

Maria Legionis



Maria Legionis

The Voice of the Legion of Mary



No. 3 of 2009

€1.00

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In their sermons and speeches on the feast day of the Assumption of the Mother of God, the holy fathers and the great doctors of the church were speaking of something that the faithful already knew and accepted: all they did was to bring it out into the open, to explain its meaning and substance in other terms. Above all, they made it most clear that this feast commemorated not merely the fact that the blessed Virgin Mary did not experience bodily decay, but also her triumph over death and her heavenly glory, following the example of her only Son, Jesus Christ.



Published by: Maria Legionis, Presentata House, 263 North Circular Road, Dublin 7, Ireland, Tel: + 353 1 8387770, Fax: + 353 1 8385133.

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Annual Subscription, including postage, €8.00 per 4 copies.

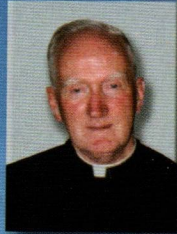
Design: MacArt, Dublin, Ireland, Tel: + 353 1 2852508. Email: macart@indigo.ie

Print: Hudson Killeen, Dublin, Ireland, Tel: + 353 1 829 3450. Web: hudsonkilleen.ie



Glorification of Our Lady

Allocutio given at
Veneranda Curia
18 August 2005

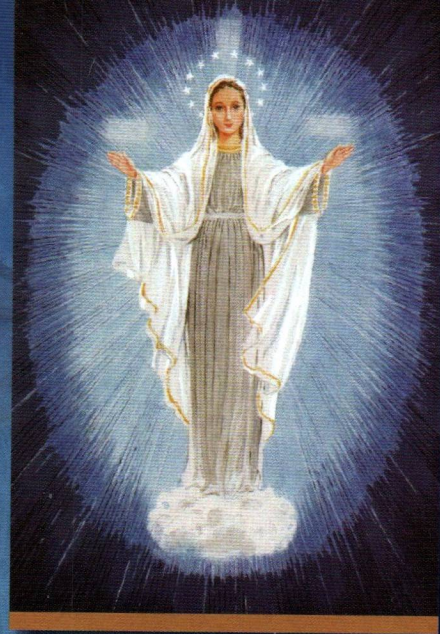


by Gerard Canon Healy, R.I.P.

The very thought of Our Lady's Assumption and Glorification in heaven gives us joy and hope. It makes us happy to think of something great and wonderful happening to another human being. But when that person is someone we already know and love our joy is all the greater.

The great masters of art have tried to depict the mystery of the Assumption. Taking their cue apparently from the account of our Lord's Ascension, they often show Mary rising triumphantly into the sky attended by admiring angels. But there is one painting more intimate by far, representing the Assumption as a most affectionate meeting between Son and Mother. Mary clasps her Son in a motherly embrace, her head resting on his shoulders.

A non-Catholic journalist has expressed his astonishment at Catholic belief: 'If you are a Catholic, you must believe that the Virgin

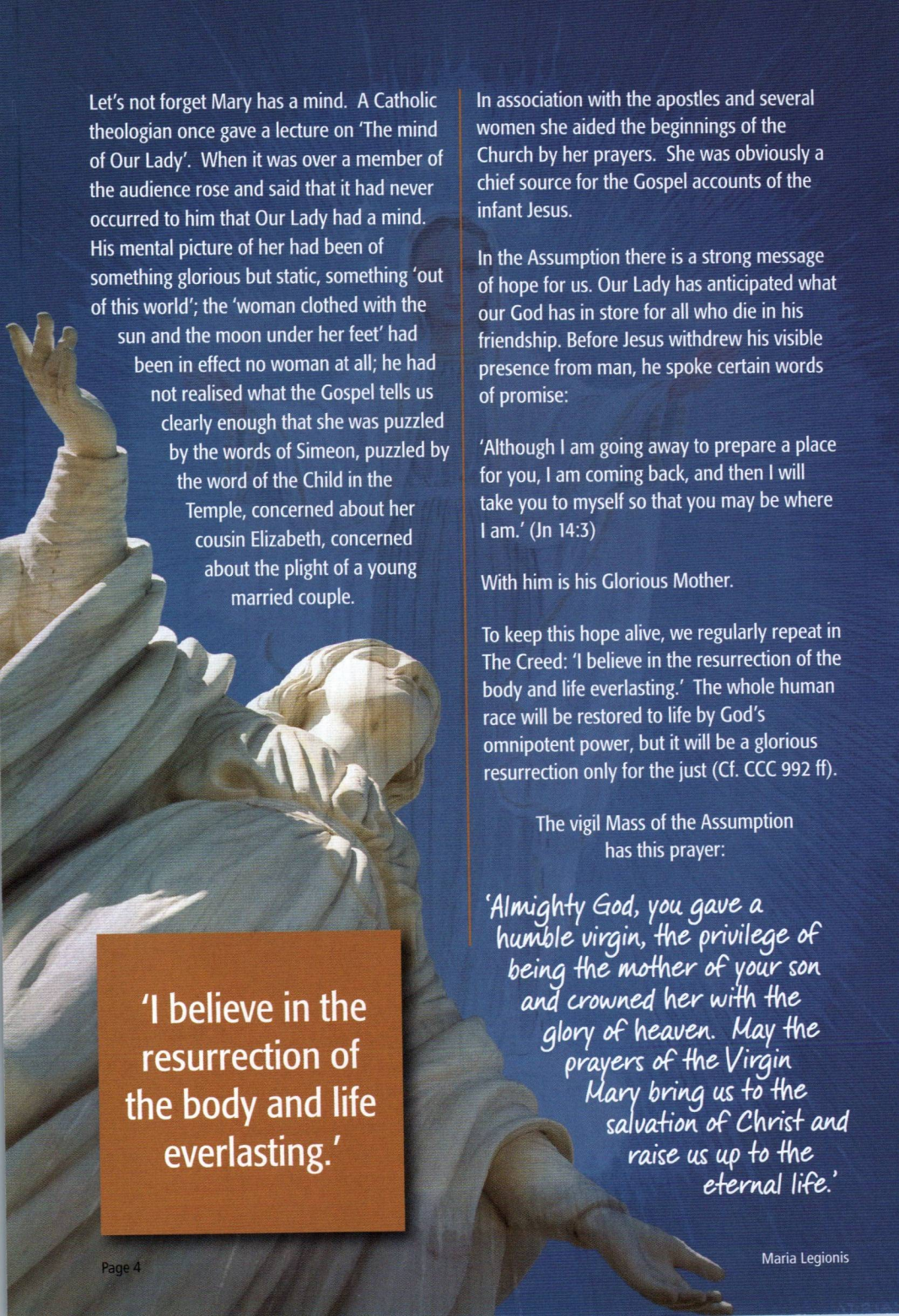


Mary ascended to heaven, not as a disembodied spirit, but as a living, breathing, speaking, laughing, weeping woman.'

Yes, the Assumption is precisely the glorifying of the body of the Mother of God, and so it drives home the lesson taught us by the Gospel. She is a real woman with all the experience of womanhood and motherhood in her heart.

At Nazareth she passed for just an ordinary woman in this close-knit rural community, engaged in the customary occupations of a tradesman's wife. But now somewhere or other (for a body must be in some 'place') at this moment she is living her glorious eternity, but with her human eyes and human heart turned to the world which so desperately needs her help and her motherhood.





Let's not forget Mary has a mind. A Catholic theologian once gave a lecture on 'The mind of Our Lady'. When it was over a member of the audience rose and said that it had never occurred to him that Our Lady had a mind. His mental picture of her had been of something glorious but static, something 'out of this world'; the 'woman clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet' had been in effect no woman at all; he had not realised what the Gospel tells us clearly enough that she was puzzled by the words of Simeon, puzzled by the word of the Child in the Temple, concerned about her cousin Elizabeth, concerned about the plight of a young married couple.

'I believe in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.'

In association with the apostles and several women she aided the beginnings of the Church by her prayers. She was obviously a chief source for the Gospel accounts of the infant Jesus.

In the Assumption there is a strong message of hope for us. Our Lady has anticipated what our God has in store for all who die in his friendship. Before Jesus withdrew his visible presence from man, he spoke certain words of promise:

'Although I am going away to prepare a place for you, I am coming back, and then I will take you to myself so that you may be where I am.' (Jn 14:3)

With him is his Glorious Mother.

To keep this hope alive, we regularly repeat in The Creed: 'I believe in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.' The whole human race will be restored to life by God's omnipotent power, but it will be a glorious resurrection only for the just (Cf. CCC 992 ff).

The vigil Mass of the Assumption has this prayer:

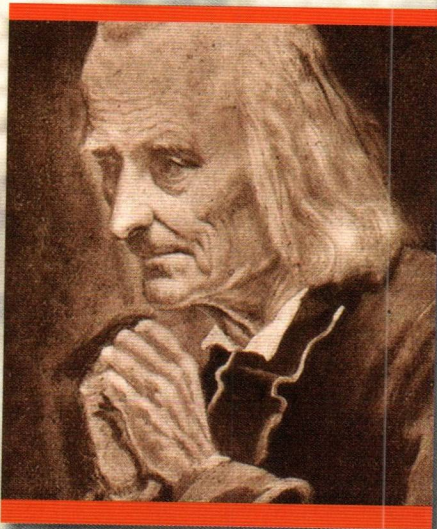
'Almighty God, you gave a humble virgin, the privilege of being the mother of your son and crowned her with the glory of heaven. May the prayers of the Virgin Mary bring us to the salvation of Christ and raise us up to the eternal life.'

Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of St. John Mary Vianney's death

The Plenary Indulgence is granted to all the faithful who are truly repentant who, in church or in chapel, devoutly attend the divine Sacrifice of Mass and offer prayers to Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest, for the priests of the Church, and any other good work which they have done on that day, so that he may sanctify them and form them in accordance with His Heart, as long as they have made expiation for their sins through sacramental confession and prayed in accordance with the Supreme Pontiff's intentions: on the days in which the Year for Priests begins and ends, on the day of the 150th anniversary of the pious passing of St. John Mary Vianney, on the first Thursday of the month or on any other day established by the local Ordinaries for the benefit of the faithful.

It will be most appropriate, in cathedral and parish churches, for the same priests who are in charge of pastoral care to publicly direct these exercises of devotion, to celebrate Holy Mass and to hear the confession of the faithful.

The Plenary Indulgence will likewise be granted to the elderly, the sick and all those who for any legitimate reason are confined to their homes who, with a mind detached from any sin and with the intention of fulfilling as soon as possible the three usual conditions, at home or wherever their impediment detains them, provided that on the previously mentioned days they recite prayers for the sanctification of priests and confidently offer the illnesses and hardships of their lives to God through Mary Queen of Apostles.





John Mary Vianney was born in Dardilly, France in 1786. At the age of 20, John Mary began his study with Abbe Balley in Ecully, France.

He was ordained in 1815 and appointed curate to M. Balley until the Abbe's death in 1817. In 1818, John Mary became the Cure of Ars, where he spent the rest of his life.

Lastly, a Partial Indulgence is granted to all the faithful every time they devoutly recite five Our Fathers, Hail Marys and Glorias, or another expressly approved prayer, in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to obtain that priests be preserved in purity and holiness of life.

This Decree is valid for the entire duration of the Year for Priests. Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

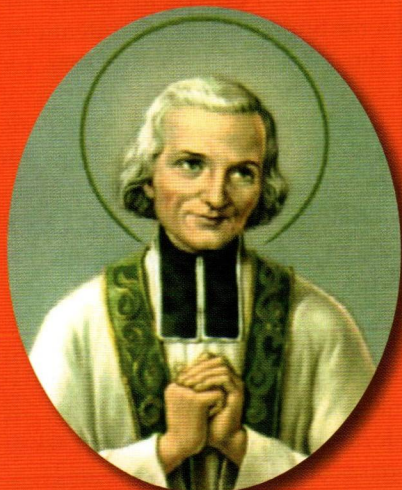
Given in Rome, at the Offices of the Apostolic Penitentiary on April 25, the Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist, in the year of the Incarnation of Our Lord 2009.

*Cardinal James Francis Stafford
Major Penitentiary, Bishop Gianfranco
Girotti, OFM. Conv. Titular Bishop of
Meta Regent*

L'Osservatore Romano, Wednesday May 20, 2009

As has been announced, the Holy Father Benedict XVI has decided to establish a special Year for Priests on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the death of St. John Mary Vianney, the holy Curé d'Ars, a shining model of a Pastor totally dedicated to the service of the people of God.

During the Year for Priests which began on 19 June 2009 and will end on 19 June 2010, the gift of special Indulgences is granted as described in the Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary, published on 12 May.



www.pope2you.com

New website connects Pope to Youth

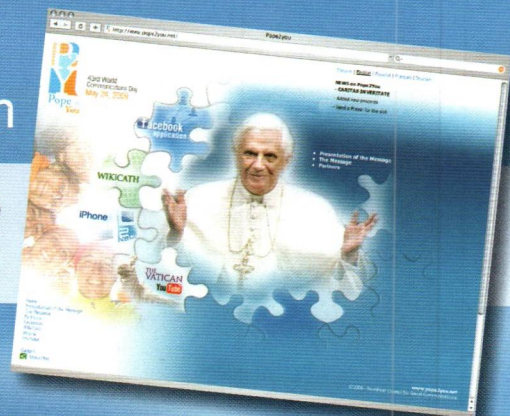
Pontifical Council for Social Communications
(L'Osservatore Romano, Wednesday, May 27, 2009)

On Wednesday, May 20, while at the General Audience the Pope was asking young people to make good use of the new digital technologies, “to realize the great potential of these means to build up bonds of friendship and solidarity that can contribute to a better world”, the Pontifical Council for Social Communications was giving the final touches to a new portal: “Pope2you”.

This new website will keep youth up to date with the activities of Benedict XVI. It was inaugurated on Thursday, 21 May, “to enter into a more direct dialogue with youth”, Archbishop Claudio Maria Celli told the Italian daily edition of L'Osservatore Romano.

The site appropriately went live on the eve of the 43rd World Day of Communications, Sunday, 24 May, whose theme this year is “New Technologies, New Relationships: Promoting a Culture of Respect, Dialogue and Friendship”.

Through “Pope2you” the Vatican launched links to applications such as Wikipedia, YouTube, iPhone, and Facebook as a means to spread the



Gospel, news of the Pope’s travels and discourse, and bring especially young people timely, insightful news about the life of the Church in the world.

“The new portal”, Archbishop Celli explained, “will make it possible to have direct access to the parallel world of Facebook thanks to an application that will make it possible to send friends a virtual [postcard] photograph of the Pope with a sentence chosen from one of his Discourses”. This is the extent of the Pope’s presence on Facebook.

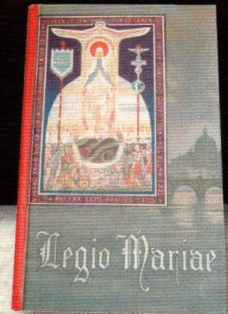
The site is in five languages: Italian, Spanish, English, French and German. It is the result of the Council’s collaboration with the Media Office of the Italian Bishops’ Conference.





The Sacrament of Reconciliation

(Legion of Mary Handbook page 206)
by Fr. John Peyton



Allocutio given to Legionaries on a Peregrinatio Pro Christo Project

Legionaries are encouraged to promote the benefits of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Peregrinatio Pro Christo provides us with a wonderful opportunity of doing this very thing.

When we encounter a person who has been away from the Sacraments for a long time, we can plead with Mary – as the Venerable Edel urged – for that person to be given the grace to return. It must be God’s will that they should be back in the fold of the Church.

Not only does God want them to return to him, he also seeks the chance to help them put their house in order – to correct what caused them to drift away from his Church and maybe from Him in the first place. He can do this through what this Sacrament provides, as the Handbook reminds us; the growth in true knowledge of ourselves and in Christian humility, the uprooting of bad habits, the prevention of spiritual negligence and apathy, the purification of the conscience.

“ FORGIVENESS ”

This Sacrament is a Sacrament of healing. It is necessary if the life of the soul is to be restored, the life that would have been lost if mortal sin has been committed

The Sacrament of Reconciliation gives us the privilege of knowing that we have been forgiven. This is provided for us by the words “I absolve you of your sins”. Forgiveness was such a key feature of the ministry of Jesus – it continues for us through this Sacrament.

The use of the word “absolve” is important. It means more than “forgive”. It means to be freed from sin. It comes from the Latin verb meaning “to take up”. Through this Sacrament, the chains of sin are released, taken up from us. Sin always takes away our true freedom. When we sin, and when we are in a state of sin, we are not living as God intends us to live. This wonderful Sacrament releases us from this captivity.

So, on our Peregrinatio, may we make the most of the opportunities that will come our way to promote this Sacrament. Like all Sacraments, Confession provides a true encounter with Christ. We can be CERTAIN that we encounter Christ and his healing love through this Sacrament.

Let us remember also that God wants that person to return to Him infinitely more than we do.



“I ABSOLVE YOU OF YOUR SINS”.

Adventuring for the Legion

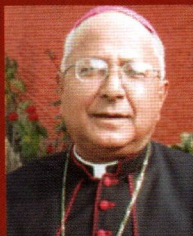
in Asia – Nepal and Mongolia



NEPAL



from Bernardo de Nardo



On June 7, 2007, Frank Duff's anniversary, the President of the Concilium Legionis Mariae, Tommy McCabe sent a letter to the newly

appointed Bishop of Nepal, Monsignor Anthony Sharma, S.I. to introduce to him the idea of starting the Legion of Mary in Nepal. The answer from the Bishop came very quickly and was a very enthusiastic Yes!

I arrived in Kathmandu, the Capital of Nepal in the first week of October of 2007. The response from the clergy was absolutely wonderful, almost all the priests wanted to get the Legion started in their parishes. I contacted many of them and on October 13, at the Cathedral Church of Kathmandu

the first praesidium of the Legion of Mary in Nepal was started with ten members.

At that first meeting, the new legionaries decided that they were going to do as apostolic work, visitation of the sick and lapsed Catholics, home and prison visitation. Some of these works had been suggested by the Parish Priest, but it was their own initiative to undertake the visit to the prison. That reminded me of those first legionaries in Dublin, back in 1921 who were not afraid to do the most difficult works for the salvation of souls, at the request of Our Lady.

In order to have the prayers translated into Nepalese before this first meeting, I met some priests and in one day all the work was done.



The Dharan praesidium was started outside Kathmandu.

The President and Vice-President of this praesidium are seminarians. This is a wonderful experience for them to get to know the Legion more and for the rest of the members it is very encouraging to have them at the meetings. This praesidium does excellent work visiting families within the parish, they visit not only Catholics, but also Hindus and Buddhists. There are many people interested in joining the Catholic Church.

I travelled to Eastern Nepal where two more praesidia were started.

One in Damak parish where I stayed for about a week! I spoke after Mass to invite everybody to attend the first meeting of the Legion of Mary. With the priest and one man interested in joining the Legion, we visited many families of potential active members. At the first meeting six people came. With the new members I did home visitation. A family visited, having some problems at home, came to Mass the following day to talk to the priest, went to Confession and received Holy Communion. This filled us with joy. Another praesidium was started in Dharan Parish.

As my stay in this parish was for a very short time, the work was very intense. With the Parish Priest we visited families of prospective active and auxiliary members. I also spoke after Mass and then the priest and some members of the parish welcomed me with a very lively ceremony, in a very traditional Nepalese way. It was just beautiful!

This praesidium was started with seven members.

The first assignment was hospital visitation. All the members, the priest and I went to visit the big hospital in Dharan. The visit was a blessed experience for all of us. It was the first time after so many failed attempts that a group of Catholics did this apostolic work in the hospital. Almost all the patients we visited were Hindus and they were very open to talk to us. Our understanding of suffering as a redeeming experience, when it is a participation in Our Lord's suffering of the cross, is a whole new idea for them. They found this new approach to suffering very enlightening.

This praesidium also visits the families of the catechumens. A lady visited who is under instruction to be baptised soon told us that every time she goes to Mass she cannot wait to be united to Our Lord by receiving Him in the Eucharist.

These four praesidia are the seeds of a great future for the Legion of Mary in the beautiful and wonderful country of Nepal. Mary's legionaries will be her collaborators in the work of bringing many people to the knowledge of Her Son and His Church.



MONGOLIA

After the visit to Nepal, I flew to Mongolia to visit the Curia that exists there.

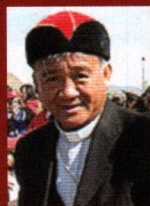
The reception I got from the Officers and members of the Curia was exceptional. They were very happy that a representative of the Concilium would travel so far to visit them. The Curia is comprised of only two praesidia, but the fact that they are a small Council does not mean that they do little. They are working well undertaking visitation of the sick and lonely and teaching catechism. They have already prepared some people to be received into the Catholic Church.

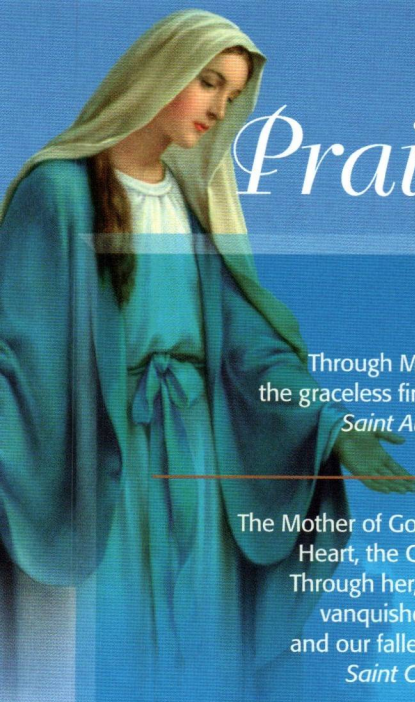
At the Curia meeting we discussed the possibilities for extension and we decided to try to start a praesidium in the Cathedral Church of Ulan Bator, the Capital of Mongolia.

We spoke after Mass, many people were interested and a new praesidium with five members commenced. The Parish Priest was at the first meeting despite the fact that he had just arrived from abroad half an hour before. Not only that, but also after the meeting, with the priest we visited some families.



A very fruitful meeting with the Bishop, Monsignor Wenceslao Padilla CICM followed, he is very supportive of the Legion of Mary and he is eager to have the Handbook translated into Mongolian. With the help of the Curia, this work will be done soon and the Legion will continue the work of service of love to the Mongolian people





Praises of Mary

Through Mary, the miserable obtain Mercy,
the graceless find grace, and sinners receive pardon.

Saint Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

The Mother of God contained the infinite God under her
Heart, the God Whom no space can contain.
Through her, the Trinity is adored, demons are
vanquished, Satan is cast out of heaven,
and our fallen nature is assumed into heaven.

Saint Cyril of Alexandria (376-444)

The devil is always looking for someone to devour.
In the same way, Mary is always looking for someone
she can help in any way.
Pope Saint Leo I the Great

Mary, ever Virgin, is a true Mother of Mercy, who disposes Jesus to
clemency. As a consoler of the human race, she never ceases to
pour out before Him her prayer for the salvation of the
faithful crushed by the weight of their sins.

Pope Saint Pius V

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin in no way detracts from the
Glory of God. Rather, it leads us directly back to that
Author of all good, Who has willed
her to be so great and so pure.

Pope Pius XII





LEGION OF MARY NEW ZEALAND

75TH JUBILEE

AN OVERVIEW OF THE EVENT



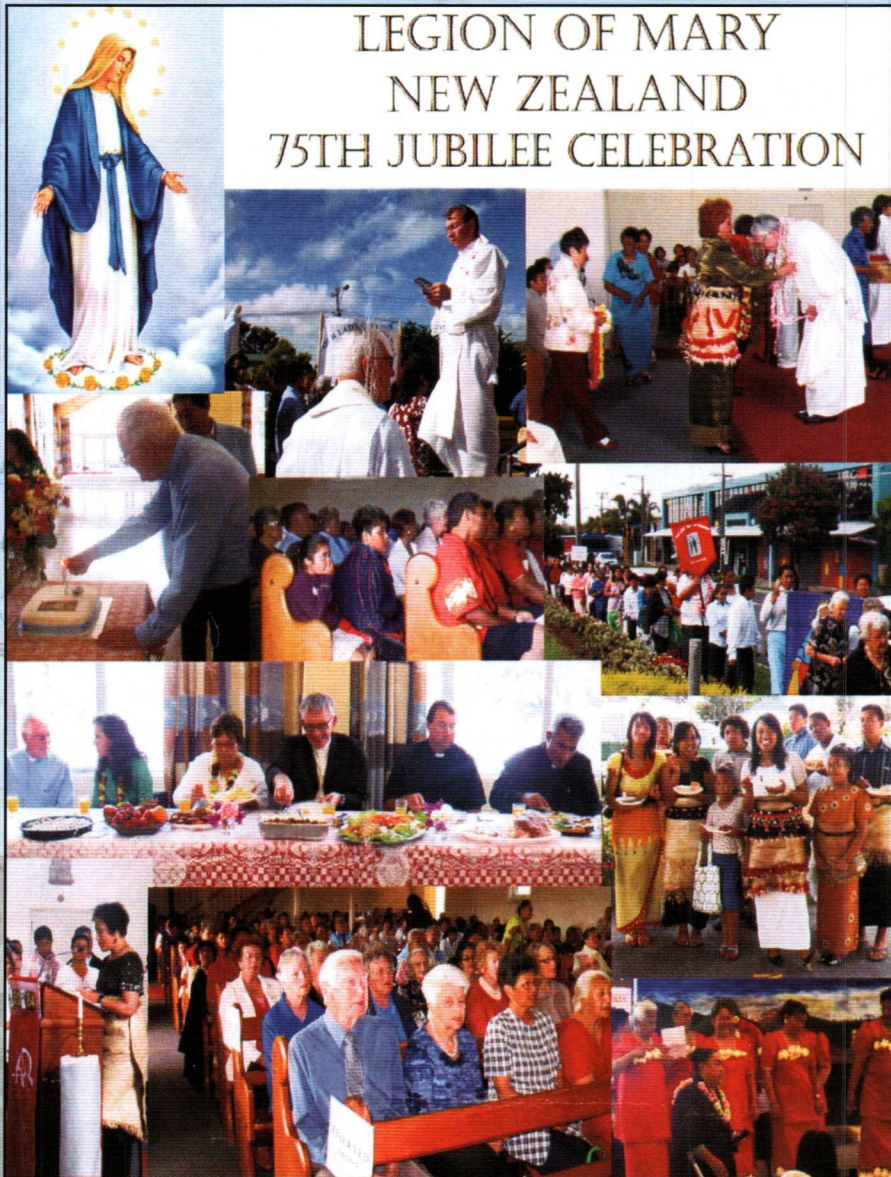
THE 75TH JUBILEE OF
THE LEGION OF MARY IN NEW ZEALAND
WAS CELEBRATED
ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 13, 2008
AT OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION
PARISH CHURCH,
ONEHUNGA, AUCKLAND.

This memorable occasion opened up with the Spiritual Directors, legionaries, both Active and Auxiliary from different cultures and praesidia from Auckland and Wellington all dressed in their cultural attire gathering outside the Church for the opening prayers and the Rosary procession into the Church led by the Senatus Spiritual Director, Rev. Fr. Andrew Matthew. The Mass was concelebrated by Most Reverend Patrick Dunn, D.D. and Frs. Andrew Matthew, Leo Doyle, Taleppe Vaifale, Douglas Fidow and Fr. Kim. Bishop Dunn gave a wonderful homily detailing how the history of the Legion of Mary intertwines with that

of Catholic New Zealand. The first Bishop of New Zealand dedicated the mission in New Zealand to Mary Assumed into Heaven; so it was both special and appropriate to be celebrating the apostolic mission of the Legion of Mary in this so named and historical Church.

Fr. Matthew, Spiritual Director of the Senatus, told how through Legion visitation he came to find his priestly vocation. Both he and Fr. Doyle, former Spiritual Director of the Senatus, cited the Legion of Mary as a way of living out the call to carry out the work of Christ through Mary.

LEGION OF MARY NEW ZEALAND 75TH JUBILEE CELEBRATION



After lunch and entertainment presented by senior legionaries, the juniors performed a liturgical dance and drama that showed they are faithful, creative and joyful legionaries.

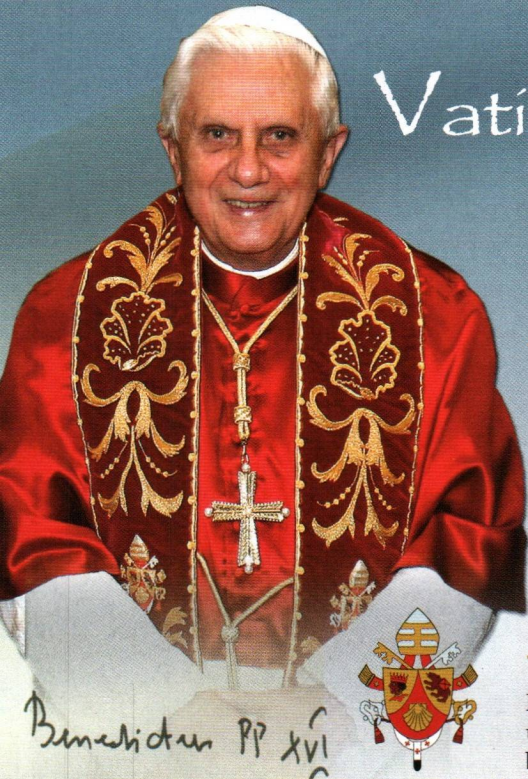
Cathy Southern, Senatus President, had welcomed all in various languages: Tongan, Samoan, Maori, French, Italian, Tagalog and Korean. There was Maori dancing and singing in Chinese.



Christina Hayes from Melbourne, who represented Concilium, accompanied by her mother Cathy Hayes, spoke about the powerful link the Tessera is for members, not only to each other but to our Faith. The visit was to be seen as a further strengthening of the ties as neighbours and again the link to Ireland. Elizabeth Kirwan, the first President of Concilium, was a New Zealander.

The day concluded with the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

Thanks were expressed to Christina and Cathy Hayes, Senatus Officers and all helpers, Bishop Dunn and Spiritual Directors for their support to the Legion of Mary and for the continued growth of the Legion of Mary, in this the 75th anniversary year.



Vatican Bulletin

Words from Pope Benedict XVI

While they are growing up, the young need adults who can suggest principles and values to them. They feel in need of people who can teach by their example, more than by their words, to expend themselves for high ideals.

Homily on the occasion of 4th anniversary Mass – John Paul II

Risen, Jesus gave his disciples a new unity, stronger than before, invincible because it was founded not on human resources but on divine mercy, which made them all feel loved and forgiven by him.

At Castel Gandolfo on his 4th anniversary of Pontificate

Let us learn from her (the Woman of the Eucharist) to renew our communion with the Body of Christ ceaselessly so that we may love one another as he loved us.

Audience in St. Peter's Square commenting on the "Feast of the Eucharist"

Praying is a journey in personal communion with Christ, setting before him our daily life, our successes and failures, our struggles and our joys – in a word, it is to stand in front of him.

Homily at Chrism Mass

Yet, the reality is that in her true nature and also in her authentic presence in history, the Church is ceaselessly formed and guided by the Spirit of her Lord. She is a living body, whose vitality is, precisely, the fruit of the invisible divine Spirit.

St. Peter's Square speaking on the Role of the Holy Spirit, "the soul of the Church"

Sourced from L'Osservatore Romano by kind permission of the editor

THE HOLY FATHER

The Roman Pontiff, as the successor of Peter, is the perpetual and visible principle and foundation of unity of both the bishops and of the faithful.

LUMEN GENTIUM, 23



Albania

For us, the four Maltese legionaries, Monsignor Ruzar Borg, Joseph Micallef, Bruno Attard and Peter Paul Vassallo and the two Irish members Patricia O'Hara and Caroline Gray the visit to Albania, during the fortnight bridging the months of April and May, was an eventful and colourful spiritual adventure.

The main aim of the visit was to elevate one of the three existing Curiae, that of Our Lady of Grace in Shkoder to the status of Comitium.

During an informal meeting with the Curia officers, the supervisory role of the new Comitium was outlined. Fortunately there are no vacancies in

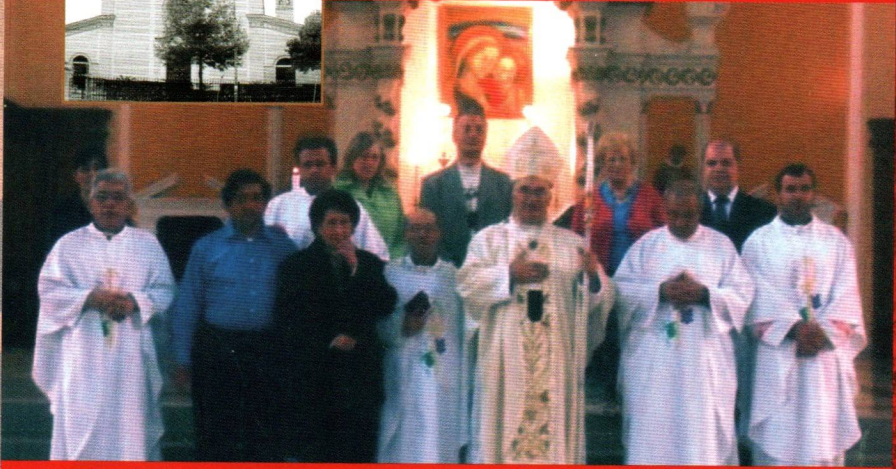
Visit of Legion of Mary 2009 A Report from Malta by Joseph Micallef

the 31 praesidia in Shkoder. Regular communication of the new Comitium with Malta Regia was duly stressed.

The inauguration ceremony of the new Comitium, which took place at Shkoder Cathedral, with an almost full capacity of 5,000 on Friday, May 1, was both moving and impressive. The intently devoted congregation radiated a strong feeling of warmth and belonging to the visitors. Concelebrants were led by His Grace Mgr. Angelo Massafra OFM, Archbishop of Shkoder and included Fr. Dritan Ndoci, Fr. Kastreet of the Sape Curia, Mgr. Borg, Fr. Cutajar the Maltese Parish Priest of Mamurras and Fr. Preka of Radio Maria in Albania.



Bishop Augustini of Sape Dioceses with Mons Borg from Malta and to the left, Teola Shkodra the translator, also in the picture Fr. Kastreet Spiritual Director, Queen of Peace Curia, Sape, Br. Broz President of the Curia along with Joseph Micallef the Albania correspondent and legionaries from Shkodera, Malta and Ireland.



Front Row: left to right: Don Fr. Preka - Director of Radio Maria, Tony Attard from Malta, Luci Preci - President of Our Lady of Grace Curia, Shkoder, Mons. Borg from Malta, Archbishop Masafra of Shkoder diocese, Fr. Emanuel, Parish Priest of Mamurras, Fr. Kastreet - Spiritual Director of Queen of Peace Curia Sape

Back Row: left to right: Fr. Dritan - Spiritual Director of Our Lady of Grace Curia, Shkoder, Caroline Gray from Ireland, Peter Vassallo from Malta, Patricia O'Hara from Ireland, and Joseph Micallef correspondent with Albania.

The day before, we attended two Acies functions, both characterised by large attendances. During a meeting with Curia officers, the central role of the weekly apostolate was highlighted. The weekend following the Comitium ceremony was reserved for two separate Congresses combining the fundamental themes of the Legion charisma as explained in the Handbook. One of the sessions was reserved for the widely acclaimed DVD *"Meet the Legion"*, recently produced by the Concilium.

No visit would have been complete without meetings with the Church Hierarchy in Albania, Archbishop Massafra of the Shkoder-Pult diocese. He had words of appreciation for the sterling pastoral work being carried out by the Legion.

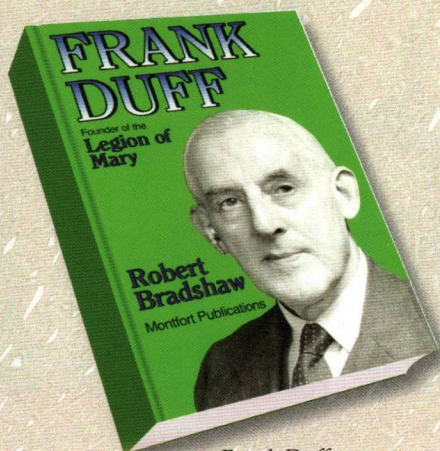
Likewise positive and upbeat was

Bishop Luciano Augustine of Sape whom we met at his residence.

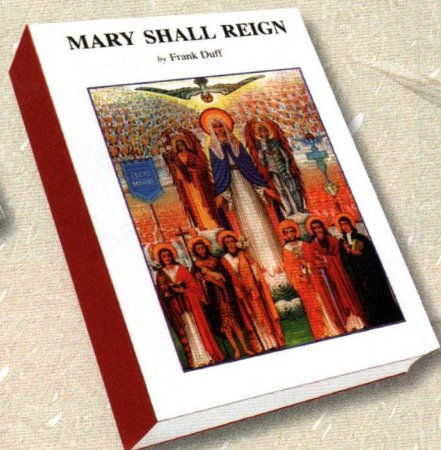
In the Tirana-Durres Diocese we only had time to salute the auxiliary Bishop George Frendo of Malta. Nonetheless we had the opportunity to attend two praesidia meetings in the Capital. Another praesidium visit was that in Elbasan at the Basilian nuns' Convent, where Sr. Gertrude, one of the sisters, acts as a Spiritual Director.

Looking back, we can only feel deeply grateful to God Almighty and His Blessed Mother for offering us this uplifting experience. The assistance, cooperation and welcome given by the Church and Legion in Albania is deeply appreciated. As we move forward together united in prayer, we hope that the Legion continues to strengthen its roots in the rich fertile soil of this reborn nation.

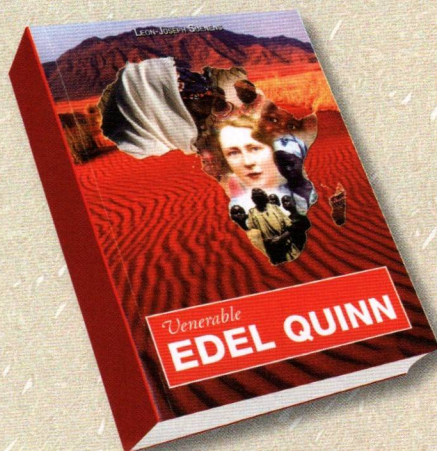
RECOMMENDED PUBLICATIONS



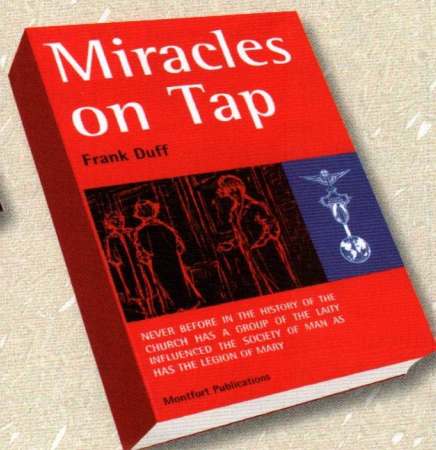
Frank Duff
€4.00 + p&p



Mary Shall Reign
€8.00 + p&p

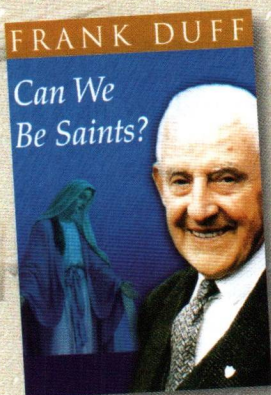


Venerable Edel Quinn
€6.00 + p&p

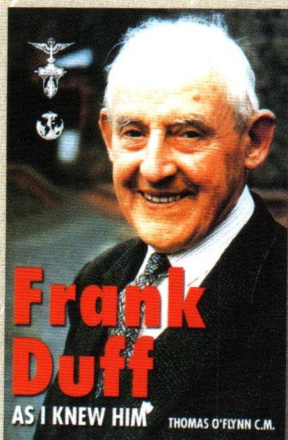


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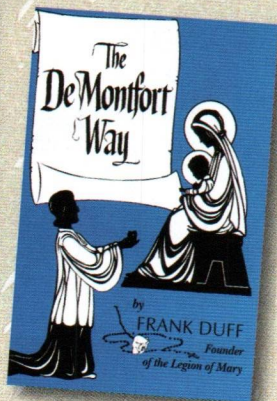
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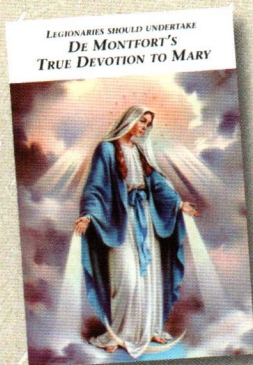
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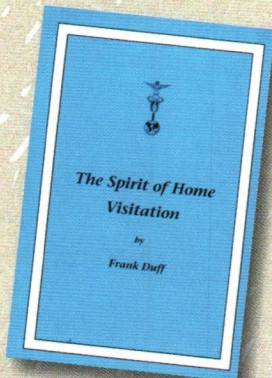
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True Devotion to Mary
3 Copies €1.00 + p&p



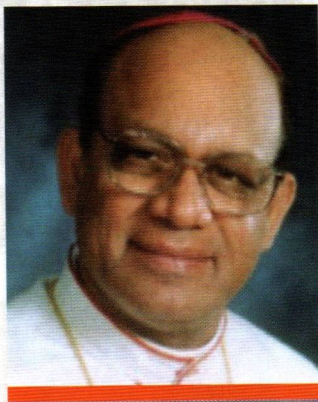
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3 Copies €1.00 + p&p

For these and other publications please write to:
Literature Department, Concilium Legionis Mariae
De Montfort House, Morning Star Avenue, Brunswick Street, Dublin 7, Ireland

INDIA

THE HINDI HANDBOOK HAS NOW ARRIVED

The Regia of Mumbai celebrates

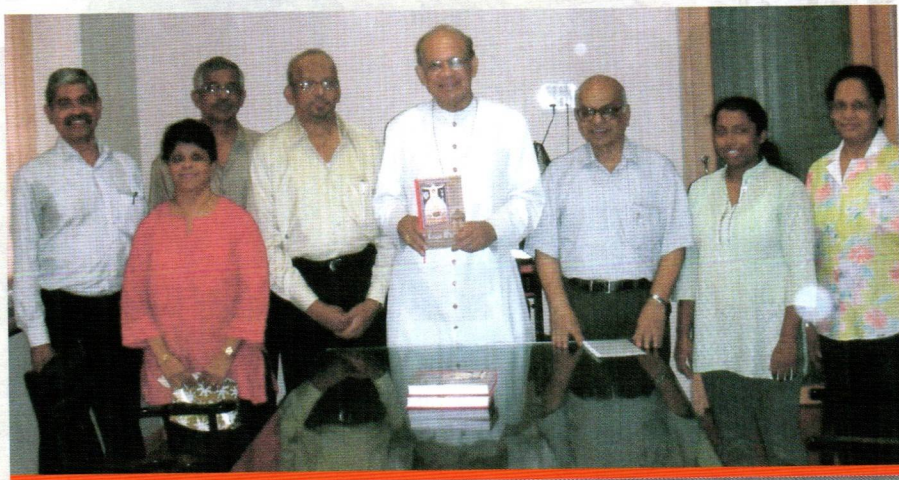


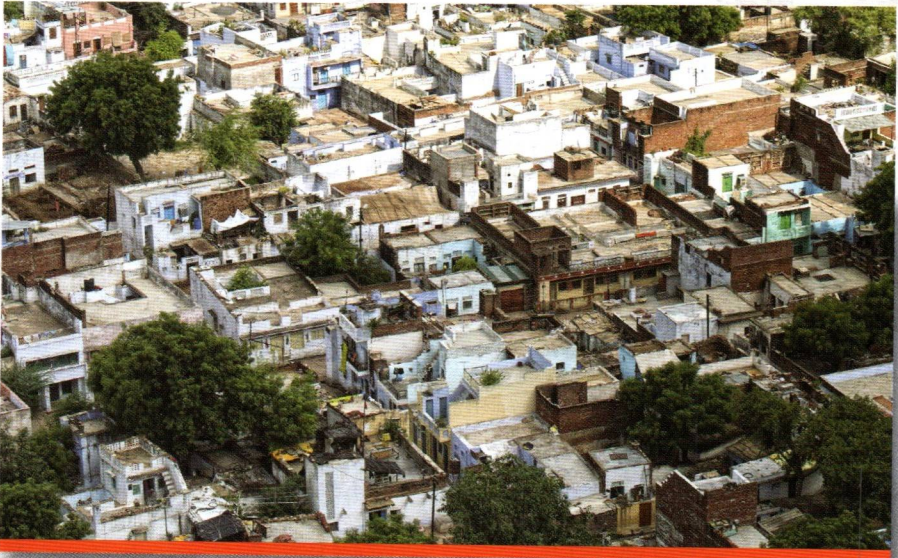
His Eminence, Oswald Cardinal Gracias presented the Hindi Handbook, bearing his Imprimatur to the Star of the Sea Regia, Mumbai. In releasing this long awaited translation of the Handbook the Regia expresses deep appreciation to His Eminence who was closely associated with its development at all stages.

The Regia had approached His Eminence for the Imprimatur, and he immediately appointed a priest to check the translation. Father made a number of suggestions which were incorporated by the translator, Rev. Br. Xavier Tirkey.

After many unfruitful years searching for a translator Br. Tirkey of the Society of St. Paul was located in Mumbai. Brother willingly undertook the task and although transferred to Andhra Pradesh, he completed this great project.

Our Lady must have been smiling on Brother. We recognise with gratitude his great endeavour.





His Eminence was a Junior legionary. When Archbishop of Agra he was instrumental in introducing the Legion of Mary there, giving the extension teams total support and assistance.

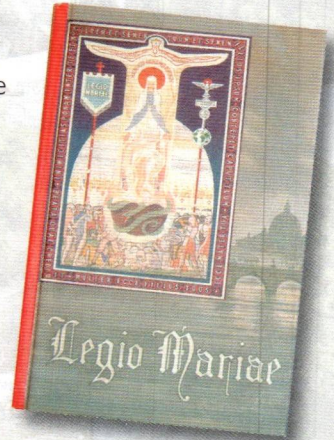
The Star of the Sea Mumbai Regia area covers almost half of India. The Spiritual Director is Rev. Fr. Alvaro Nazareth.

The total population in the Regia area is 537,907,305, out of which the total Catholic population is 2,661,400. The total population of India is 1,028,610,238, therefore 52.3 % of India's population resides in our area. The Regia governs an area of 1,619,465 sq km, which is 49% of the area of India.

The percentage of Catholics in the Regia area is estimated to be 0.5 % in 45 Dioceses in 19 of which there is a Legion presence.

Senior legionaries number approx 4,000 with 1,200 Junior legionaries. Directly attached are 5 Comitia, 13 Curiae, 26 local and 10 isolated praesidia. In the 26 directly affiliated local praesidia there are 316 Senior legionaries.

Other religious groupings in India consist of Hindus, Muslims, Jains, Buddhists, Sikhs and Zorastratrians.



RAMSEY PRISON UNIT,
ROSHARON, TEXAS, USA
MYSTICAL ROSE PRAESIDIUM
10TH ANNIVERSARY

I am enclosing an article written potentially for publication in Maria Legionis on the 10th anniversary of Mystical Rose praesidium along with a photo of the praesidium members taken with Bishop Rizzotto. I am submitting this for two reasons. The first is that it will give a boost to the legionary inmates and make them feel very much a part of the worldwide Legion and give encouragement to other prison praesidia and jail and prison apostolates. The second is for the advancement of the cause of Frank Duff and the comments made by the president were intended for that purpose.

The prison chaplain has been given permission by the warden to publish the photo as all of the inmates in it have signed a release as required by the TDCJ prison system. I spoke directly with the chaplain concerning this. In fact, many of the photos taken will be put on the chaplain's St. Dismas website. Also I contacted the Bishop's office and obtained his permission to publish the photo as well. I am including the first names of the inmates which the chaplain also said was fine to publish with the photo. If you have any questions concerning this please let me know.

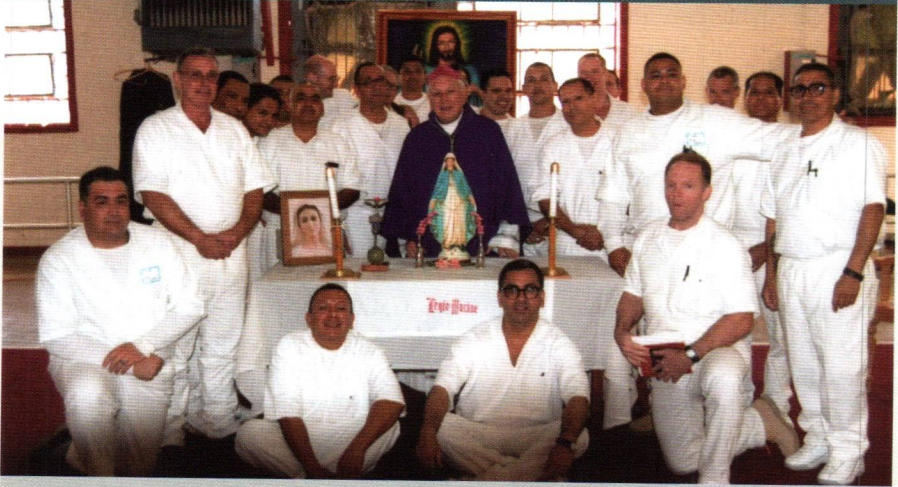
Sincerely,

James Saccomanno

1507 W 10th
Freeport, Texas 77541
979233 1726



MYSTICAL ROSE PRAESIDIUM CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR BLESSED LADY THIS YEAR.



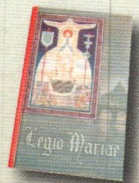
The praesidium was formed in September 1999 at the Ramsey Prison Unit in Rosharun, Texas. Officers of the praesidium are inmates and a legionary from Queen of Peace praesidium in Freeport serves as Tribune.

The photo was taken on March 29th 2009 and shows Jonas, John, Cid, Joe, Rudy, Bill, Jerry, Marvin, Pete, Jose, Sonny, Bill, Trinidad, Isaac, Richard, Jorge, David, Jesse, Mark, Julian, Gary, Earl, Ronnie, Pete, Dale, George and Scott - members of the praesidium with Bishop Rizzotto after a special Mass during which 10 inmates were confirmed.

The praesidium has been faithfully meeting weekly for the last ten years. The works of the praesidium include facilitating the weekly Mass or Communion service held in the unit. Legionaries set up the altar and room for the Mass, serve as lectors, commentators, altar servers, greeters and sing in the choir. They have been a major factor in recruiting inmates to attend the weekend Mass and in making the Mass or Communion services as reverent and welcoming as possible. They also lead Bible study groups, the Rosary and participate in RCIA programmes. An additional Legion assignment is

individual evangelisation of fellow inmates in their cells, cell wings and recreation areas. This work is reported on weekly.

The praesidium began as the result of a weekly Rosary conducted by Catholic volunteers. One of the inmates received a Legion of Mary Handbook from his mother who suggested that he look into it. After reading the Handbook and sharing it with others he then requested someone come to the prison to help start a praesidium.



James and Marilyn Saccomanno helped start the praesidium along with the chaplain and James Saccomanno has continued as Tribune. The full Legion altar is kept in the prison and the legionaries are allowed to set it up for the meeting each week. The Legion has been supported by Catholic and non-Catholic chaplains.

After the Legion meeting the following Friday, the praesidium President, Pete, asked me if there had been any progress on Frank Duff's Cause. I said that I was unaware of any miracles attributed to him at this point. He said that no less than 6 inmates had been brought into the Church each year since the Legion began due to the evangelisation of the legionaries and that if you include those who were fallen away from the Faith who were brought back into the Church, the total number would be no less than 200.



He said that, were it not for the Legion, the inmates would be killing each other rather than practising their faith and living as brothers and that was a miracle to them. I knew from their reports each week that they were continuously evangelising but had no idea of the impact until he told me that the 10 just confirmed were recruited and sponsored by the legionaries. This is not to say that the Legion did it alone because there are Catholic volunteers, priests and deacons who support them as well. Still, this humbled me. The power of the Holy Spirit through Mary and her Legion is very evident.

Perhaps Frank Duff's miracles are all around us. Maybe every Legion conversion and return to the Faith is a Frank Duff miracle. After all he put the instructions of the Holy Spirit into print for us and all we do is follow them. Seeing these inmates healed of their many problems and practising and sharing their faith is all the miracle I need to see.

James Saccomanno

P.S. In many prisons worldwide one will find a Legion of Mary presence. Regular visits by legionaries are commonplace. With permission of the Prison authorities often it is permitted to establish praesidia. Visiting legionaries can help a praesidium develop, as other praesidia do, in harmony with the rules and aspirations of the Legion Handbook.

Prisoners functioning as members, undertake effective apostolic work among their peers under the guidance of their Chaplains acting as Spiritual Directors. Editor.





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Dear Friend

This is an appeal for help.

Since set up by Frank Duff in 1937 the magazine has been the voice of the Legion of Mary, bringing to life its spirit through articles on doctrine, devotion and practice combined with news of Legionary activities throughout the world.

Maria Legionis is indispensable for Active Legionaries, advancing knowledge and appreciation of their apostolate. It gives Auxiliary members an insight into what is being done for souls in different parts of the world, and helps them to the realisation that they are part of this effort through their daily prayer.

In recent years the circulation has been falling. To reverse this decline may we suggest the following for 2010:

- That each Council or praesidium increases its order by 25%; this will require support from Legion funds as well as a drive to find new subscribers.
- Free-of-charge copies should be given to Legion Council Spiritual Directors and the Spiritual Directors of praesidia. This should also apply to each Parish Priest and all priests of the Parish as well as all religious known to the Legion. The cost of these copies should be covered by the Council or praesidium as is appropriate.
- That copies be given free-of-charge to Prayer Rooms, Libraries, Establishments with waiting rooms and so on, in an effort to publicise the Legion of Mary and its activities.
- You may like to consider giving a friend or colleague an annual subscription.
- It will be through legionaries adopting an innovative approach and constructive thinking that the magazine will reach greater numbers. As is said nowadays we need to think "outside the box".

We thank you sincerely for your ongoing support in the important task of circulating the Maria Legionis.

Yours sincerely

The Editor





world news



EUROPE

Belarus:

The Legion is in all 5 Dioceses. There is one Comitium with 10 senior Curiae, 1 junior Curia and 7 directly attached praesidia. All Curiae have full officerships. In January they held a very successful Youth Congress with an attendance of 51.

Hungary:

The Legion is in 13 of the 16 dioceses. **Budapest Regia** comprises 6 Comitia, 12 Curiae and 25 directly attached praesidia.

Latvia:

The Legion comprises 1 Comitium with 3 attached Curiae and 13 directly attached praesidia from all 4 Dioceses.

Lithuania:

There are 2 Archdioceses and 5 Dioceses with a Legion presence in all of them. Attached to **Kaunus Comitium** are 5 Senior Curiae, 1 Junior Curia and 18 praesidia. Extension drives are organised after Sunday Masses and 2 praesidia were started in Marijampole Curia in the last 8 months. Patrician meetings feature in reports.

Croatia:

The Legion in Croatia is governed by **Zagreb Regia**, which has 13 directly attached praesidia, 2 Comitia and 4 Curiae. The Officers of the Regia recently visited Dublin and had useful discussions with the Officers of Concilium. The Legion is established in 7 of the 15 Dioceses.

Bosnia-Herzegovina:

The Legion is established in one of the 3 Dioceses. In Sarajevo there is one Curia, with 4 praesidia and 40 active members. Recently, a junior praesidium has been set up. Good contacts were made with Orthodox and Muslims.

Ukraine:

The Legion is in all 7 Latin Dioceses and comprises 1 Comitium, 13 senior and 1 junior Curiae. A successful Summer School was held at which all councils were represented.

Poland:

The Legion in the East and South of the country is governed by **Lublin Regia** with 6 Comitia, 13 Curiae and 9 praesidia. Warsaw Comitium has 4 attached Curiae and 18 directly attached praesidia and Warsaw-Praga Comitium has one attached Curia and 15 directly attached praesidia. Lublin established 2 praesidia and 10 parishes were visited and given Legion information. Warsaw nominates a parish for extension each month.

Romania:

The population is 22 million, 5% of whom are Latin Rite or Roman Catholic, 5% Greek Catholic and 85% Orthodox. Bucharest Curia has 13 attached praesidia and governs the Legion in 2 Dioceses. There are 2 Hungarian speaking Comitia at Nagyvárad and Szatmár and 2 other Curiae. Legion contact is made by means of hospital visitation and works of service.

Slovakia:

Five of the 6 Dioceses have the Legion. There is one Comitium and 4 Curiae governing 34 praesidia with 217 Active members. There are parishes where priests are awaiting the Legion. True Devotion to Mary is studied and works include street apostolate.

Czech Republic:

The Legion is in 4 of the 8 Dioceses. There are 2 Comitia and 2 Curiae. Visitation of prisoners and preparing adults for baptism are among their works. The first Patrician meeting had an attendance of 20.

Slovenia:

Ljubljana Curia has 7 praesidia. The Legion is established in 1 of the 5 Dioceses.



Moldova:

There is only 1 Diocese with 9 parishes and the Legion is in all of them. The Curia based in the capital Chisinau has also 2 junior praesidia. The Bishop of Chisinau attended the Acies and celebrated Mass with 100 legionaries present.

Austria:

Austria has a population of 8.2 million of which 72% are Catholic. The Legion is in all 9 Dioceses. **The Senatus** comprises 10 Comitias and 47 Curiae governing 358 praesidia, 23 of which are Junior praesidia with approximately 90 junior members. 26 Deaneries were visited for the Marian Congress, 13 priests attended a day for Spiritual Directors, Innsbruck Comitium undertake night apostolate to street girls, Florisdorf Curia organised a 33-day preparation course on True Devotion to Mary. The reports mentioned one Senior and one Junior praesidia with one Junior Patrician group established. The Senatus Officers had a meeting with Cardinal Schoenborn who endorsed the Legion and its emphasis on the role of Mary in the Church.

SOUTH AMERICA

Boliva:

La Paz Senatus has 1 Regia, 4 Comitias, 9 Curiae and 14 praesidia attached. There are 2,612 Active members, which includes 223 Juniors; there are 1,793 Auxiliaries. There is ongoing development with new praesidia and Curiae being set up.

Paraguay:

The Senatus of Asuncion has 6 Comitias, 26 Curiae and 20 affiliated praesidia. There are 13,600 Active members and almost 20,000 Auxiliaries.

Colombia:

Bogota Senatus has 4 Regiae, 11 Comitias, 5 Curiae and 9 directly attached praesidia in 42 Dioceses. Four praesidia were set up in the Amazon area on the border with Brazil recently. In Villavicencio the young legionaries used every method to recruit – a Columban drive, home-to-home visitation and street contact. A number of Senior and Junior praesidia were set up. Two young legionaries did extension in Panama recently on behalf of the Concilium. **The Regia of Bucaramanga** set up 2 new Comitias and two Curiae including one Junior. **Medellin Senatus** has 1 Regia, 13 Comitias, 16 Curiae and 6 directly attached praesidia. Works include home visitation, street contact, catechesis in all the schools and colleges and preparing children for the sacraments.

Ecuador:

The Servant of God Alfie Lambe established the Legion in Ecuador in 1954. **The Senatus of Quito** has a Regia, 6 Comitias, 5 Curiae and 21 praesidia attached. **The Regia of Cuenca** has 3 Comitias, 5 Curiae, 34 praesidia, which includes 15 Junior members. There are praesidia in 3 prisons. Exploratio Dominicalis is undertaken regularly and visitation with the Pilgrim Virgin statue has resulted in many conversions.

Chile:

The Senatus is in contact with all of its attached Councils.

Cuba:

The Legion is established in 3 of the 11 Dioceses. **The Comitium of Havana** has 9 Curiae attached and most of the Curiae are in the capital Havana.

Uruguay:

The Servant of God Alfie Lambe established a Curia in Montevideo in 1958. **The Senatus of Montevideo** has 3 Comitias, 7 Curiae and 25 praesidia attached with a membership of 1,238.



world news

Peru:

Senatus of Lima: Recent reports indicate a number of new praesidia have been set up including two in a prison in Sullana. The Junior movement is also very active and strong numerically. Many legionaries are catechists. As well as teaching the children they also have an apostolate to the parents, many of them have returned to the practice of the Faith while some couples are being prepared for the Sacrament of Marriage.

Venezuela:

The Legion was founded in 1950; it exists in all 9 Archdioceses and 29 Dioceses. **The Senatus of Caracas** has attached 30 Comitia, 32 Senior and 46 Junior Curiae. One of the works undertaken is prison visitation. Peregrinatio Pro Christo and youth projects have been carried out resulting in a new Junior praesidium of 24 members.



AFRICA

Ethiopia:

Ugandan legionaries visited 3 times. In Taza there are approximately 2,700 enthusiastic legionaries and in Jimma the legionaries are also doing good work. The visitors arranged for the translation and printing of Legion literature into the official language – Amharic.

Sudan:

Ugandan legionaries visited twice. The Legion is established in 3 of the 4 Dioceses.

Sierra Leone:

Freetown Curia has 11 praesidia and there is great devotion to Mass and Our Lady. Bishops and legionaries are very committed to rebuilding the Legion.

Kenya:

Kenya has 10 million Catholics out of a population of 35 million. The Legion is governed by a **Senatus in Nairobi** and a **Regia at Kisumu**. Venerable Edel Quinn established the first praesidium in Nairobi in 1936. A praesidium of 11 in a prison neighbourhood has a Junior group, visits families in the area and visited 100 inmates in the prison. A Curia had 50 patients attend a Mass organised in a psychiatric hospital.

Kisumu Regia reported 1,455 received the Sacrament of the sick, 205 were baptised in danger of death, over 1,000 marriages were validated, 3,317 adults and 506 children were baptised, 213 people were received into the church and 42 witchdoctors are under instruction. Twelve praesidia were set up. Bishop Emeritus John Njenga was the chief celebrant at the annual Anniversary Mass at Venerable Edel's grave.

Uganda:

The Legion is established in all 19 Dioceses. **The Senatus of Uganda** has 2 Regiae, 14 Comitia, 16 Curiae and 18 praesidia directly affiliated and there are 88,416 Active seniors and 22,083 Juniors. Visitation of Councils and extension is undertaken and congresses are held. Since November 140 praesidia have been set up. The Legion is established in many schools and tertiary institutions. Eleven members were ordained to the priesthood and eight to the diaconate. There are 2 Curiae and 5 praesidia in prisons and the members are encouraged to stay involved after release. Members from the Senatus have visited 4 African countries on behalf of Concilium and they now supervise the Legion in Ethiopia and Sudan on a caretaker basis.



Nigeria:

Ibadan Senatus cares for the Legion in two Archdioceses and 9 Dioceses. The Legion is in all parishes in Ibadan. **Enugu Senatus** has 20 praesidia, 11 Senior and 12 Junior Curiae, 18 Comitia and 3 Regiae directly attached.

Onitsha Regia has approximately 41,500 legionaries including 10,500 Junior members. Many couples were helped to wed in Church and numbers were prepared for the Sacraments. There were 189 conversions. Exploratio Dominicalis projects are carried out in parishes, army barracks, marine quarters, etc. Many college campuses have large numbers of legionaries among the staff and students. **Ikot Ekpene Regia** has membership of about 20,000 in the territory of Calabar. The Regia has extended and increased its membership and eight praesidia were revived. A Youth Conference had 182 juniors present. A Comitium in **Jos Regia** recruited 228 members, formed 6 praesidia and revived 5 others. They reported the conversion of 22 non-Christians. **Abuja Regia:** The Regia reported 137 conversions in the year and the formation of 64 praesidia. Legionaries in **Kaduna and Lagos Regiae** also engage in a variety of apostolic works.

Malawi:

Venerable Edel Quinn set up the Legion in two Vicariates when she visited Malawi in 1940 and the Centenary of her birth has been celebrated. The Regia of Blantyre covers the Archdiocese of Blantyre and 6 suffragan Dioceses. It has 12 praesidia, 22 Curiae and 11 Comitia in the Archdiocese and a further 48 Comitia between the other Dioceses. Three-day retreats are organised for Legionaries and Congresses are promoted.

Zambia:

Lusaka Regia covers the Lusaka Archdiocese and its 6 suffragan Dioceses and it has 27 Comitia, 174 Curiae and 1,053 praesidia with 22,531 active members and 1,794 Juniors. Works include home and hospital visitation and many couples were helped to regularise their marriages. Baptism preparation is undertaken. **Kasama Regia** covers Kasama Archdiocese and its 2 suffragan Dioceses. A praesidium was set up in a seminary and they held a 3-day meeting for young legionaries.

Tanzania:

Arusha Archdiocese - Rombo Comitium

has 3,600 Active members. **Kilema**

Comitium has 10 Curiae and 9 praesidia

directly attached. **Hai Comitium:** Works include home and hospital visitation, works of service and assisting the priests with parish activities. **Dar-Es-Salaam Comitium** has 9 praesidia and 13 Curiae. There are a number of University praesidia. **Songea Archdiocese**

- **Songea Comitium**, has an Active

membership of 1,841. **Mbinga Comitium:**

The Legion is established in all 26 parishes of the Mbinga Diocese. **St. Killian's**

Comitium has 1,707 members. **Njombe**

Comitium has 9 praesidia and 6 Curiae

attached. **Mtwara Comitium** has 9 Curiae

and they are working towards having the

Legion in every parish.

The Gambia:

Legionaries in Banjul Curia run preparation classes for the Sacraments especially Marriage.

Liberia:

Monrovia Curia has 19 praesidia attached.

FR. SEAN HAYES. SMA.



NAIROBI, JAN 2009

*"One of the places I visited was the grave of Venerable Edel Quinn.
I prayed for all those in the Legion of Mary".*

FR. SEAN HAYES SMA - SOCIETY OF AFRICAN MISSIONS

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