



THE LEGION OF MARY
BULLETIN

September 2018

Comitium of Perth (Western Australia) Inc

36 Windsor St

Perth 6000

Tel 93282726

Email: perthcomitium@iinet.net.au

Website: www.legionofmarywa.org

Facebook: Legion of Mary Perth Western Australia

Allocutio given by Br Tony Pitchford from All to Jesus Through Mary, Volume 3, no.27.

Grace

Everything good that we do is possible only by the grace of God. When God asks us to do something, such as to love our neighbour or forgive our enemies – He also provides the grace necessary to do that.

We might start out thinking His commands are too difficult, but He provides all the necessary qualities.

First, He gives us the understanding of what is good, and why. Then gives us desire for the good. Then the motivation to achieve the good. Then the means to turn the ideal into practical reality.

He does it all for us. All we have to disagree at each point and let ourselves be carried along by the power of His grace.

When we ask for grace (as we do, for example, when we receive a sacrament) we are asking for this process to happen in us: whereby we see things in a new light and we find in ourselves a fresh desire and clarity of thought that enables us to do things we would previously have found impossible.

There are many situations where this change might be found. Where enemies are reconciled, commitments deemed, addictions overcome; where a new fervour enables one to pray more, to attend early morning masses, to seek out greater depths in the spiritual life.

All these things and many more are made possible by the grace of God facilitating, making things easier and smoother than they would have been otherwise.

Grace itself something we can ask for, and if we do ask we will certainly receive. Not all our prayer requests are necessarily the right ones but this one will always be right, and God will never withhold the light of His grace to help a person move closer to Him with all the greater clarity and motivation that grace brings.

When we are feeling very low in faith and not seeing a way out of our troubles, we can begin by asking for grace, As soon as we do what we will start to sense an improvement in our attitude if not yet in the problem area itself. Once we can see what needs to happen it is only a matter of time before our desire, motivation and practical efforts will bear fruit.

So, we make progress in our individual faith lives, and so the Legion makes progress as we pool together the fruits of our prayer and ask especially for the grace Our Lady can obtain for us.

She makes things happen when her children ask her. Grace is essentially simple in its operations. Ask, and you shall receive.

**Email: perthcomitium@iinet.net.au
www.legionofmarywa.org**

Spiritual Director	Fr Andre Nahhas		
President	Rosemary Bennett	0421580783	rben4769@hotmail.com
Vice President	Cynthia Gauci	0430776648	cynthiagauci123@gmail.com
Secretary	Megan Duggan		
Treasurer	Mignonne Goes	0409688594	mignonnegoes@gmail.com
Assistant Secretary	Clara Gemmy		perthcomitium@iinet.net.au
Assistant Treasurer	Jeevan Frank	0411756540	jpfrank918@gmail.com

Dear Legionaries,



What an outstandingly spiritual and inspirational day 8th September was. After the disappointment of communicating our needs to the Parishes Our Blessed Mother took charge and we saw approximately 350 people gather at St Joachim's church to spend 6hrs with her on her birthday. Monsignor McDonald was



delighted to welcome the International Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to his parish and gave us a beautiful homily on the Nativity of Our Lady and the apparitions at Fatima. We gathered in the parish hall to sing happy birthday to Our Lady and to cut and share her birthday cake. We are happy to say that although we had difficulty in getting the information into the parishes we had over 1700hr of Rosaries prayed in the 48hrs leading into the celebration. We thank all parishes who encouraged and promoted the Rosary Bouquet in WA and Melbourne Senatus for promoting it to their praesidia. I am happy to say that Legionaries in the United Kingdom and Singapore also joined in the praying of the Rosary.



On Tuesday we once again gathered in pray at Notre Dame Church to remember the life of Fr Eugene McGrath and to share stories. I thank those who were able to come together to give thanks for the wonderful contribution that Father made to the parishes he ministered in and the wonderful guidance he gave to the Legion of Mary. May his Soul Rest in Peace.

Due to the busyness of our lives the executive has decided to postpone the Congress until early next year. A date will be discussed with the Comitium and information will be made available at the next meeting.

Once again I thank you for the wonderful contributions you as Legionaries make to your parishes.

God bless

Rosemary

REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

Report of Curia to Comitium

To Jesus through Mary

Name of Curia: Mary Help of Christians

Location: Edel Quinn Centre, Windsor St, Perth

Spiritual Director: Fr. Michael Rowe

President: Betty Flynn

Vice President: Sr. Norma Van

Hoek

Secretary: Sr. Liz D'Leno

Treasurer: Sr. Helen Lauridsen

No. of Praesidia: 8 (Eight)

Active Membership: 54 + 16 Juniors

Praetorian: -

Auxiliary Membership: 179

Adjutorian: 1

Probationary: 2 Juniors

Report from: April 2018

To: August 2018

Extension:

We have contacted Fr. Joseph Pereira of Gosnells Parish and he is quite willing for us to start up a Legion of Mary group there. More planning taking place.

Our Lady of Good Health Vailankani, Embleton Parish, still only has 3 members.

Works undertaken during the past 4 months (only Legion Work):

Most Praesidia visit Nursing Homes, the house-bound and sick in their homes. * Some Legionaries teach Religious instructions in the Parish. * All Praesidia attempt to recruit more members and promote attendance at all Legion functions. * Manning the Edel Quinn Centre on rostered Mondays, visiting Auxiliaries, circulating Our Lady's Pilgrim Statue and praying the Rosary in homes we're invited to do so. * One Praesidia organises and manages a Junior Legion at their meetings, ie Our Lady of Good Shepherd, Kelmscott. * 2 Praesidia manage The Parish Piety Shops. * Some Praesidia recite The Rosary at Funerals and provide transport to Mass on Sundays. * On the First Friday of each month, Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Maida Vale Parish, gather together to pray for the Beatification of the Servant of God and pray for those specially on the Prayer List of the Legion for healing. * The program for the visitation of the International Centennial Pilgrim Image to the Maida Vale Parish was supported by the Legion, i.e. attending and assisting the sick and disabled residents of Jeremiah Donovan Nursing Home to be present and avail of the opportunity of the visit of Our Blessed Pilgrim Mother, Mathew Gibney Primary School and the Parish. This was from 9am to 9pm on the 16th August 2018. A light supper was provided by Parish members to the entourage and special guests, i.e. Emeritus Archbishop Barry Hickey, Retired Priest Fr. Alphonsus, Deacon Trevor Lyra and his wife Deidre, Acolytes and Parishioners who spent all day with Our Lady. The Statue is also visiting Our Lady of Lourdes, Lesmurdie and St. Joseph's, Bassendean, in the not too distant future, where our Legion groups will also be hosting and playing similar roles. Most members attended the One Day Retreat held in May, at St. Bernadette's Parish, Glendalough. A lovely day enjoyed by all.

Future Plans:

Curia plans to follow up extension work in Gosnells Parish and assist Embleton and Midland Praesidia, when needed. And, to approach Armadale Parish Priest for re-starting The Legion there. Continuous reminders are sent out for new recruitments, Active and Auxiliary, and to hand out "Can you lend a hand" leaflets in their Parishes. Continue to promote and support all Legion functions and Parish activities. Organise a Pilgrimage of Curia to Bullsbrook/Schoenstatt.

Other Relevant Information:

There has been an increased number of attendees at Curia Meetings, which is very encouraging. This report couldn't go out without a Vote of Thanks to our Spiritual Director, Fr. Michael Rowe, who already has a very busy schedule, but never fails to provide us with Allocutios full of Spiritual nourishment and guidance, even when he is unavailable. Also grateful thanks to Comitium for their support.

Report of Praesidium to Comitium
To Jesus through Mary

<u>Name of Praesidium</u>	Our Lady of the Rosary
<u>Location (Suburb)</u>	Geraldton. WA. 6530
<u>Meeting Place</u>	Meeting Room at St John's Rangeway
<u>Time</u>	Monday at 10 am
<u>Spiritual Director:</u>	Fr. Bernard Balaraj C.PP.S
<u>President:</u>	Sr. Mary Sterry
<u>Vice President:</u>	
<u>Secretary:</u>	
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Acting Sr. Anna Merendino for Sr. Matilda Abreu
<u>Active Membership</u>	4
<u>Probationer</u>	
<u>Auxiliary Membership</u>	12
<u>Praetorian</u>	1
<u>Report from 30th September 2017 until 20th August, 2018</u>	



The Members of our Praesidium are:

Sr. Mary Sterry
Sr. Matilda Abreu
Sr Maria Masiello
Sr. Anna Merendino (Acting Treasurer)
Sr Goretti – Presentation Sister

Extension: NIL

Works undertaken during the past year:

Members have participated in Visitation of the Sick and seriously ill in Hospital.
Holy Communion to Sick and Housebound.
Divine Mercy & Adoration
Music Ministry
Sacramental Programme
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
Transport to Mass

Mother's Prayers and taking Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to Homes for the Rosary.

During the past 12 months we have farewelled Fr. Alby Konath George as our Spiritual Director, who was transferred to Karratha.

In November our members participated in the Annual Retreat held at St. John's Rangeway due to Cathedral renovations. We have not returned to the Crypt for our meetings.

Some of our members have been ill and Sr. Matilda is still not back with us for regular meetings.

ACIES: After many attempts to have our Acies without success we renewed our Promise at our Weekly meeting.

It is hoped that we have a Legionary information distribution before and after Mass in coming months.

This may provide some new interest in the Legion.

To Report in September Fremantle Curia

Mary Help of Christians, East Victoria Park

SPECIAL PRAYERS

Prayers for the Sick:

(For all who have been on previous lists) Fr. Andre Nahhas, Celestine Tay Fernandez, Cian Traynor, Alan D'Silva, Tia, Tess, Kaye Kennelly, Brian Puolter, Ken Durnin, Marie Neale, Donald Francis, Colin Hathanda, Freddie Gomeze, Paul Nourse, Michael Nourse, Romauld Menezes, Margret Denko and family

Rest of the Souls:

Fr. Eugene McGrath (former spiritual director of Perth Comitium, Colin, Maria Wagner (anniv.), Glenys Stoddart (anniv.), Tini Hendrix, Toby Sutton, Norma Smith (anniv.) and Mary Clarke (anniv.).

Special Intentions:

Desiree (job), Bronagh, our farmers, Christine May (for successful surgery) and Pat Wakeman (thanksgiving).

ALLOCUTIO AUGUST 2018– Fr Justin Ford, Senatus Spiritual Director

The Royal Commission, clericalism and celibacy

We continue to feel the impact of the abuse scandals, so we keep informing ourselves on these matters. (I won't repeat all I've said previously, but all I say should be understood in light of my earlier comments.) Today we'll reflect on some causes suggested as contributing to abuse.

One cultural factor within the Church that's discussed is 'clericalism', which might be defined as the error of thinking the clergy are there not to serve, but to be served. The priesthood becomes a sort of elite club, and the dignity and welfare of the laity are downplayed. So defined, it's clearly opposed to the Gospel, and we can well see how it would facilitate abuse.

A danger, however, is if under the term ‘clericalism’ things are grouped that are actually part of a healthy expression of priestly identity (itself surely a key factor in preventing abuse). We should be alert to where the crisis is possibly being used to push other agendas and to try to associate with abuse anything in the Church the person dislikes.

Regarding priestly identity, it’s an infallible teaching of the Church that Holy Orders, like Baptism and Confirmation, imprints an indelible character on the soul. (Council of Trent, DS 1609; 1774) The special spiritual identity of the priest – coming from God, not his own merit – is a reality. And the hierarchy does have authority from Christ to serve the people by teaching, sanctifying and governing. None of this is clericalism, unless it gets twisted into an attitude that the priest is there to lord it over people.

A famous principle is that the misuse of something doesn’t take away its right use. So just because authority can be abused – whether of clergy, or police, or judges – doesn’t mean we get rid of authority but that we have safeguards, checks and balances. Neither should we imagine there’s even a taint attaching to the good things just because our minds can

make a sort of association between the good things and their misuse. We must never give evil the victory of imagining that it takes away the goodness of good things.

Really, any good thing can be misused. Thus we don’t find it unbelievable when even good things God himself has established (whether in creation or redemption) indirectly become an occasion for evil. In the end, that’s how evil always works. (cf. St Thomas Aquinas Summa Theologiae I 48-49; I-II 75, 1) And the only way to totally remove the possibility of evil is to totally remove all the good things.

Virtue, the philosophers tell us, lies in ‘the mean’ – the rationally balanced middle position. (Aristotle Ethics 2, 6; St Thomas Aquinas Summa Theologiae I-II 64) For example, the virtue of courage is the mean between the opposite vices of cowardice and foolhardiness (which is when people irrationally and unnecessarily rush into danger). Now, courage doesn’t become tainted or suspect just because we can easily group it in our minds with foolhardiness. As a general principle, any virtue can be grouped in our minds with its perversion – but that doesn’t discredit virtue. So with the various expressions of priestly identity that remind the priest of who he is meant to be: we should beware of the fallacy whereby opponents of such expression try to taint it by association with clericalism (its perversion) – for example by saying it’s part of a ‘culture’ of clericalism.

It’s when we lose the awareness of virtue lying in the mean that we rush from one vice into its opposite vice, thinking we need to get as far away from the first vice as possible. It reminds us that in the big picture of human well-being we need to keep balance, and not ‘throw out the baby with the bathwater’. With abusers, there were some who seemed highly ‘clericalist’ and some at the opposite extreme apparently lacking a full

sense of priestly identity. So to genuinely combat abuse, we need to cultivate the healthy mean, in which priests are reinforced in their sense of being true spiritual fathers and brothers. (Vatican II Presbyterorum Ordinis 3, 9).

Another factor discussed in connection with abuse is celibacy. Here the Royal Commission agreed with earlier research findings that priestly celibacy doesn't directly cause abuse. However, it judged it to be an indirect factor that could facilitate abuse, combined with other factors. It is relevant to repeat here what I said last year: 'Prior study has rejected that it is a direct cause: being celibate does not cause deviant tendencies – people's inclinations don't get easily modified in this way. But what may have happened is that those whose inclinations were already deviant were less attracted to marriage and so more easily came towards priesthood. Here is where the psychological screening introduced in more recent decades is crucial.'

Again, that a good thing has in some way facilitated a bad thing does not necessarily mean we should abolish the good thing, but maybe that we should bring in suitable safeguards – as now already occurs. However, the Commission wanted the Australian Church to ask the Holy See to make priestly celibacy 'optional'.

It's actually misleading to describe celibacy as 'compulsory' – no one is compelled to make this commitment not to marry, and indeed only makes it after a long period of discernment that celibacy is God's calling for him, and then swearing a public oath that his choice is fully free. What does happen however is that the Church (as she has discerned for long ages to be more spiritually beneficial, all things considered) normally chooses for priestly ordination in the Latin Church only those who have made this free commitment.

For the Church to also ordain married men would actually do nothing to decrease the number of abusers. The men with a celibate commitment would still be in the priesthood. Their number would be added to by married candidates, but supposing a given unmarried priest to be an abuser, he would still be in the same position to commit the abuse as before. The difference would come when statistics were calculated. Supposing married men were indeed less likely to abuse, then the total percentage of abuser priests would go down, but the actual number of abusers would remain the same at best (if zero married men abused), or even increase (if there were any abusers at all among the married). It might just seem like less because the greater overall number of priests diluted the overall percentage of abusers. So: good public relations for the Church maybe, but no individual child would be saved from abuse thereby.

So we pray that the decisions made in response to this tragedy don't damage good and necessary things in the Church, for no real benefit; but that reason, wisdom and balance prevail, fostering a holistic moral vision of the welfare of each and every