

Maria Legionis

North American Edition

Edel on O'Connell Bridge

by Reverend Father Ray Collins, O.P.



Venerable
Edel Quinn

The late Fr. Anselm Moynihan O.P, of happy memory, used to tell many stories about the Venerable Edel Quinn. This one is very interesting.

In the course of her office work in Dublin, Edel Quinn met and befriended a young married woman who had a lot of domestic and financial trouble.

Edel was a constant source of strength and encouragement.

'I could write a book on all that she did for me and my family', wrote the friend later. When Edel left for Africa she missed her greatly, and though she did not forget Edel's assurance that God was with her in her suffering, she frequently became very down-hearted.

One day in May, 1944, Edel's friend was crossing O'Connell Bridge in a state of deep depression and the sight of the river suggested the thought of doing away with herself. Then, suddenly, she saw Edel standing on the pavement a short distance ahead. She saw her quite clearly and was certain of her identity. She was about to approach her when



O'Connell Bridge, Dublin, Ireland

her attention was momentarily distracted and when she looked again there was no sign of Edel. She was puzzled but thought that Edel had not seen her and had moved away in the crowd of pedestrians. Disappointed, but thrilled by the fact that Edel was back in Dublin, she went home and told the good news to her husband. Two days later she read in a newspaper that Edel had died in Nairobi shortly before she had seen her, as she firmly believed, on O'Connell Bridge.

From then on, she constantly prayed to her and received many blessings which she attributed to her intercession. Among these was the conversion of a close relative who had seemingly lost the faith and obstinately refused to see a priest even on his deathbed. She begged Edel to intercede for him and almost

immediately he spontaneously asked for a priest and died in peace with God.

In her old age, Edel's friend gave an impression of great peace and happiness and loved to talk about Edel Quinn's holiness, and her kindness to herself and her family. The vision brought Edel's words back to her and they sunk in deep. Her cross became light. She still had a lot of trouble but when Fr. Anselm met her she was wonderfully happy and full of gratitude to God for all his blessings. It is a great grace to believe that our crosses, our troubles and sufferings can be a powerful help to saving the world, that they are actually a sign of God's love for us. 

Holy Spirit Conference

Exhibiting The Spirit of the New Evangelization, on October 7, 2017 the Houston Senatus hosted their 15th Holy Spirit Conference. As the promotional flyer says...

POPE FRANCIS envisions that this missionary effort be placed under the mantle of Our Lady whom he terms 'the Mother of the Church which evangelizes' and without whom the Church "could never truly understand the spirit of the new evangelization."

– Evangelii Gaudium 284

The program included reports on three Peregrinatio Pro Christo projects they conducted in 2017; a talk by Rich May entitled Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit; and Mass celebrated by Most Reverend Joseph A. Fiorenza, Archbishop Emeritus of Galveston-Houston Diocese, who in his

homily said “when we look into the parishes who have many converts, we see the Legion is very active, and we see this spirit of evangelization” and “never give up being in the mode of evangelization, because if we did, we would not be the true Legion of Mary.” Keynote speaker, Fr. Hugh Gillespie, SMM said

“Annunciation announcements are usually to a large group, but the Annunciation is to one, the one great task of evangelization is showing forth Jesus Christ because he is so little known and to love him greatly we must know him well. The point of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God, accomplished by being sanctified by participating in





Fr. Hugh Gillespie, SMM, Keynote Speaker; Sr. Sharon Reese, President Houston Senatus; Br. Don Taggart, President Philadelphia Senatus

the work of Our Lady and the Church. In the Legion there are two kinds of apostolic work, like the two missions of the Church. First to the world, which doesn't know Jesus, and second to the church to renew the church, and deMontfort is of this type." The 2017 Conference was attended by over 400 legionaries from all over the Mater Ecclesiae Senatus of Houston only four weeks after the devastating and historic floods from Hurricane Harvey. Houston Senatus governs Texas, Louisiana, and New Mexico and has over 5,000 active members.



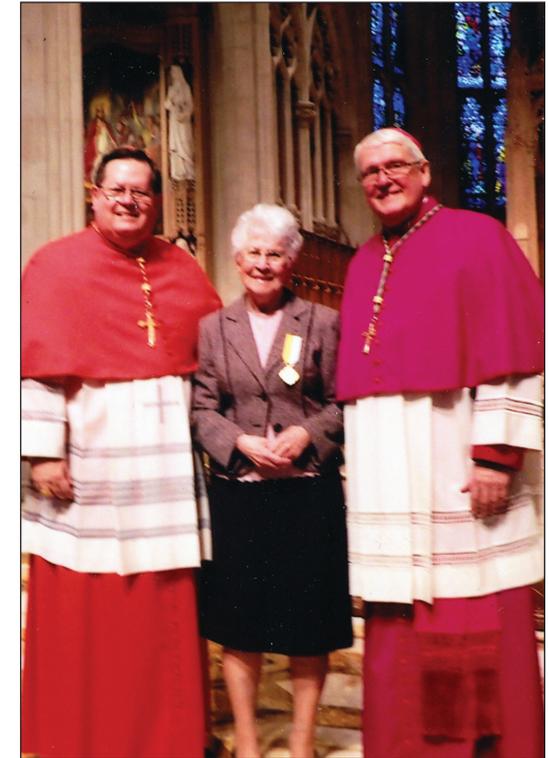
HAMILTON ONTARIO COMITIUM

A Very Well Deserved Papal Award

by Josie A. Cruz



The very first time I met Aileen Connell in 1975, I was impressed by her deep faith, profound humility, and dedication to the works of the Legion. She has been a faithful officer. Aileen's focus is to serve Our Blessed Lady. In those days, who could do such an excellent job of caring for her family while running a praesidium, and so much more. But with the help of the Blessed Mother and the Holy Spirit, she always said "everything will be just fine." Among her legionary works were prison visitation, visiting the sick in hospitals and nursing homes, door-to-door evangelization, propagating devotion to Mary through Pilgrim Virgin, and devotion to Jesus through Sacred Heart Enthronement. As president of the Hamilton Comitium, she set high standards: challenging works



Sr Connell with his Eminence Gerald Cardinal Lacroix, Primate of Canada and his Excellency Douglas Crosby at The Cathedral of Christ the King.

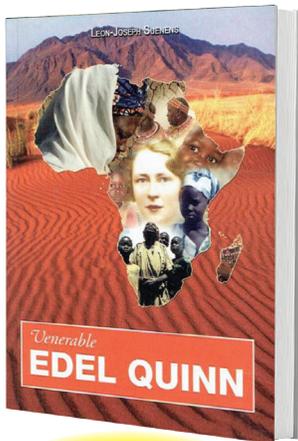
in all praesidia, and extension and recruiting drives to start the Legion in many parishes. In 1975 the members of the Hamilton Comitium went to Dublin, Ireland to visit the Concilium, where they met and spoke with Legion of Mary founder Frank Duff.

continued next page

The definitive biography of Edel Quinn

Venerable Edel Quinn

by Cardinal Suenens



\$5 Each

The story of Edel Quinn, born in Co. Cork, Ireland, in 1907. She arrived in Nairobi in 1936 as an envoy of The Legion of Mary fulfilling this office "with dignity, self-sacrifice, and with such an unusual degree of patience, tact, and understanding during her 8 years residence in East Africa as to command the respect and admiration of all who were privileged to make her acquaintance." She died there in 1944 and on December 15th 1994 Pope John Paul II declared her "Venerable".

Order form on page NA-19

PAPAL AWARD- cont.

On March 4, 2018, in ceremonies at the Cathedral of Christ the King, Aileen received the Papal Honor, the Cross Pro-Ecclesia Et Pontifice, conferred by Pope Francis and presented by His Eminence Gerald Cardinal Lacroix, Primate of Canada, and Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, Bishop of the Diocese of Hamilton.



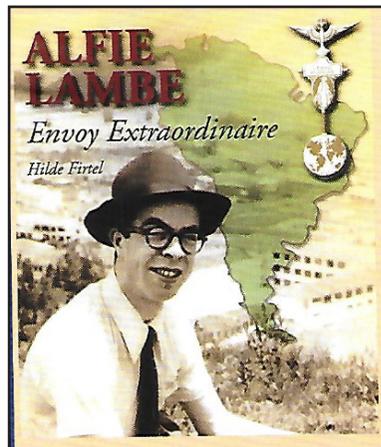
Sr Aileen Connell with Br Frank Duff

New Book Available!

Alfie Lambe *Envoy Extraordinaire*

by Hilde Firtle

Written by the former envoy to Germany, this book explores the work of Alfie Lambe as a model Legion of Mary Envoy. His cause for canonization has earned him the title "Servant of God". Now available in a newly produced, updated edition.



Plus shipping:

\$3 for one copy - 1st Class mail

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1000th Meeting! A Praesidium Milestone

by Mary Sullivan



The Queen of Peace Praesidium of the Legion of Mary at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Annville, Pa, held its 1000th meeting on January 18, 2018. To commemorate this milestone and to share their joy with their fellow parishioners, the members hosted a reception with light refreshments in the Narthex of the church after the 10:30 Mass on Sunday, January 21, 2018.

Their spiritual director, Fr. Job Foote, OSB, is the pastor of the parish. The active members undertake various works weekly, going out in two's. These works include home visits to elderly, homebound

and sick parishioners, visits of consolation to the bereaved, reciting the rosary prior to parish funeral Masses, which they then attend, and weekly visits to the Lebanon County Prison to say the rosary with the incarcerated. During our visits we joyfully rely on the protection and guidance of Mary. We are pleased to belong to this committed group which brings the light of Jesus to others.

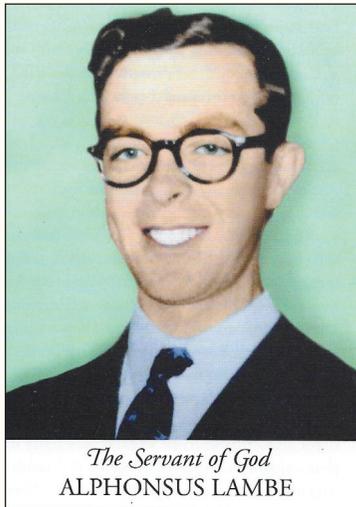
Over 100 Auxiliary members support the Queen of Peace Praesidium with their daily prayers. Our Queen of Peace Praesidium started in February 1997.

Got Legion News?

Share it by emailing submissions to: MariaLegionis@verizon.net

Letters from Alfie Lambe to his Mother

Alphonsus Lambe, known affectionately as Alfie, was only 21 years of age when he was appointed as a Legion of Mary Envoy to South America. He left Ireland with his co-Envoy and mentor, Seamus Grace, on 16th July, 1953 and he spent the following five and a half years setting up and promoting the Legion in various countries in South America. Alfie Lambe was the youngest of the Lambe family who lived in Tullamore, County Offaly. He tried his vocation with the Irish Christian Brothers, but he had to leave that Congregation because his health was not considered strong enough for the work which lay ahead of him. On leaving the Christian Brothers, he joined the Legion of Mary in his native Tullamore and he continued his



The Servant of God
ALPHONSUS LAMBE

membership when he moved to Dublin to seek employment. His outstanding qualities of gentle zeal and youthful attractiveness were quickly recognized by the Legion of Mary authorities and he was asked to visit existing Legion branches and to set up new ones in Counties Mayo, Cavan and Kerry. The Diary which he kept of this assignment makes very interesting reading. It is not clear when he started writing home to his beloved mother from South America, but from items of correspondence which he sent to Ireland it can be assumed that he sent her postcards and letters from the start of his travels in the South American Continent. Letters to his mother, which obviously meant so much to her and which she preserved, date from 25 February, 1954 to 11 December, 1958. These

letters were later presented by Alfie's brother, Jack, for inclusion in the documents for his Cause for Canonization. The Cause was introduced by the Episcopal Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1980.

The first of his letters, which is still extant, gives an address in Quito, Ecuador, and in it he draws his mother's attention to the fact that he has got official stationery printed for himself with a quote in Spanish on top of the page from the Legion Promise to the Holy Spirit. He said this was included because he considered it "about the best exposition in the world today of Our Lady's office" in the role of salvation. It is clear that he was proud, in the proper sense of the word, to present the very essence of the Legion to everybody he corresponded with at the time. In the same letter he thanked his mother for her letter of 15 February, which he said was full of interesting items of family news including a reference to the birth of his niece, Mary Bernadette, who was born on the day he arrived in Ecuador. He sent his congratulations to his brother and sister-in-law on the happy event. He also expressed concern about a worrying problem involving the family home and he said he had a special Mass offered

that it would be solved. He went on to say that "God was really good" and that no matter what happened it was God's will that counted.

The little gifts which he sent home included postcards, photographs, some developed by himself, and a surprise packet of a few potatoes. He sent the latter to his brother with instructions that the potatoes should be split and set to see how they would grow. He said he expected them to grow better in Ireland than in their home country. He enquired months later about the progress of the new potato crop and he pointed out that the first potato was developed in Ecuador.

His mother obviously sent him a shamrock for St. Patrick's Day and in acknowledging it, he said it arrived in good condition and in good time for the feast of St. Patrick. He wore the shamrock, not only on St. Patrick's Day, but during the octave. He spent the feast day in Azogues, where the nuns prepared a special feast for him and placed a green, white and orange flag on the center of the table. He told his mother that the Mass that morning had been offered for his own intentions and that it was certainly a very happy day for him.

Late in March, 1954, he told his

mother that her letter, received the previous day contained very interesting news. He went on to say “The ordinary things at home make big news out here. To tell me that the lads have gone to a football match or that they are away down the road to catch the horses has more interest for me than something novel in (the town of) Tullamore. In your letters, tell me how you are passing the cold nights, if there is much turf in the yard, if the March green grass is to be seen yet and if the March wind makes waves in the grassy fields like a storm on a lake? By the time you receive this letter, the April showers will be with you giving life and vigor to the flowers of May”. In the same letter he mentioned that he intended listening to the radio broadcast on the “Grand National” race in Aintree in England. He asked if she would also be listening in and he enquired if she had a ticket for the Sweep (lottery based on the results of that famous race). He also related how he and a priest from the house where he was staying had gone for a walk along the river near the house. He said the rivers in Ecuador were fast-flowing and for that reason they retained one’s interest when walking beside them. He also spoke about the beautiful trees growing along

the river bank and exquisite wild roses, much bigger than the garden roses in Ireland.

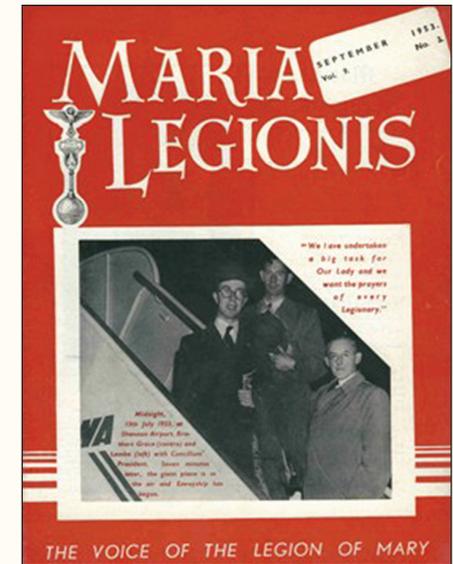
Alfie usually informed his mother about what he was doing regarding the extension of the Legion and, of course, he pleaded for a “little special campaign of prayer” for his major undertakings. In one letter he pleaded for special prayers during the month of May for the Legion in Ecuador. He went on to say “I hope all the Lambe families in Tullamore are Auxiliary members of the Legion. For those who are not Auxiliaries, May would be a very good time to enroll. You people do the praying and I will do the work”



He made a broadcast on the Legion on Radio Catolica to the whole of Ecuador in April, 1954, and when telling his mother about it he said it wasn’t his first time to speak over the

radio as he had already done so a few times previously while he was in Colombia. This shows how fluent he had become in Spanish after he had settled in South America.

There is a very interesting account of his stay on a very large farm in the country. The youngest member of the family, who was a legionary, had invited him to her home to start a praesidium among the Indians living in the area. The family was a very important one and it had strong political and diplomatic connections. During Alfie’s visit, he had the use of a car and he drove the two daughters, who were legionaries, to morning Mass and the three of them went for long drives around the countryside in the afternoons. At night, the family recited the Rosary together in front of a blazing fire. Some days, when not engaged in promotional work for the Legion, Alfie and his friends ran through the corn fields and meadows on sunny days and he made a special point of watching one of the workmen ploughing with two bullocks. It is not clear why he became suddenly interested in livestock but he requested that one of his brothers should send him a catalogue or some information about cattle in Ireland. He said a few photographs of bulls and cows taken after some shows



Seamus & Alfie departed Dublin on July 16, 1953, the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

would be very welcome. He told his mother that his stay on the ranch was a tonic for both his body and his soul.

Alfie took an interest in all family matters. He sent best wishes to one of his sisters for a most happy marriage and he asked for details of her forthcoming wedding celebrations. He did not forget his mother’s birthday in the Spring of 1954 and when it came to his 22nd birthday in June, 1954 he wrote as follows to her: “Thanks very much for your good wishes for my birthday. I got a very beautiful present from a legionary, here in Quito. I could not be more pleased that I spent my 21st year in the service of the Legion. All time is

wasted that is not spent in the service of God. About a week after the receipt of this letter, the 16th of July will be the anniversary of the departure of Seamus and myself from Ireland. That was a memorable occasion which I will never forget. It was wonderful to have those from home present at the airport. All in the airport that night were my friends but those from home were nearest to me. I was very happy leaving Ireland even though I love Ireland much

more than many of the people in it. It was not the leaving of Ireland or the travelling that I was going to do that made me happy, but it was the work I was going to do. Since midnight on that 16th of July, I never had the slightest longing to return home. "The world belongs to him who loves it most" the saint of Ars said. I like the whole world. I love every city and pueblo I enter into, I am at home under every sky." ⓘ

from Maria Legionis May 2015

A Cause for Celebration

In 2015, in Rome, Fr. Giovangiuseppe Califano was appointed Postulator of the Cause of the Servant of God, Alfie Lambe. In 2016, the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires officially submitted the Cause to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome. And in March 2018, the chest containing all of the documents from Argentina was officially opened in Rome.

Every legionary in your area should know Alfie, be convinced of his sanctity, and spread his life and works among all people. Think of this - Fr. Califano said: "We have an Argentinian Pope. It is the time for Argentinian causes to come forward. What

an excellent opportunity! Let us waste no time!" Frank Duff said: "It is hoped that now that we have been wakened up, we will grant very wholeheartedly that cooperation which was requested. It is due from us because we are the main custodians of Alfie's name. We must do what lies in our power to bring him to notice. We must pray, and we must make him known in such ways as we can. How can people be interested in him except that they know something about him? An effective way of doing this is to introduce people to the biography of him written by Hilde Firtel which is a jewel."



Personal Memories of Frank Duff

- by Tom Smith, Dublin, Ireland

Frank Duff was a distant figure for me when I first joined the Legion of Mary and I looked upon him with awe and reverence as the founder. Gradually I got to know him. Finally I developed quite a close association with him as I was invited to join a group that used to spend part of their summer on holidays with him.

Relaxed and at Ease

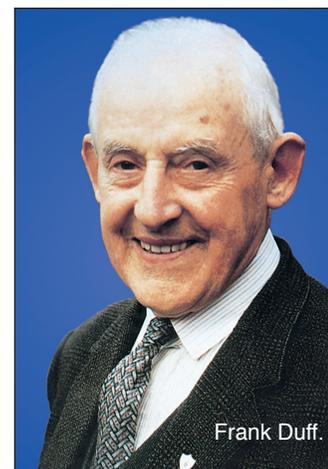
He felt very much at ease with 'the ordinary people of Ireland'. He loved travelling through places or staying where he was not recognized. He relished being accepted for himself, without being accorded special esteem because of his being the founder of the Legion or on account of his international reputation.

Things First

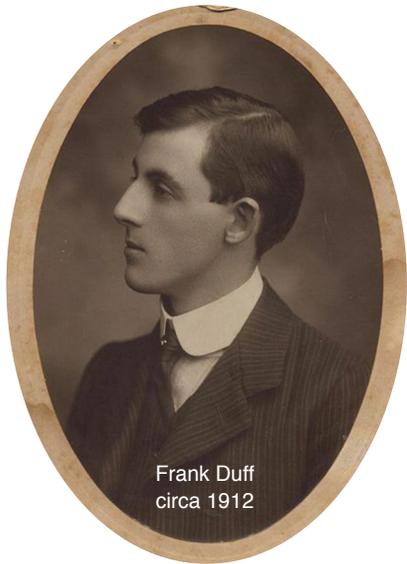
His day started always with Mass. Everything was built around this. A town or village could not be an overnight stop if daily Mass was not available there. In the early days this needed a little care in planning our trips as it was most definitely a sine-qua-non of each day. This, however, became no problem later on when we had our own priest with us.

Spirituality and Devotion

Frank also said the Divine Office personally every day which showed that he was ahead of Vatican II in his esteem for the official Prayer of the Church. His devotion to



These days were happy, relaxed days. We used to spend our days cycling through Ireland. He had a great sense of humour, and enjoyed practical jokes, was pleased to be involved in such simple fun and laughter, even if the joke was on him.



Frank Duff
circa 1912

that he had seen many miracles worked through it.

On a number of occasions when he heard from some of us that the person we had stayed with the night before had some physical problem or pain, he would insist on going back to them with our priest Fr. Herman, C.P. to bring to the suffering person the power and comfort of this relic. I once heard him say that if he knew nothing about the Catholic Church except what he had seen flow from this relic it would be enough for him. So much for his spirituality. But what of his companionship and social gifts?

Human Qualities

He was a great story-teller and I used to enjoy immensely the tales he would tell from the Ireland of his childhood . He had a great memory for people, places and events. In a simple, direct way he could make the past come vividly alive as we relaxed and chatted after our evening meal and our day's journey. His love of Ireland and of the Irish people was great and very sincere. He was keen on practical rather than oratorical patriotism. He appealed to everybody in the country to make a voluntary contribution to the Nation of one hour a week. This contribution was best made in one's own area

our Lady, based on St Louis de Montfort's True Devotion was an essential ingredient of his spirituality and personality.

He was a keen photographer and enjoyed using his camera. In a certain sense, you could say he looked on the world and the beauties of nature through the eyes of Mary - for he had a little statue of her mounted on his camera which was there, of course, as he took every shot!

Relic of the True Cross

Another devotion we could not escape noticing was his reverence for the Cross beneath which Mary stood on Calvary. He always had his treasured relic of the true Cross with him. He had a truly tremendous reverence for this relic and maintained

and could be either spiritual or material. It could range from an hour's prayer to the tidying up of a derelict local site.

Gracious and Friendly

He was particularly keen that Ireland would appear beautiful to our visitors and that they would receive here a warm and friendly welcome - for he considered that their coming to us was no accident. He considered that it was God's Providence bringing people to experience life in a Catholic country and offering them a glimpse of how the faith shaped the lives of ordinary people. For he knew that in such ways God often enlightens people during their times of relaxation and happiness and reveals more fully to them what his plan may be for them in the future. During our holiday we would make a special point of being gracious towards visitors. He would always speak to them, be kind towards them, even thank them for coming to Ireland. This he did not so much for our tourist trade but in the hope that he might interest our visitors in horizons beyond our shores and beyond time itself. There was nothing 'preachy' about this endeavour . It flowed naturally from his missionary spirit that was always alive in his heart. For him, Ireland,

despite our sins and faults, was a city set on a hill, a light that should not be concealed. All of us had an obligation to share the gifts and graces given to us with others. Sometimes, if he felt the soil was receptive, he would not hesitate to cast a courageous seed and ask his visitor: "Has the thought of becoming a Catholic ever entered your mind?"

No Triumphalism

I know any member of an organization is liable to exaggerate the importance or holiness of the founder. But I don't think there has been any triumphalism about Frank Duff during his city's millennium celebrations. Others, perhaps, have been given more attention. But I am very grateful to have been asked to salute my former holiday companion who has brought the name of Dublin to the four corners of the world . In his company I had many hours of happiness.



Tom Smith (next to left side of monument) at the grave of Frank Duff.



From him I learned a greater understanding of my faith and of the part I have to play in the Mystical Body of Christ and of the role our Blessed Lady plays in God's plan of salvation of the world. But Frank, I think, now does not belong to Dublin or even Ireland. He belongs to the Universal Church and to the people of the world.

What a long, long way from mending punctures in a boreen on a soft Irish day! Yet still he is near and very dear to me.



More Stories of Frank Duff

by Enda Dunleavy

Tommy Smith was President of the Curia in the Concilium office area and had an idea on a way to interest people in becoming members of the Legion.

There was a canvas of homes throughout the Curia area for people interested in the Legion who would like to have a trial run. So a group gathered at the Concilium office - the big room - that's where they had their meeting. They gave them a briefing, but said there's no use talking, the best way is to

go out and sample the work. And so they were paired off, every non-legionary with a legionary, and they went off, made their visits and came back. They may have only been doing street work, but Tom Smith was the President of that Curia, and the streets in that area were in his Curia, and

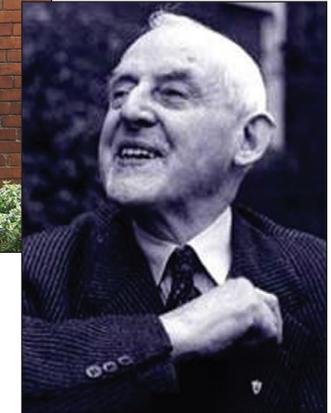


Br. Enda Dunleavy



Legionaries entering Concilium Headquarters

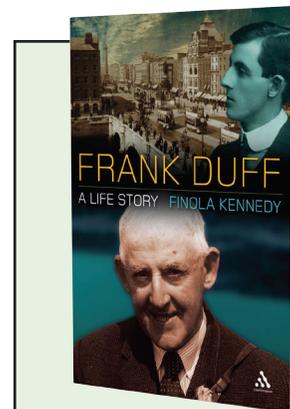
An ever exuberant Frank Duff in later years



they had praesidia working there, so they may have also visited homes in that area.

Frank Duff commended the whole idea. He said it was a brilliant idea to not just talk about it to them, but to send them out to actually experience it. Frank was very pleased about it. He would even talk about it occasionally.

But did anyone else ever pick up on the idea? No!



Can't get enough Duff?

Order your copy of the definitive Frank Duff biography written by his goddaughter Finola Kennedy.

On Sale!

Order form on Pg. NA-20



Mary Peffley

August 26, 1922 – April 13, 2018

Mary M. Peffley of Norristown, PA, passed away peacefully at her residence on Friday, April 13, 2018. She was 95 years old. Mary was born on August 26, 1922 in Benton Harbor, Michigan and spent the early part of her life in South Bend, Indiana. She graduated from St. Joseph Academy in Indiana, worked as an editor

for Catholic Boy Magazine at Notre Dame University and then, for a one year period, was the personal secretary for Bishop Fulton J. Sheen. Mary was an active member of the Legion of Mary from 1940 until her death. In 1954 she was sent by Frank Duff, the founder of the Legion of Mary, to start the Legion in Philadelphia. She was the founder and first president of the council that would become the Philadelphia Senatus, governing the Legion in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey. Mary met her husband Bill in the Legion and, as a legionary, volunteered at the Norristown State Hospital for 58 years. In total, Mary served in the organization for 78 years and attended her final meeting just three days before her death. Along with her husband Bill, Mary was the owner of The Catholic Shop of Norristown which was opened in 1958 when they married and closed in 2017 following Bill's death. Mary was known for her joy and kindness. She had a sweet

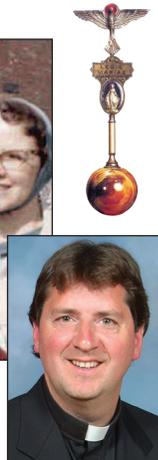
tooth, particularly for Hershey's Kisses.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband, William C. Peffley, Jr. "Bill" in 2017 and is survived by her three loving children: Edel Lukens and her husband Steve, Rev. Francis J. Peffley, and Natia Meehan and her husband Greg. Mary was the beloved "Ma Parker" to her seven grandchildren: Clare, Chris, Johnny, Sarah, Megan, Erin, and Grace Meehan. She was predeceased by her brother, James Phelps.



Bill and Mary with daughter Edel (above)

Fr. Fran Peffley (right)



Maria Legionis Book Order Form

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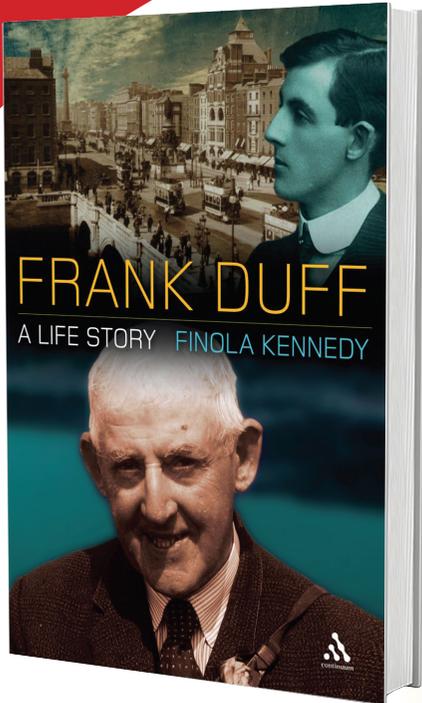
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Frank Duff: A Life Story

by Finola Kennedy

The Irish Times described Frank Duff as “*the founder of the largest international association that has originated in Ireland. Yet he has been, among Irish leaders of his generation, the least publicised.*” Duff was not only a major religious figure; he also had a distinct influence on the evolution of modern Irish society. A friend of Irish leaders he avoided the *cult of celebrity* which might well have befallen him as the founder of an organisation which today has over four million active members and ten million auxiliary members in more than one hundred and seventy countries. Like most saintly people, his greatest opposition came from local Church figures and this is a vital part of the story.

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