

This is the “come back kid” of a praesidium having been recently revived this year, but was originally founded on January 13, 2003. Although not yet affiliated to the North San Mateo Curia, Mary Model of Love is on its way to becoming a stable group of young and enthusiastic Legionaries. **Brother Andrew Beaken and Sister Esperanza** and with the support of Our Lady of Mount Carmel praesidium we are certain that it will not take any longer for this new junior praesidium get its affiliation to the North San Mateo Curia. Keep up the great work and example on the importance of developing the young. It is never an easy task to supervise a junior praesidium.





Mary, Mother of the Holy Eucharist and Family Praesidium (Family Praesidium)

Although the official founding date of Mary, Mother of the Holy Eucharist and Family Praesidium is May 5, 2005, it all began as conceptual idea in 2003 when the parents of a junior Praesidium, Mary Mother of Youth (Mother Dolorosa) under the leadership of the late Sister Guina Tablante asked to join the ranks of the Legion together, not separate with their children. This novel idea was followed by many hours of discussions and pages of written proposals from the North San

Mateo Curia to the Los Angeles Senatus (in 2003), to the San Francisco Senatus/Comitium and eventually to the Concilium Legionis in Ireland. **Brother Ando Perlas**, its current president had to answer questions about the family praesidium and quite frankly defended the concept many times over before finally in a 2005, a conditional approval was received with favorable comments from the Concilium.

Five years later, in August 5, 2010, the Naidu family (**Brother Jay Naidu**, the former president, **Sister Rachel Naidu**, the current president and **Brother Jonathan Naidu**) in a historic moment had the opportunity to visit the Concilium Legionis in Dublin, Ireland where they further presented to three of the Concilium's officers (Sister Maureen McManus, Sister Sile and Brother Raymond Mulroney) a five



year report of the accomplishments of the praesidium. Among its apostolic works are the administration and upkeep of Saint Veronica's Extended Adoration Program and the promotion and coordination of the **Traditional Latin Mass (Gregorian Mass)** where their junior members serve as Altar Boys. The hope of this Praesidium is to be a model for every human family on earth not only to be consecrated to the Blessed Mother but to work together with her in bringing her Son to the world. Together as one family, they plan to bring more souls to salvation.

(L-R) Concilium Correspondent, Sister Maureen McManus Bro. Jay, Br. Jonathan Naidu and Sister Rachel Naidu by Frank Duff's bed in Dublin, Ireland.



Our Lady Refuge of Sinners, Patroness of California (Seniors)

With more than twenty five active members in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Praesidium, it became necessary to divide and form a new Praesidium at Saint Veronica. Fr. Ed Bohnert's decision came at a perfect time after almost five years of training new members and potential officers on the Legion system familiarizing them with the different apostolic works and imbuing in them the virtue of humility and obedience. More importantly these new members were now ready to take on leadership roles in the Legion.

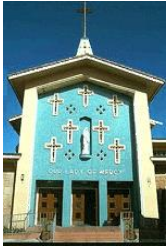
Thus, on **October 4, 2007**, Our Lady Refuge of Sinners, Patroness of California Praesidium was founded with **Sister Carmela DaSan Martino** as president. Through her leadership and guidance, this Praesidium has become an integral part of the Saint Veronica community as they have been primarily charged of its Sunday Hospitality Ministry where members of the Legion used it as an opportunity to speak with parishioners in order to get to know them more deeply. Supporting Sister Carmela as officers are Sister Josefina Pablo, Sister Rosalinda Madrona and Brother Joe DaSan Martino. **Parochial Vicar, Fr. Linh** is their Spiritual Director.



Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe (Spanish Praesidium)

- The founding officers of the first Spanish Praesidium at Saint Veronica, **Sister Conchita Blanco** and her husband, **Victor Blanco** had no prior experience as Legion members. They did not know its apostolic system or any of its activities, functions and history. But because of their love and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, they were determined to learn and eventually organize a Spanish-only Praesidium. Thus, for almost three years (2005 -2007) they had to attend Our Lady of Mount Carmel weekly meetings. Their patience is a great testament of their Legionary

spirit. After having gained confidence on how to run a Praesidium it did not take long for them to open one. Thus, in early 2008 and with the assistance of **Sister Isabel Golez** (former president of Our Lady of Mount Carmel), and with more than twelve active members, they finally formed the long awaited Spanish Praesidium as Saint Veronica. Officially founded on **March 28, 2008** and eventually affiliated to the Curia three months later, members of Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe have become a formidable force in the Legion's apostolic mission. Our hope is that their members continue to persevere through the years so that with the guidance of the Curia, we can continue to extend the Legion to our Hispanic brothers and sisters.



Welcome to Our Lady of Mercy Praesidium (Seniors)

It only took twenty five years for the North San Mateo Curia to finally open a new Praesidium at the parish of Our Lady of Mercy. This is perseverance at its summit. You might also consider this as another one of the miracles of our Legionary saints, in particular Edel Quinn. The perseverance of so many Legionaries from the Curia has finally paid off but it is through a Legionary and Marian priest, a firm believer in the important role of the Legion in evangelization that eventually led to the organization of its first praesidium, **Fr. Domingo Orimaco**. Thus on **November 5, 2010** a First Friday, it held its first meeting with Bro. Ando Perlas acting as president along with Sister Carmen Perlas, president of the North San Mateo Curia, Brother Ambrose Calonsag, VP of the North San Mateo Curia, Fr. Doming and nine active members. At the November Curia meeting, Our Lady of Mercy Praesidium introduced its officers –). Of course, Fr. Doming will be their Spiritual Director, no one else more inspiring than him who has that conviction that a parish with the Legion of Mary is a dynamic and active community of believers. To all its new members and officers, we will be praying for your success in the years to come. Welcome. You are now the new kid on the block!





*The North San Mateo Curia 25th Anniversary Newsletter
Commemorative Issue
Foundation Date: December 5, 1985*



Memories of Fun and Friendship



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Memories of Fun and Friendship



Our Spiritual Directors

Over the past twenty five years, the growth of the Legion of Mary North San Mateo Curia has been made possible by the love and support of so many wonderful priests who like us have given their time and effort to guide us (and sometimes out of love scold us!). We would love to put all their pictures here and all their names – but unfortunately we don't have everyone. However, the moments we have spent together in our Weekly Meetings are more than enough to have created in our hearts a living memory of our Legion past, present and future. Our gratitude for all of their inspiration and spiritual guidance will be treasured by us all forever. To all of our Spiritual Directors, we love you all.



(Front Row): Fr. Antonio Rey (OLPH); Fr. Bernardo (OLPH); Msgr. John Pernia (OLPH) and Fr. Tony Petilla (OLPH)

(Second Row): Sister Lu Bite (OLPH); Fr. Arturo Albano (OLPH); Fr. Domingo Orimaco and Fr. Nady Corrales (Saint Andrew's)

(Third Row): Fr. James Mweyunge (St. Veronica); Fr. Ed Bohnert and Fr. Mark Taheny (St. Veronica); Tribune Brother Mandy Labayen and North San Mateo Spiritual Director Fr. Balaswamy Govindu



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