



THE LEGION OF MARY
BULLETIN
July 2019

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Dates to remember

Our Lady's Birthday
48hr Rosary Bouquet
September 5th – 8th

A RELECTION:

The Fruit of Silence is Faith
The Fruit of Faith is love
The Fruit of Love is Service
The Fruit of Service is Peace

(St Teresa of Kolkata)

The ALLOCUTIO was given by Fr. Doug Harris on Venerable Edel Quinn.

She was born in Kanturk, Co. Cork, on the 14 September 1901. When she was seventeen the family settled in Dublin. The phrase 'always bubbling over with fun' occurs like a refrain in the reminiscences of friends at home and abroad. Long-legged and agile she could out run, so it was said, any boy in the town. She was always obedient.

Many years after she had finished school she told a priest that from the time she was a young girl she prayed every day for three special graces: to love God with her whole heart, to make others love Him, and to die a martyr's death. By the time she had completed her secondary education, at the age of seventeen, she fully made up her mind to be a nun in an enclosed order.

The Eucharist became the very centre of her life. At Confirmation she had taken the name Eucharist Josephine. She rose very early each morning and attended as many Masses as possible. Sunday mornings were completely devoted to Mass. She would attend two early Masses at Monkstown and after breakfast go to the Carmelite Church in Clarendon Street. There she would remain for hours, normally hearing four consecutive Masses. "I could assist at Mass all day long," she used to say.

During a period spent in a non-Catholic hospital she was able to receive Communion only once a week. Afterwards she told a friend that the privation of daily Communion gave her an experience of what hell must be like. She had a devotion to the abiding Presence in the tabernacle. "What a desolation life would be without the Eucharist. We want to be united to him. If we knew we could find Him anywhere on earth we

would do our utmost to go there.” Many have borne witness to the frequency and length of her visits to the Blessed Sacrament and to her profound reverence and recollection during them.

The Praesidium (Our Lady of Victories) met weekly in Ozanam House and its work included hospital visitation and home to home visitation. Edel threw herself whole-heartedly into the work and was soon devoting almost every evening to the Legion apostolate, far exceeding the prescribed minimum of two hours apostolic activity in the week. At one period she was a full member of two distinct Praesidia.

‘True Devotion’ by St. Louis Marie de Monfort, she read and re-read this little book until its teaching became part of the very texture of her soul. “Let us renounce our own human views to take on Mary’s and so be led by her spirit in all circumstances so that she may teach us to love Jesus. Mary loves Jesus in me, caresses Him and compassionate to Him for all His wounds.” But, above all, she speaks her gratitude for the Eucharist. “Unite with Christ, present in the Blessed Sacrament. Ask Our Lady to pray and adore Him for me.”

She admitted that she never spoke without first turning to Our Lady. And at the end of her life, asked by a priest if she had ever refused Mary anything, she answered at once: “No, I could never refuse her anything whatsoever.” “Why can’t we trust Our Lady?” she would say with great simplicity and conviction when others were discouraged by difficulties.

One Legionary describes the earliest impression Edel made on her: “The first thing that struck me about her, as she sat near me at the meeting, was the constant moving of her lips in what was evidently ejaculatory prayer. I watched her closely and was struck by the extraordinary brightness of her face. A spiritual radiance shone from her eyes, almost as though streams of hidden light were emanating from some hidden source.”

After she had spent two years as an ordinary member of the Legion, Edel was appointed President of a praesidium engaged in rescue work among street girls in Dublin. She was then twenty-two. She drastically reduced her hours of sleep. She was inclined to neglect her meals. Soon after her twenty-fourth birthday she decided that the time had come when she was free to follow what she believed to be her vocation. All arrangements were made for entry into the Poor Clare Convent in Belfast when a haemorrhage from her lungs led to the discovery that she was in advanced stage of tuberculosis. This was in the beginning of 1932. She was taken to a Sanatorium in Co. Wicklow, but the doctors held out little hope for a cure.

The Protestant matron spoke of her as the nicest girl who had ever come there. A fellow patient gives this account of her: “Her attitude was one of kindness and helpfulness to all. Anyone in trouble in the Sanatorium would at once go to her for consolation. Always in good humour, she made everyone around her happy. She would often laugh till tears rolled down. Her illness did not appear to weigh on her; she never spoke of it and never complained. A priest who knew her well wrote: “She was a soul of astonishing simplicity. She had achieved a very great union with God and seemed entirely abandoned to His will”

In the spring of 1936 urgent appeals came from Legion organizers from South and East Africa. After much deliberation it was decided to offer Edel an envoyship to East Africa. She was thrilled at the offer and accepted it on the spot. On the 24 October 1936 she left Ireland with the commission to establish the Legion of Mary over an area of about three quarters of a million square miles. Some of those who saw her off had the fear that with her delicate health she might not even survive the journey out.

On 23 November 1936 she left at once by train for Nairobi, the capital, over three hundred miles away. She managed to get two branches of the Legion going within three weeks. One of these was made up of Europeans and Indians, the other was all African. On 4 April 1937 the first ACIES of the Legion in East

Africa took place. The ACIES is the annual function at which Legionaries come together to renew, individually and collectively, their consecration to Our Lady. At this ACIES there were present not only African Legionaries, but Europeans and Indians. It was the first occasion on which the different races had come together for a religious purpose and so was a historic one for the Church in East Africa.

Bit by bit she worked her way over the vast territories of Kenya, Uganda, Nyasaland and Tanganyika. Much of her journeying was done in lorries or trucks over rough roads and in the wet season were just rivers of mud and in the dry season, stifling heat! She went to places where no white woman had ever been. At the time Edel was stricken by Malaria she had been planning to visit the Island of Mauritius, following an urgent invitation from Archbishop Leen, C.S.Sp. Because of her illness the visit did not take place until January 1940. By the time she left in September there were thirty flourishing Praesidia.

“She was always in good humour,” said Miss Harel, her accompanying friend, ‘even bubbling over with gaiety, in spite of being so tired and always so delicate.’ The first president of the Legion, Roger Giraud, tells how one day he saw her being interrupted in her thanksgiving after Holy Communion by somebody who had to speak to her. Her face was transfigured, it seemed to be lit up by a brightness from within. If I had been told that she was looking God in the face, I would not have surprised. Her whole appearance was changed by supernatural brightness.”

“I am persuaded that Edel’s cause will one day be introduced. Her utter selflessness and entire abandonment to Providence were never at fault.”

By the Spring of 1941 her weight was down to less than five and a half stone and she was in a constant fever. “We have only this short life in which to prove our love...let us try to give utterly, in every way, without counting the cost, to be spent for Christ.” She was forced to spend over eighteen months in various hospitals. “If I cannot work,” she said, “then I can suffer.” And again, “My greatest joy is to suffer for love of Our Lord.”

When she heard there were hopes of establishing the Legion in China and Japan she wrote that the news nearly made her jump out of bed and suggested that when her own work in Africa was complete she might be sent to the Far East.

In January 1943 Edel reached Nairobi. She could no longer walk more than a few yards without becoming breathless and exhausted, yet she managed to get about and found new Praesidia as well as visit the old ones. There were British troops stationed in Nairobi and, among other things, Edel worked unsparingly and successfully to establish the Legion among them.

Several Praesidia were started among the members of the forces in East Africa, composed mainly of men from England. Edel’s main concern now, however, was the visitation of her early foundations. She had the great joy of finding the vast majority of them flourishing, with nearly all the original members still faithful. Her last visit was to Kisumu in Kenya, During this train journey of eighteen hours she suffered a heart attack. A missionary sister reproached her going about in such a state, but Edel tried to laugh the matter off and said, “Yes, I know that, but I’m ready any time Our Lady comes for me.”

At last, after a month’s stay, she had to give up and once more faced the long journey to Nairobi. Then suddenly at about six o’clock in the evening of Friday 12 May 1943 she became convulsed with a violent heart pain. A priest who happened to be visiting the convent gave her Extreme Unction. Then after a few moments she died with the Holy Name on her lips.

The process for Edel's canonization was opened in 1963. Finally on 15 December 1994 Pope John Paul II issued the decree affirming her heroic sanctity giving her the title Venerable. A vast number of people have reported favours, some very remarkable, which they attribute to her intercession.



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Dear Legionaries,

Once again, we must give thanks to God for the wonderful rainfall that we have received over the last few weeks. I am sure our farmers are very grateful. Unfortunately, that very same rain caused a flooding of our headquarters. I thank Eastern Districts Curia for their quick thinking and efforts in getting the water up as the whole meeting room had been flooded. I must also thank Srs Mignonne and Judy for all the effort they put into getting repair work underway. This is the second time, but the most severe flooding therefore we

must address the problem of the carpark. We will undertake renovation of this area and I thank Lindsay Gordan for organising 3 contractors to assist us. Hopefully all will be completed before further damage can be done.

I am pleased to let you know that Fr Conor Steadman will be saying the lunchtime Mass 12.10pm, on Monday 9th September in honour of Our Lady's birthday. The scroll with all the names will be presented at this Mass. Please encourage parishioners to join in this wonderful gift. Notices will be sent to the parishes in the next week.

I extend to Sr Cynthia Gauci our warmest congratulations on the safe arrival of her first grandson, Cesare Gauci. Cynthia sent me a lovely video of the little man. Mum, Dad and Grandma are doing fine.

I thank you all for all your work for Our Lady and encourage you to continue. Hope you are all avoiding this awful flu.

God Bless

Rosemary

REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

1. Albany: Our Lady of Grace
2. Victoria Park: Our Lady Queen of Patriarchs



To Jesus through

Mary

Name of Praesidium:	Our Lady Queen of Patriarchs
Location (suburb)	228 Berwick St Victoria Park
Meeting place and time:	The home of Sr Peggy Knowles, Friday 1pm
Meeting number	3900

Spiritual Director:			
President:	Sr. Rosemary Bennett	Vice President:	Sr. Karen Daly
Secretary:	Sr. Peggy Knowles	Treasurer:	Sr. Ann Mathews
Active Membership:	6	Praetorian:	1
Auxiliary	25	Adjutorian:	Nil

Membership:			
Probationary:			
Report from:	June 2016	To:	June 1017

Extension:

Personal contact is made to parishioners inviting them to “Come and See” in 2017 this saw 1 gentleman join us. Shortly after this another gentleman came. Both men have taken their promise.

Works undertaken by members:

- Members make contact with the elderly, frail and housebound in the parish.
- At Christmas and Easter time, lapsed Catholics are visited and seasonal timetables are given out.
- Auxiliaries are visited before the ACIES and the annual mass and they are invited to attend. If necessary transport is arranged.
- An annual social function is organized for Our Lady’s birthday and the priests of the parish and auxiliaries are invited.
- Members man the Venerable Edel Quinn Centre two days a month.
- The funeral Masses of deceased parishioners are attended and condolence visits to the family of Legionaries who are no longer attached to a Praesidium.
- We continue to circulate the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima. At times Our Blessed Mother spends longer with a family as it is difficult to find a home for her.

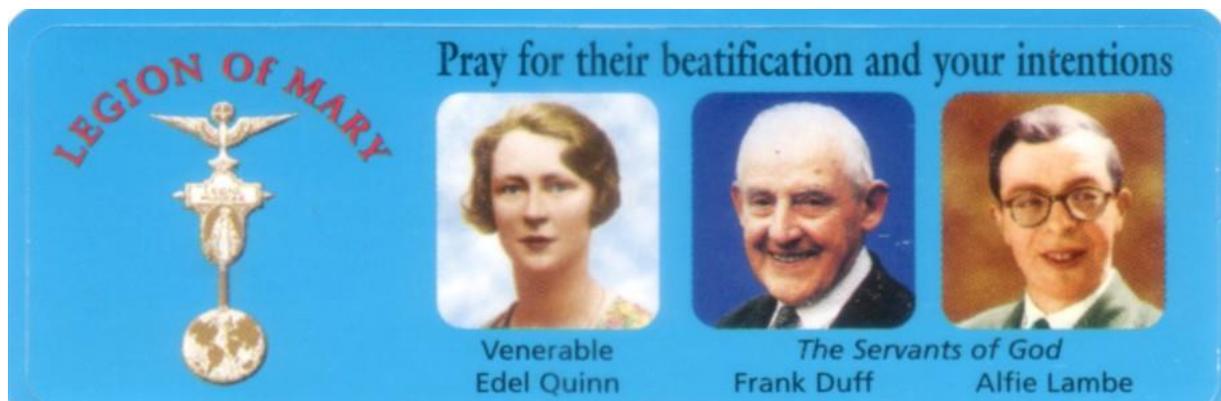
Works undertaken that are not Legionary work:

- Members are Acolytes, Proclaimer of the Word and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist in their parishes.
- One member takes Holy Communion every three months to a nursing home.
- One member is a member of the RCIA team in her parish.
- The Praesidium has been represented at the following functions: the Annual Mass, Australia Needs Fatima, ACIES, Annual One Day Retreat, 48 Hour Rosary Bouquet for Our Lady’s birthday and Senatus Summer School.
- The treasurer’s book has been audited and all found correct.

Note:

- Since our last report the venue that we have used for our meeting has become unavailable and so we have moved to Sr Peggy Knowles home. When our numbers increase will need to find another venue. Having the meeting in Sr Peggy’s home allows us to sit and share our weeks bouquets and brick bats and has been very beneficial to the members.

- In July 2017 Sr Peggy Knowles became very ill with a life altering illness and so we have had to adjust the way we undertake our visitations. Our Praesidium only has one driver, and she doesn't live in the parish. We keep in touch with our housebound and elderly by use of the phone. One member rings 2 housebound parishioners each week and has a long chat with them. Those contacted have really enjoyed the chats and always encourage our member to ring them again. When it is time for any of our functions or Christmas and Easter we spend the weeks leading up calling to see many of the Auxiliaries and inviting them to join. Timetables are distributed but where we used to call back several times to meet the lapsed Catholics we now leave the information in the letter box and should we have time left we call back again. 2 members make Rosaries and prepare the Miraculous Medals and Scapulars for Fr David Watt. Father keeps these Legionaries very busy.





SPECIAL PRAYERS

Prayers for the Sick:

April (For all who have been on previous lists) Lenora Crasto, Fr. Chien, Zachary Ting, Gabriel, Yoshico, Anthony Jayapaul.

Repose of the Souls: Shirley, Joseph Especkerman, Adamo, Ionata, Margaret Dairianathan.

Special Intentions: Nynam Gauci, (safe delivery), Sylvia Meyers (96th Birthday), Caitlynn & Gabriel Tay Fernandez (1st Holy Communion) Michael, Lomeli, Jude Kishan (obtaining Australian permanent residence)

