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# THE LEGION OF MARY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

## HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM 1931 TO 2004

*Gloria Falcão Dodd, S.T.D.\**

### Introduction

One cold night in New York City, Fr. Anthony Rothlauf preached a novena at his parish, St. Anthony of Padua in the Bronx. In the course of his sermon, he boldly invited his audience: "Anyone willing to shed his blood for Christ, be in the Rectory this Thursday evening, January 25, 1935!"<sup>1</sup> What sort of gathering did he have in mind?! It was the first meeting of the Legion of Mary in New York City. This young organization was only fourteen years from its founding, and it already was making its mark in the United States of America.

This paper will try to show that the Legion of Mary is an important part of the history of American Catholicism because it has been and still is positively shaping the spiritual lives of many—Catholics and non-Catholics—through its prayer, images, and myriad apostolic works in every state in the Union. The

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<sup>1</sup> Mary Duffy, "Twelve Fruitful Years: Mary Duffy Looks Back with Gratitude on Her American Envoyship," *Maria Legionis* 5, no. 3 (Sept. 1946): 3; her photo is also given there. Henceforth *Maria Legionis* will be abbreviated as *ML*. New York Senatus, "Local Legion History: The Legion in New York Grows: A Brief History of the New York Regional Senatus of the Legion of Mary from January 25, 1935 to October 24, 2010," from *A Brief History of the New York Curia of the Legion of Mary*. [http://legion-of-mary-ny.org/history\\_of\\_the\\_legion.htm](http://legion-of-mary-ny.org/history_of_the_legion.htm).

Legion of Mary has helped lay people—married and single—discover their part in the universal vocation of becoming saints. Some Legion of Mary images have literally made a lasting impression on this country.

For an overview of the history of the Legion of Mary in this country, *Maria Legionis*, the official magazine of the Legion of Mary, is a major source of information. Since this magazine emphasizes the good news and tends to omit the bad news, this study acknowledges its limited and overly optimistic view. This paper reviews the beginnings, growth, and unique contributions of the highest councils that govern the Legion of Mary in the United States. The Marian devotion that inspires its members to carry out such volunteer work is also presented. The founder's only trip to the United States, as well as some cities and people, are given special attention, due to the particular interests of the Mariological Society of America (MSA). The years treated delineate the history from the first Legion group in the United States in 1931, until 2004, when the international headquarters restructured the Legionary governance as it is in 2012. To understand how the first American unit started requires some preliminary comments about the earlier context of the Legion of Mary.

What is this organization that came to America in 1931? Founded by Frank Duff in Dublin, Ireland, just ten years earlier, on September 7, 1921, with a priest and a group of women who had studied the book *True Devotion to Mary*, the Legion of Mary has been living the spirituality of St. Louis Marie de Montfort ever since.<sup>2</sup> As Monfort had prophesied in his famous treatise *True Devotion to Mary*, he had “hope for great success at the prospect of a mighty legion of brave and valiant soldiers

<sup>2</sup> Cecily Hallack and Michael O'Carroll, *The Legion of Mary* (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1950), 10-16, 20. Hallack was an active Legion member whose articles in the 1938 *Catholic Fireside* magazine were re-published as a book in 1940, and later, after her death, were updated by Fr. Michael O'Carroll, a famous Mariologist. Since Hallack wrote all but the last chapter of the 1950 book, it is primarily attributed to her in subsequent footnotes. However, information from after Hallack's death (in 1938) will be attributed to O'Carroll. For Hallack's obituary, see Catholic Herald Archive, Oct. 28, 1938; “Book Reviews” *ML* 2, no. 7 (Sept. 1940): 13. The entire back cover of *ML* 2, no. 8 (Christmas 1940) was “not an advertisement but a recommendation”; “Legion News,” *ibid.*, 26, gave her photo.

of Jesus and Mary, both men and women, who will fight the devil, the world, and corrupt nature in the perilous times that are sure to come.”<sup>3</sup> By the grace of God, the Legion of Mary developed rapidly over the years into one of the fulfillments of Montfort’s prophecy—as the largest lay Catholic association in the world, with over three million active members and millions more of auxiliary members.<sup>4</sup>

These volunteers are encouraged to make Montfort’s Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary, because this spirituality is the motivation that distinguishes a Legionary’s service from social or even other Catholic work. The Total Consecration gives the volunteer many graces, such as unselfishness, pure intentions, joyful self-sacrifice, and a steely resolve to persevere in the duties of membership, even in the face of many difficulties and human impossibilities.<sup>5</sup> Active members attend a weekly meeting, do an assigned work weekly, pray a daily prayer, and keep a professional confidentiality about their work.<sup>6</sup> Praetorians are a confidential level of active membership for those who also pray all of the Legion prayers contained in a leaflet called a “Tessera,” attend daily Mass, receive communion daily, and pray some form of the Office daily. Auxiliaries pray five decades of the Rosary and the Legion of Mary prayers at least five times a week. Adjutorians are auxiliaries who also attend daily Mass, receive communion daily, and pray some form of the Office daily.<sup>7</sup> Groups for active members are subdivided into “senior” groups (for those age

<sup>3</sup> Louis Marie de Montfort, *True Devotion to Mary*, section 114, Eternal Word Television Network, 1998, <http://www.legionofmary.org/lom.html>.

<sup>4</sup> Legion of Mary, Transporter Information Services, 2006, <http://www.legionofmary.org/lom.html>, gives the number used for active members. The number of auxiliary members could not be found, but usually every small group of active members has many more auxiliaries than active members.

<sup>5</sup> *The Official Handbook of the Legion of Mary* (Dublin, Ireland: Concilium Legionis Mariae, 2005), Chap. 6. “The Duties of Legionaries towards Mary,” Sect. 5. “Legionaries Should Undertake De Montfort’s True Devotion to Mary,” 37–41. Henceforth, *The Official Handbook of the Legion of Mary* will be abbreviated as *Handbook*. Hallack, *Legion of Mary*, 24–27, showed how this spirituality was consciously recognized from the first meeting.

<sup>6</sup> *Handbook*, Chap. 13, 80–83, and Chap. 18, Sect. 7. “Standing Instructions,” 109.

<sup>7</sup> *Handbook*, Chap. 16, 92–103.



eighteen and over) and “junior” groups (for those under eighteen).<sup>8</sup> Thus, the Legion of Mary is open to all practicing Catholics—men, women, and children of all ages. Set on fire with the Holy Spirit’s gifts received in Baptism, Legionaries strive to embody Mary.

The Legion’s martial spirituality, rooted in Scripture and Montfort, expresses itself in a Latin terminology from the famous Roman Legion. Identifying Mary as the Woman who is at war with the Serpent (Gen. 3:15, Rev. 12), the Legion applies the Song of Songs (6:10) to Our Lady, who is “as terrible as an army set in battle array.”<sup>9</sup> A Legionary of Mary is expected to develop the virtues of obedience, loyalty, unity, courage, perseverance, and attention to detail that will produce great fruit in the mission of crushing the head of the serpent in one’s individual spiritual life as well as in the apostolate.<sup>10</sup> An individual group is a “*praesidium*,” meaning a fort where the troops get their training, supplies, comrades, and orders. This local group is usually affiliated with a parish. Each *praesidium* is governed directly by a council, and every level of council has *praesidia* directly attached. A “*Curia*,” the lowest-level council, usually has a territory no larger than a diocese, although it can be as small as a single parish if there are enough *praesidia* there. A “*Comitium*” is formed to govern over *Curiae*, and often extends beyond a single diocese. A “*Regia*” or a “*Senatus*” governs a large territory, such as entire states or perhaps even a country smaller than the United States. All Legion councils are united through their affiliation with the Concilium, the international headquarters in Dublin, Ireland, where the Legion began.<sup>11</sup> Thus, the Legion functions as a spiritual army.

<sup>8</sup> *Handbook*, Chap. 36, 222-229.

<sup>9</sup> *Handbook*, Chap. 5, “Devotional Outlook of the Legion,” Sect. 3. Mary Immaculate, 20-22; Chap. 25, “The Legion Picture,” 145-148; Chap. 39, “Cardinal Points of the Legion Apostolate,” Sect. 1. Souls Are Not approached Except with Mary, 273-274.

<sup>10</sup> *Handbook*, Chap. 2, 11-12, and App. 4 (The Roman Legion), 339-341. Hallack, *Legion of Mary*, 26-36.

<sup>11</sup> *Handbook*, 9-11, 84.

### Beginnings in the USA

The Legion of Mary was transplanted from Ireland to North America in 1931, by way of a priest whose publicity inspired a parish priest to try the experiment. Success prompted imitation in more parishes so quickly that the first U.S. council was formed by 1932. Another article attracted the attention of a Catholic businessman who then financed full-time experienced Irish volunteers called “envoys.” Three envoys spread the Legion of Mary throughout the United States until the end of World War II. Thus, the power of the press, good example, and personal sacrifices provided a solid foundation for the Legion of Mary in the United States.

The first promoter of the Legion of Mary in the United States was Fr. Joseph P. Donovan, C.M. (d. 1959).<sup>12</sup> In August 1931, Fr. Donovan, an American Vincentian, attended his community’s general chapter in Paris, then took a holiday in England and Ireland before returning to Paris a week before his departure for home. There, he met with Mother Elizabeth Reeves, an American sister who had been visited by Frank Duff in the convent at Rue du Bac; she told Fr. Donovan about the Legion and gave him a *Handbook*.<sup>13</sup> Fr. Donovan was so amazed that he immediately went back to Dublin to meet Frank Duff and to see the Legion in action. Deeply impressed by this experience, Fr. Donovan returned to the USA and publicized the Legion with an article in Denver’s Catholic newspaper, *The Register*, on October 4, 1931.<sup>14</sup> His famous scholarly article “Is This the

<sup>12</sup> “The Chronicle,” *The Jurist* 20 (Jan.-Oct. 1960): 122, provided his death date.

<sup>13</sup> F.S. Mitchell, “‘I Must Be about My Father’s Business’ (St. Luke II, 49),” *ML* 4, no. 6 (Sept. 1945): 9. “Leading with Tenderness and Toughness,” *Catholic Herald*, London, 29 October 1982, 7, reprinted a chapter from the book *Frank Duff* by Leon O. Broin, who claimed that “F.S. Mitchell” was one of Frank Duff’s pseudonyms. Finola Kennedy, *Frank Duff: A Life Story* (New York: Burns and Oates, 2011), 127. The probable date was 1931, although it could be 1930, since the year is unclear in the various sources. See *ML* 4, no. 6 (Sept. 1945): 7, for photo of Fr. Joseph Donovan. [Note: There was a confusing renumbering of *ML* issues beginning in Dec. 1944 that was carried through 1945, so there is also an *ML* 4, no. 6 (Sept. 1944).]

<sup>14</sup> “Legion of Mary Is to Be Established in United States: Catholic Action Movement Born in Dublin Is Wide Spread,” *The Register*, Denver, CO, Oct. 4, 1931 (with thanks to Judy Ortiz, a member of the Legion of Mary and parish staff at St. Patrick-St. Joseph

Long Looked For Church Society?" was published in the *Ecclesiastical Review* of 1932. As a canon lawyer, Fr. Donovan argued that while Church law required parishes to have the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine and the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, they were not evangelizing all—Catholic and non-Catholic—who lived within the parish. He encouraged his readers to write to the Legion of Mary headquarters, the *Concilium*, in Dublin for the 100-page handbook.<sup>15</sup> At his invitation, "letters from America asking for information flowed into Legion headquarters."<sup>16</sup>

Inspired by Fr. Donovan's article in *The Denver Register*, Fr. Nicholas Schaal of St. Patrick's Church, in Raton, New Mexico, wrote to the Concilium asking for the manual and permission to start a group in his parish.<sup>17</sup> With their approval, the first praesidium in the United States met on November 27, 1931, the feast of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. Comprised only of men who were all miners, in four months Our Lady of Mercy praesidium had such success in bringing lapsed Catholics back to the sacraments that a second praesidium was

Catholic Church, Raton, NM). The *Denver Register* continued to publish "frequent articles" about the Legion of Mary, especially since the Assistant Editor had become an active Legionary by 1939, as noted by Mary Duffy in "More Legion News from All Quarters: United States," *ML* 2, no. 1 (March 1939): 23. Henceforth, "Legion News from All Quarters" will be abbreviated as LNQ.

<sup>15</sup> Joseph P. Donovan, "Is This the Long Looked For Church Society? The Legion of Mary," *Ecclesiastical Review* 86 (1932): 244-259. This journal, published in Philadelphia, was also called the *American Ecclesiastical Review*. Mary Duffy testified to the widespread influence of this article in her article "Twelve Fruitful Years," 3.

<sup>16</sup> Hallack, *Legion of Mary*, 101. <http://archive.catholicerald.co.uk/article/28th-october-1938/14/cecily-rosemary-hallack>.

<sup>17</sup> Hallack, *Legion of Mary*, 102, states that "the parish priest" contacted the Legion; Duffy, "Twelve Fruitful Years," 3, and Mitchell, "I Must Be," 9, named the priest; Pat Veltri, "Catholic organization marks its beginnings in Raton; Local Legion of Mary was first one established in nation," *The Raton Range*, October 25, 2011, <http://ratonrange.com/catholic-organization-marks-its-beginnings-in-raton-local-legion-of-mary-w-p2468-1.htm>, explained that Fr. Nicholas Schaal was not the pastor, but rather the associate at St. Patrick. The parish has merged to become St. Patrick-St. Joseph Catholic Church, 105 Buena Vista St., P.O. Box 278, Raton, NM 87740. The parish secretary, Judy Ortiz, stated in a phone interview, April 2012, that the inspiring article from *The Denver Register* about the Legion of Mary was still in the parish archives!



started in Van Houten, another mining camp.<sup>18</sup> Fr. Schaal then wrote articles about the Legion of Mary in magazines and newspapers. Other priests wrote asking him for more information. He gave them *Handbooks* and, by 1932, the first council of the Legion of Mary, a Curia, was established in Raton, New Mexico, to govern the four praesidia in the area.<sup>19</sup>

The Eucharistic Congress in Dublin (1932) provided international exposure for the Legion of Mary to bishops, priests, and laymen. About 3,000 Congress attendees from around the world visited the Concilium headquarters.<sup>20</sup> As far as the American hierarchy was concerned, Archbishop, later Cardinal, Glennon of St. Louis and Archbishop Cantwell of Los Angeles were both favorably impressed.<sup>21</sup> But the American laity's admiration for the Legion also planted seeds that later bore fruit in San Francisco and Chicago.

The generosity of a Catholic businessman then provided the second phase of the Legion's expansion in the U.S. Having attended the Eucharistic Congress and observed the Legion at work, Alice Curtayne's article, "Catholic Action in Dublin," prompted an important response to the Concilium<sup>22</sup> by a seventy-nine-year-old Catholic financier, Bartholomew or "Bartley" P. [aka "B. P."] Oliver (1854-1945). He wrote to the Concilium offering to pay for a Legionary to come start the Legion in the USA.<sup>23</sup> His serious offer was substantiated with an enclosed

<sup>18</sup> Hallack, *Legion of Mary*, 101-103. John Murray, "A Journey of a Thousand Leagues Begins," in *The Capuchin Annual 1956-7*, ed. Fr. Henry (Dublin: Capuchin Annual, n.d.), 282, also available online at <http://www.catholicpamphlets.net/pamphlets/The%20Legion%20of%20Mary.pdf>.

<sup>19</sup> Hallack, *Legion of Mary*, 104.

<sup>20</sup> Kennedy, *Frank Duff*, 128.

<sup>21</sup> Murray, "A Journey," 283.

<sup>22</sup> Alice Curtayne, "Catholic Action in Dublin," *Commonweal* 17, no. 5 (Nov. 30, 1932): 125-127. Murray, "A Journey," 283; Celia Shaw, "Death of a Laureate," *ML* 4, no. 6 (Sept. 1945): 10-11, explained how persevering a response it was, with Mr. Oliver having to write to the *Commonweal's* editor, then the article's author, and, finally, to the Concilium.

<sup>23</sup> Lawrence Scrivani, S.M., "The Legion of Mary," *Marian Studies* 54 (2003): 103, n. 2 (under *Archival Sources*). Shaw, "Death of a Laureate," 10. Jake Fletcher, "History of the Oliver Family," 3, <https://acrobat.com/app.html#d=llhgOJw-QoKI1ofC1O3pFg>.



check to fund this Legionary for three months.<sup>24</sup> Frank Duff and the Legionaries truly appreciated this generous check and B. P. Oliver's subsequent magnanimous donations for the next twelve years. The Legion expressed its gratitude by making Mr. Oliver a "Laureate member"—"the highest honour that could be given to a non-member."<sup>25</sup> This brought great joy to Mr. Oliver, because this membership entitled him to the Legionaries' prayers for him both in life and death. B. P. Oliver apparently funded the envoys until his death on June 13, 1945.<sup>26</sup>

Four Legionaries in all matched B. P. Oliver's generosity with their personal sacrifices of time, talent, and treasure. Celia Shaw was the brave young Irish Legionary who took a leave of absence from her job for three months in 1933 to go to San Francisco and start the Legion there. Celia's efforts on her quick trip through the USA were so successful that after she returned home, Mr. Oliver most generously offered to pay all expenses for another Legionary to come for three years.<sup>27</sup> In 1934, Miss Mary H. Duffy (d. 1997) accepted his offer to become the first Legion of Mary Envoy ever.<sup>28</sup> With an original commitment to serve for three years, Mary's envoyship to North America—both the USA and Canada—was renewed for a second set of three years. World War II then extended her service for a total of twelve years, from June 11, 1934, until July 2, 1946.<sup>29</sup>

After two years of Mary Duffy's efforts in the Eastern states, Mr. Oliver was sufficiently pleased with her results to expand

<sup>24</sup> Hallack, *Legion of Mary*, 105-106.

<sup>25</sup> Shaw, "Death of a Laureate," 11.

<sup>26</sup> Shaw, "Death of a Laureate," 10.

<sup>27</sup> Hallack, *Legion of Mary*, 106; Mary Duffy, "Twelve Fruitful Years," 3; Kennedy, *Frank Duff*, 129-30.

<sup>28</sup> Murray, "A Journey," 283; "Legion News: United States," *ML* 2, no. 8 (Christmas 1940): 32; "LNQ: Ireland," *ML* 5, no. 3 (Sept. 1946): 22. "Our Dear Departed: Mary Duffy," *ML*, no. 4 (Dec. 1997): 25, explained that Mary Duffy had "joined the Legion in 1925 when there were only four Praesidia in existence" and has a photo of her in later years. *The Marianist* 48, no. 9 (Nov. 1957): 30, also has a photo. "Legion Envoys around the World," *ML*, no. 2 (May 2012): 33, has an early photo.

<sup>29</sup> Hallack and O'Carroll, *Legion of Mary*, 106, 219. Duffy, "Twelve Fruitful Years," 3, 14. "Legion News: United States," *ML* 2, no. 7 (Sept. 1940): 30-31.

his funding to include two additional Legion envoys. In 1936, the Concilium sent Una O'Bryne and John Murray (d. 1989) as Legion Envoys to the United States, Canada and Mexico.<sup>30</sup> Since the Legion functions in a territory only with the permission of the appropriate ecclesiastical authorities, the envoys worked methodically by writing or talking first with the bishops, to get the bishop's letter of introduction and commendation to the priests. Fortified with this letter of approval, the envoys' approach to the pastors bore great results with many praesidia being started as quickly as possible.<sup>31</sup> The three envoys divided up the territory assigning Miss Duffy to the Western states by 1937, Mr. Murray to the East Coast, and Miss O'Bryne to the Southern Midwest.<sup>32</sup> Una served for three years, while John stayed for ten.<sup>33</sup> John oversaw the publication of *The Handbook* in America, as well as the official magazine of the Legion, called *Maria Legionis*. John also supervised the translation and publication of the official prayercard, called the Tesseræ, that had to be provided for American use in nine languages—English, Italian, French, German, Portuguese, Hungarian, Spanish, Croatian, and Slovakian.<sup>34</sup> Noting, by 1944,

<sup>30</sup> Duffy, "Twelve Fruitful Years," 3–4. Memoirs of Mary M. Foudy, June 2001, a three-page typescript provided by correspondence from Mr. Dave Marten, the current president of the San Francisco Senatus, 1—published in part as "Faithful to the End," *ML* 15, no. 1\* (March, 1964): 16 [\*issue misnumbered as 14, no. 9]. "Legion Envoys around the World," *ML*, no. 2 (May 2012): 38 (with photo), provided John Murray's death date. *The Hunt's Post*, Huntingdon, UK, April 21, 2010, reported the death of Una Harry (nee O'Bryne) (1918–2010), but it is not clear if this was the same person, particularly when there was a Una Winfred O'Bryne (1901–1988) noted in an online genealogy: <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/h/e/i/Max-A-Heise-CA/ODT2-0011.html>.

<sup>31</sup> Duffy, "Twelve Fruitful Years," 3–4.

<sup>32</sup> Duffy, "Twelve Fruitful Years," 4. O'Carroll (*Legion of Mary*), 200, told of John Murray.

<sup>33</sup> O'Carroll (*Legion of Mary*), 219. "LNQ," *ML* 2, no. 3 (Sept. 1939): 30.

<sup>34</sup> "Notice to American Praesidia," *ML* 2, no. 5 (March 1940): 17, announced that *Handbooks* and Tesseræ were available for purchase by Curiae from the New York office. "Legion News: United States," *ML* 2, no. 8 (Christmas 1940): 32, noted the languages and that the first printing of 10,000 *Handbooks* just earlier that year already required a second edition. "LNQ: Ireland," *ML* 5, no. 3 (Sept. 1946): 22. "LNQ: United States," *ML* 2, no. 6 (June 1940): 30.

how the American seminarians involved with the Legion of Mary became the best spiritual directors, the envoys sent copies of *The Handbook* and of *Maria Legionis* to seminary libraries.<sup>35</sup> Mr. Oliver's magnanimous donations truly empowered the envoys to build up the Legion of Mary in the USA as well as Canada.

The envoys collaborated with Fr. Donovan for the benefit of the Legion throughout the USA. Fr. Donovan, J.C.D., was a scholar who taught canon law and moral theology at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis.<sup>36</sup> By 1946, he was the President of that seminary.<sup>37</sup> Praesidia started almost invariably wherever he had enthusiastically preached a priest's retreat or given a lecture.<sup>38</sup> In 1948, Fr. Francis J. Ripley met Fr. Donovan and commented that "Dr. Donovan simply radiates the Legion. It is almost true to say that in it he lives and moves and has his being. An hour's conversation with him is as good as a week's retreat."<sup>39</sup> As early as 1940, Fr. Donovan had already been honored as a Laureate member.<sup>40</sup> Fr. Donovan deserved it because he not only preached and lived the Legion, but also publicized it with the written word.

The Legion of Mary benefitted greatly by the positive press it received throughout the world. Fr. Donovan continued writing articles about the Legion of Mary in Catholic newspapers and the pastoral journal for priests, *The Homiletic and Pastoral Review*.<sup>41</sup> As its editor, Fr. Donovan published Legion

<sup>35</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 6 (Sept. 1944): 21-22. [Note: There was a confusing renumbering of *ML* issues beginning in Dec. 1944 that was carried through 1945, so there is also an *ML* 4, no. 6 (Sept. 1945).]

<sup>36</sup> Charles H. Helmsing, "The Legion of Mary in the United States of America," in *The Capuchin Annual: 1956-7*, ed. Fr. Henry (Dublin: Capuchin Annual, n.d.), 307.

<sup>37</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 5, no. 2 (June 1946): 15.

<sup>38</sup> "LNQ: Ireland," *ML* 5, no. 3 (Sept. 1946): 22.

<sup>39</sup> Francis J. Ripley, "From Ocean to Ocean," *ML* 6, no. 6 (June 1948): 5.

<sup>40</sup> "Legion News: United States," *ML* 2, no. 7 (Sept. 1940): 31.

<sup>41</sup> Other articles by Joseph P. Donovan include "Where Can Legion Information and Legion Books Be Gotten? (Ans.)," *Homiletic and Pastoral Review* [hereafter *HPR*] 51 (1951): 369, "The Book of the Century?" *HPR* 51 (1951): 1087. "Legion News: United States," *ML* 2, no. 7 (Sept. 1940): 31, notes that Fr. Donovan also wrote articles about the Legion for *Our Sunday Visitor*. Other articles about the Legion of Mary in the *HPR*



articles by Fr. Francis Ripley that resulted in more letters to Mary Duffy and John Murray.<sup>42</sup> By 1957, Fr. Roger Mary Charest, Superior of the American Province of the Montfort Missionaries and long-time MSA member, also provided much support and publicity through regular articles in his monthly magazine, *Queen of All Hearts*.<sup>43</sup> He also presented the Legion in his True Devotion preaching around the nation.<sup>44</sup> In 1939, the *Catholic Charities Review* gave a positive recommendation of the Legion of Mary.<sup>45</sup> Msgr. Forristal in San Diego, also wrote articles about the Legion of Mary in *The Priest*.<sup>46</sup> This combination of clerical recommendation with lay organization was so successful that, by 1938, the Legion of Mary was in "about 75 dioceses in the USA with over 600 praesidia," with 54 councils in 1945 that had doubled in two years to more than 100 councils in 1947, "well over 1,000 praesidia . . . governed by more than 100 councils," in 47 of what were then 48 states.<sup>47</sup>

### U.S. Legion of Mary Councils

This historical review will now shift to a study of each council in turn, as illustrated by a 2004 map of the Legion of Mary territory.<sup>48</sup> The landmark dates chronicling the start and

include: William McDonough, "Mary's Legion Works," 51 (1957): 699; John M. Anderson, "The Legion Is for Men," 52 (1952): 1004-5.

<sup>42</sup> Francis J. Ripley, "An Apostolate for Everyman," *HPR* 45, no. 4 (1945): 260-267. "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 5 (June 1945): 24. Francis J. Ripley, "From Ocean to Ocean," *ML* 6, no. 6 (June 1948): 3-6, 8, gives his firsthand account of visiting the Legionaries in New York, Detroit, Cincinnati, Los Angeles, and meeting Fr. Donovan in person—all on his [Fr. Ripley's] way to and from the Marian Congress in Ottawa in 1947.

<sup>43</sup> Helmsing, "The Legion of Mary in the USA," 311, noted this by 1957. Roger Charest, "By Sampan to the 'Jet Age' in Borneo," *ML* 15, no. 2 (June 1964): 12-13, noted his position.

<sup>44</sup> "News from all Quarters: U.S.A.," *ML* 13, no. 3 (Sept. 1960): 25, noted his travels to New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, and Louisiana.

<sup>45</sup> "An American Tribute," *ML* 2, no. 5 (March 1940): 20.

<sup>46</sup> Msgr. Forristal, "Peregrinatio Pro Christo," *ML* 13, no. 6 (June 1961): 6-8.

<sup>47</sup> Hallack and O'Carroll, *Legion of Mary*, 104, 220. "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 5 (June 1945): 24.

<sup>48</sup> Tidewater Curia, "Legion of Mary in the United States (USA)," a map of the Legion councils as of 2004. <http://www.legionofmarytidewater.com/usa/houston.htm>. Henceforth called "2004 map." [See illustrations at the end of this article, p. 84.]



growth of the eleven major councils as of 2004 will be presented, along with some famous people and at least one distinctive contribution made by that council. The review will begin with St. Louis, the first council to become a *Senatus*.

### **1. The St. Louis *Senatus***

After starting in a small mining town of Raton, New Mexico, the Legion soon spread to larger cities. Not to be outdone by the two *praesidia* of men in Raton, Fr. Donovan started a *praesidium* of women at Webster College, in St. Louis, Missouri, in May, 1932.<sup>49</sup> Archbishop Glennon, who had encountered the Legion at the 1932 Eucharistic Congress, gave his full support.<sup>50</sup> The St. Louis Curia formed in 1933.<sup>51</sup> By 1938, three *curiae* in St. Louis governed forty *praesidia*.<sup>52</sup> By 1945, the St. Louis *Comitium* was the first council in the USA to count more than 100 *praesidia* under its care.<sup>53</sup> With such rapid growth, St. Louis became the first U.S. council raised to a *Senatus* (April 1, 1946), just before Mary Duffy and John Murray returned to Ireland. This first American *Senatus* was such great news that the photo of the envoys and officers graced the front cover of the worldwide issue of *Maria Legionis*. The Very Rev. Donovan, C.M., was rightfully its first Spiritual Director, with the Very Rev. Msgr. Charles Helmsing as the assistant Spiritual Director.<sup>54</sup> At that point, the *Senatus* governed the states of Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa.<sup>55</sup> Their *Acies* (annual consecration ceremony) that year was attended by forty-one

<sup>49</sup> Hallack, *Legion of Mary*, 104, 106. Helmsing, "The Legion of Mary Storms the U.S.A.," *The Marianist* 48, no. 9 (Nov. 1957): 32.

<sup>50</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 5, no. 1 (March 1946): 26.

<sup>51</sup> "More LNQ: United States," *ML* 2, no. 2 (June 1939): 29, date calculated backwards from the end of the second three-year term of the first president.

<sup>52</sup> Hallack, *Legion of Mary*, 104.

<sup>53</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 4 (March 1945): 25.

<sup>54</sup> O'Carroll (*Legion of Mary*), 220. Cover photo of *ML* 5, no. 2 (June 1946), named everyone, including envoys John Murray, Mary Duffy, Msgr. Charles H. Helmsing, and Fr. Joseph P. Donovan. Msgr. (later Bishop) Helmsing wrote an article about the importance of the role of the Legionary spiritual director, "Priests Who Have Made the Legion of Mary," *ML* 5, no. 4 (Dec. 1946): 6-7, 16.

<sup>55</sup> Duffy, "Twelve Fruitful Years," 14. "Our Cover," *ML* 5, no. 2 (June 1946): 13.

spiritual directors and about eight hundred Legionaries.<sup>56</sup> By 2004, the St. Louis Senatus governed Missouri, Iowa, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Kansas, part of Illinois, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and Arkansas.<sup>57</sup>

Denver will serve as an example of collaboration between Fr. Donovan and the envoys in the St. Louis territory. In 1938, Mary Duffy followed up a retreat given by Fr. Donovan to the priests of the diocese of Denver. Five years later, Fr. Donovan promoted the Legion with such enthusiastic promises as: "Get the Legion going in the diocese [*sic*] of the country and we will convert America in twenty-five years."<sup>58</sup> Miss Duffy quickly set up an entire Curia with thirty-three praesidia that gained over 1,000 auxiliaries in just a few months.<sup>59</sup> Three months later, the Denver Curia was established.<sup>60</sup> By the end of 1939, it had forty praesidia.<sup>61</sup> The establishment of two praesidia at St. Thomas Seminary in Denver had, by 1946, provided "a steady stream of keenly interested Spiritual Directors [with] an excellent knowledge and a wide experience of the Legion system."<sup>62</sup> In 1946, Denver's council had been elevated to a Comitium.<sup>63</sup>

As early as 1940, John Murray visited Fort Wayne, Indiana, to meet with Bishop Noll who had overseen the publication of articles about the Legion of Mary in the influential weekly, *Our*

<sup>56</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 5, no. 2 (June 1946): 15.

<sup>57</sup> According to the 2004 map, Illinois, except for the Chicago Archdiocese and the dioceses of Rockford, Joliet and Peoria, which are covered by the Chicago Senatus.

<sup>58</sup> "Archbishop's Tribute: 'An almost unbelievable Work,'" *ML* 4, no. 3 (Dec. 1944): 10, gave Archbishop Urban Verhr's recounting of events from the previous five years, with his experience that, in those five years, he had never received a single complaint against the Legion but rather many compliments. [Note: A renumbering of the *ML* issues occurred at this point; the Sept. 1944 issue was vol. 4, no. 6, and the Dec. 1944 issue was, without explanation, back to vol. 4, no. 3—perhaps due to the confusion of a war-time publication.]

<sup>59</sup> Duffy, "Twelve Fruitful Years," 4. "More LNQ: United States," *ML* 2, no. 2 (June 1939): 28.

<sup>60</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 2, no. 3 (Sept. 1939): 29; "Legion News: United States," *ML* 2, no. 6 (1940): 30.

<sup>61</sup> Hallack, *Legion of Mary*, 105.

<sup>62</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 6 (Sept. 1945): 26. "LNQ: United States," *ML* 5, no. 3 (Sept. 1946): 16.

<sup>63</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 5, no. 3 (Sept. 1946): 16.

*Sunday Visitor*, that later printed Legion materials.<sup>64</sup> Bishop Noll was so interested that he later requested an extension worker for his diocese; in 1944, the former vice-president of the St. Louis Comitium, Miss Isabel Edelen (d. 1997), responded by starting enough praesidia in Fort Wayne for Mary Duffy to organize a Curia there in 1946.<sup>65</sup> Isabel's experience gained there enabled her to extend the Legion in Mexico by 1960.<sup>66</sup> The Concilium officially appointed her as an Envoy to Mexico and Central America from at least 1960 to 1968.<sup>67</sup>

But Isabel was not the first American to be appointed an international Envoy. Delphine Madill (1905-2003) had already served from 1948 to 1960.<sup>68</sup> The St. Louis Senatus had formed her into a Legionary and then asked her to become an Envoy. Delphine had been born in Missouri, but was bi-lingual after living with her family in France.<sup>69</sup> She first served in North Carolina at Bishop Vincent S. Water's request.<sup>70</sup> She then spread

<sup>64</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 2, no. 5 (March 1940): 29. "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 3 (Dec. 1944): 21, told how *Our Sunday Visitor* published a Legion leaflet that sold more than 13,000 copies. "Legion News: United States," *ML* 2, no. 7 (Sept. 1940): 29, told how Bishop Noll even provided his car for Mary Duffy's use when she visited that same year. "North American News Supplement: Hammond, Ind.," *ML* 10, no. 2 (June 1955): III (of this supplement), noted that Archbishop John Francis Noll had asked for a column, "The Legion of Mary Speaks," in the Fort Wayne edition of *Our Sunday Visitor*, with members of the four Curiae—Fort Wayne, South Bend, Hammond, and Gary—writing the material, starting in 1953. Henceforth, North American Supplement will be abbreviated as NAS.

<sup>65</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 6 (Sept. 1944): 20, has photo with caption. "LNQ: United States," *ML* 5, no. 2 (June 1946): 14. This Curia started with five senior praesidia and some junior praesidia. "American News Supplement," *ML* 6, no. 8 (Dec. 1948): III, Isabel was still in Fort Wayne in July, 1947.

<sup>66</sup> "News from all Quarters: Mexico," *ML* 13, no. 5 (March 1961): 30.

<sup>67</sup> "An Envoy Writes," *ML* 13, no. 5 (March 1961): NAS, IV. "Eighty Years and Still New Horizons: Part 3, from 7th Sept. 1961 to 6th Sept. 1981," *ML*, no. 4 (Nov. 2001): 11. "Legion Envoys around the World," *ML*, no. 2 (May 2012): 38 (with photo), incorrectly listed her years as 1964-1968.

<sup>68</sup> "News from All Quarters: U.S.A.: Senatus of St. Louis," *ML* 6, no. 5 (March 1948): 20. The "Legion Envoys around the World," *ML*, no. 2 (May 2012): 35 (with photo), incorrectly listed her years as 1955-1960. "Delphine Madill Introduces the Association to the U.S.," The St. Francis de Sales Association, December 2, 2008, [www.sfdassociation.org/public-section/101-uncategorized/5933-delphine-madill.html](http://www.sfdassociation.org/public-section/101-uncategorized/5933-delphine-madill.html).

<sup>69</sup> "Delphine Madill Introduces the Association to the U.S." (see n. 68).

<sup>70</sup> Helmsing, "The Legion of Mary in the USA," 316.



the Legion to French-speaking Canada and Haiti, as well as Spanish-speaking Puerto Rico and Cuba, and the English-speaking West Indies.<sup>71</sup> She embodied the Legion's call for the laity to become missionaries.

Thus, the St. Louis council proudly bears the title as the first *Senatus* in the United States. They oversaw so much growth of the Legion in the United States that they were able to provide the first two American envoys to other countries, showing how the Legion fosters a missionary spirit. Although some of these original *praesidia* in St. Louis have closed, at least one has persevered to celebrate seventy years and is still counting.<sup>72</sup>

## **2. The Los Angeles *Senatus***

The first *praesidium* in Los Angeles formed just a few months after the charter group in St. Louis. On the feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1932, the Los Angeles cathedral started its first *praesidium*.<sup>73</sup> By 1938, the L.A. Curia, directed by Msgr. O'Halloran, governed forty *praesidia*.<sup>74</sup> By 1939, a second Curia was formed.<sup>75</sup> By 1945, Los Angeles split off three more Curiae.<sup>76</sup> By 1946, those Curiae were supervised by the Los Angeles Comitium—still guided by Msgr. O'Halloran, whose own *praesidium* was reaching out to the Chinese and Mexicans in L.A. with good results.<sup>77</sup> Under Msgr. O'Halloran's apparently excellent direction, the L.A. council was raised to a *Senatus* in 1959.<sup>78</sup> He remained their spiritual director until his death in 1969.<sup>79</sup>

<sup>71</sup> Helmsing, "The Legion of Mary in the USA," 316.

<sup>72</sup> "Anniversaries," *ML*, no. 2 (May 2008): NAS, 10, commended the Refuge of Sinners *praesidium* of St. Andrew's Parish in St. Louis, that Mary T. Budde noted had been founded in 1938 ("Three . . .," *ML*, no. 3 [Aug. 2001]: NAS, 3).

<sup>73</sup> Hallack, *Legion of Mary*, 104.

<sup>74</sup> Hallack, *Legion of Mary*, 104. Duffy, "Twelve Fruitful Years," 4, credited the Vicar General, Msgr. Cawley, for the Legion's rapid growth in L.A. "More LNQ: United States," *ML* 2, no. 2 (June 1939): 30, noted the first spiritual director, Msgr. O'Halloran.

<sup>75</sup> "LNQ," *ML* 2, no. 3 (Sept. 1939): 30.

<sup>76</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 4 (March 1945): 25.

<sup>77</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 5, no. 1 (March 1946): 27-28.

<sup>78</sup> "News from all Quarters: U.S.A.: Los Angeles, California," *ML* 12, no. 5 (March 1959): 23.

<sup>79</sup> "Global Gleanings: U.S.A.: Los Angeles," *ML* 19, no. 3 (1970): 23. "Honor Deserved," *ML* 15, no. 3 (Sept. 1964): NAS, IV, notes his golden jubilee.



The L.A. Senatus is an outstanding example of how the Korean Catholic community has contributed greatly to the Legion in the United States in more recent history. From 1986 to 1992, the L.A. Senatus added "2 Comitia, 12 Curia, 195 praesidia, 1,600 Active and 24,800 Auxiliary members," crediting almost half of the growth to the Korean Catholic community.<sup>80</sup> From 1995 to 1997, the L.A. Senatus started 47 new praesidia and increased active membership by another 1,320.<sup>81</sup> By 2004, the Los Angeles Senatus included 16 Korean Curiae, each with an average of 12 praesidia, in its territory of Southern California, Arizona, Hawaii, Southern Utah, and Southern Nevada, as well as the Mexican states of Baja California and North Mexico.<sup>82</sup>

Notable Legionaries in the L.A. history included the family of the famous comedian Bob Hope; his wife, Dolores, was an active member and two of their children were auxiliaries in 1951.<sup>83</sup> Thus, the Legion of Mary reached out to all levels of society—immigrants and native-born, rich and poor, deliberately building up a spirit of unity and fraternal love in God's family with Mary as our mother.<sup>84</sup>

### **3. The San Francisco Senatus**

Further north in California, Fr. William Cantwell, pastor of St. Monica Church, started the first women's Legion praesidium in San Francisco on November 14, 1933. A praesidium for men and a junior praesidium for children soon followed.<sup>85</sup> His enthusiasm spread the Legion to other parishes, even before Mary Duffy came in 1937 to spread the Legion throughout the

<sup>80</sup> "From the Legionary World: United States," *ML*, no. 3 (Sept. 1992): 19 [hereafter "FLW: United States."]

<sup>81</sup> "FLW: United States," *ML*, no. 4 (Dec. 1997): 17.

<sup>82</sup> "FLW: United States," *ML*, no. 3 (Aug. 2000): 14-15. Territory governed, according to the 2004 map.

<sup>83</sup> Dolores Hope, "The Legion in Hollywood," *ML* 8, no. 4 (Dec. 1951): 4.

<sup>84</sup> *Handbook*, Chap. 12. "The External Aims of the Legion," Sect. 3. To Weld All Together, 74-78; Chap. 39. "Cardinal Points of the Legion Apostolate," Sect. 29. No Distinctions in the Legion, 303-304; and Chap. 41. "The Greatest of These Is Love (1 Cor. 13:13)," Sect. 2. Within Its Own Ranks, 328.

<sup>85</sup> Foudy (Memoirs), 1. Shaw, "Death of a Laureate," 11.

five dioceses of California.<sup>86</sup> Fr. Cantwell became the first spiritual director for the San Francisco Curia.<sup>87</sup> By 1938, San Francisco's Curia ruled over forty praesidia.<sup>88</sup> By 1941, the San Francisco council was raised to become a Comitium.<sup>89</sup> In 2004, the San Francisco council was elevated to a Senatus governing Northern California, Idaho, Northern Nevada, Northern Utah, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska.<sup>90</sup>

Within this wide territory, the Legion Curia in Sacramento, by 1939, is an example of Legionary courage.<sup>91</sup> Even though the infamous riot at the Folsom State Prison in 1937 resulted in the deaths of the Warden and a prison guard, by 1944, Legionaries set up a praesidium there. This notorious maximum-security men's prison had inmates as active members.<sup>92</sup> These incarcerated Legionaries paid visits to other prisoners in their cells and prison yard, distributed Catholic newspapers, gave instructions in the faith as well as the Latin necessary to become an altar server—all with good effect, as noted by the prison warden.<sup>93</sup> Since the officers of this prison praesidium could not attend their monthly Curia, the Sacramento Curia was scheduled to meet at the prison chapel at least once.<sup>94</sup> Unfortunately, *Maria Legionis* did not report how the meeting went nor whether this Curia was able to repeat the experience.

<sup>86</sup> Duffy, "Twelve Fruitful Years," 4. An enthusiastic article about the Legion of Mary in the diocese of Monterey-Fresno was written by the editor of the *Central Californian Catholic Register*, Edward A. Haskins, "Paradise on This Side," *ML* 2, no. 5 (March 1940): 8-9, 11. Mary Brennan, "Eleanor McMillan," *ML*, no. 3 (Sept. 1996): NAS, 7, shows that one of those praesidia started in 1937 was still functioning 59 years later.

<sup>87</sup> "More LNQ: United States," *ML* 2, no. 2 (1939): 30.

<sup>88</sup> Hallack, *Legion of Mary*, 105.

<sup>89</sup> In 2004, the San Francisco Comitium was elevated to a Senatus attached directly to the Concilium, the international headquarters. "About the San Francisco Senatus," <http://www.sfsenatus.com/AboutSFSenatus.html>.

<sup>90</sup> See the 2004 map.

<sup>91</sup> "LNQ," *ML* 2, no. 3 (Sept. 1939): 26 (photo of the group) and 29 (names Fr. Lyons as the spiritual director).

<sup>92</sup> "Locked in History: Museum Exhibits Legend and Lore of Folsom's Prison," *The Sacramento Bee*, Tuesday, July 19, 2005, <http://bedsbeds.blogspot.com/search?q=prison>. "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 5 (June 1944): 24.

<sup>93</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 7 (Dec. 1945): 27.

<sup>94</sup> "Locked in History" (see n. 92 above). "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 5 (June 1944): 24.

Seattle, Washington, and Portland, Oregon, had parallel Legion beginnings. The Cathedral had the first praesidium in Seattle, and from there also spread to Portland in 1935.<sup>95</sup> In 1937, Seattle earned the distinction of starting the first Japanese praesidium in the USA; in 1942, this group continued in the internment camps. When the War ended and those interned were set free, the praesidium dissolved as four of its members entered religious life.<sup>96</sup> Mary Duffy organized the Portland and Seattle Curiae in 1939.<sup>97</sup> By 1944, Seattle had a Curia organizing day-long conferences for non-Catholics to learn about the Catholic faith four times a year, since the Legion urges its members to reach out to everyone.<sup>98</sup>

Meanwhile, the Legion in Portland was growing with the encouragement of Bishop Howard. In 1940, he presided at the Portland Curia's Acies that was attended by four additional bishops who were in town for the annual convention of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.<sup>99</sup> In 1944, Archbishop Howard thanked the Legion of Mary and even guided the Portland Legion of Mary.<sup>100</sup> By 1946, Portland's Archbishop held an annual meeting with the Legion's spiritual directors and invited priests who were considering the Legion for their parishes.<sup>101</sup> With such encouragement, the Legion was well rooted on the West Coast.

#### **4. *The New York Senatus***

Back on the East Coast, the Legion also had an early beginning. On March 26, 1932, Fr. Maurice McDonald, C.Ss.R., started the first praesidium in the Brooklyn Curia at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.<sup>102</sup> In 1940, Brooklyn became the

<sup>95</sup> Duffy, "Twelve Fruitful Years," 4, indicated 1937 as the year, but "LNQ: United States," *ML* 2, no. 6 (June 1940): 31, claimed it had five years of visits done.

<sup>96</sup> Edna Henderson, "A Japanese Praesidium," *ML* 4, no. 6 (Sept. 1945): 14.

<sup>97</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 2, no. 4 (Christmas 1939): 24.

<sup>98</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 5 (June 1944): 23.

<sup>99</sup> "Legion News: United States," *ML* 2, no. 8 (Christmas 1940): 34; the other bishops were McGrath (Baker City), Shaughnessy (Seattle), White (Spokane), and Kelly (Boise).

<sup>100</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 6 (Sept. 1944): 23.

<sup>101</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 5, no. 4 (Dec. 1946): 15.

<sup>102</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 4 (March 1945): 25. "Legion News: United States," *ML* 2, no. 8 (Christmas 1940): 32.



thirty-fourth American Curia.<sup>103</sup> By 1945, the two Brooklyn Curiae—one senior and one junior—had about eighty praesidia and their own quarterly publication called “The Legionary.”<sup>104</sup> By 2000, the Brooklyn Comitium remained strong with fourteen junior praesidia.<sup>105</sup> This Comitium reports to the New York Senatus that grew out of the Bronx.

Fr. Anthony Rothlauf, whose memorable words opened this paper, had been inspired by Fr. Donovan’s famous article to write to Ireland. Although John Murray responded in November of 1932, the priest hesitated for fear that the Legion might not work in his African-American parish in the Bronx.<sup>106</sup> After Mary Duffy encouraged Fr. Rothlauf, in June of 1934, to start with any available parishioners, he boldly invited people with statements such as: “Those young people of the parish willing to bleed for Christ, as He bled for you—see me after Mass.”<sup>107</sup> Amazingly fourteen brave volunteers showed up for the first meeting on January 25, 1935.<sup>108</sup> Fr. Rothlauf was just one of many clergy who were happily surprised to find both white and black Legionaries working so well together that, in 1939, the Legion of Mary hosted the first “mixed” retreat in New York.<sup>109</sup>

With the help of the Irish Envoys, the New York-Brooklyn Curiae hosted the first Legion Congress in the USA in July 1940—a one-day event, with over 100 Legionaries and spiritual directors, some traveling from as far as Rock Hill, South Carolina. The record-setting heat caused one Legionary to

<sup>103</sup> “Legion News: United States,” *ML* 2, no. 8 (Christmas 1940): 32, also described Miss Regina Dandreaux’s zealous Legion work.

<sup>104</sup> “LNQ: United States,” *ML* 4, no. 4 (March 1945): 25. “Legion News: United States,” *ML* 2, no. 8 (Christmas 1940): 32.

<sup>105</sup> “FLW: United States,” *ML*, no. 4 (Nov. 1999): 22.

<sup>106</sup> New York Regional Senatus Website ([www.legion-of-mary-ny.org](http://www.legion-of-mary-ny.org)), “Local Legion History,” gave the address as 832 East 166th Street, the Bronx.

<sup>107</sup> Hallack, *Legion of Mary*, 106-107. Duffy, “Twelve Fruitful Years,” 3. New York Senatus Website, “Local Legion History.” “New York’s Silver Jubilee,” *ML* 13, no. 1 (March 1960): NAS, III, gave this quote.

<sup>108</sup> New York Regional Senatus Website, “Local Legion History.”

<sup>109</sup> “More LNQ: United States,” *ML* 2, no. 2 (June 1939): 29. “LNQ: United States,” *ML* 4, no. 5 (June 1944): 22-23. Hallack (*Legion of Mary*), 106-107.



faint. However, the group persevered by applying ice water to themselves.<sup>110</sup>

The Curia's first spiritual director had a most unusual start. In 1944, the New York Curia was established with John Murray's help.<sup>111</sup> Cardinal Spellman had appointed Msgr. John Casey, already an advisor for the Sodality, to be the Curia's spiritual director; Msgr. Casey feared that this foreign association would detract from the Sodality and had decided, before attending a single meeting, to close the Legion in New York. Planning to announce this, Msgr. Casey attended the New York Curia where he heard the Juniors report of their repeated visits with Senior Legionaries to a large family who had never been baptized but eventually had agreed to do so. Time after time, the family presented excuses as to why they could not go to the church the day the Legionaries came—someone in the family was out or sick, their clothes were not presentable, or they had to go elsewhere, etc. The persevering Legionaries finally accompanied the family to church where everyone got baptized. That very night, the family's boiler exploded, killing the entire family immediately. Hearing that report, Msgr. Casey sat bolt upright, and, at the end of the meeting, he confessed his original intention to shut down the Legion and how the Juniors' report had converted him. Msgr. Casey remained the Curia's spiritual director until his death in 1953, when Fr. Rothlauf took over the position.<sup>112</sup> Fr. Rothlauf became the New York Curia's second spiritual director in 1953.<sup>113</sup>

<sup>110</sup> "Legion News: United States," *ML* 2, no. 8 (Christmas 1940): 32; this event "was held in the Passionist Monastery School, Jamaica (NY), during a record heat wave." Duffy, "Twelve Fruitful Years," 4.

<sup>111</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 5 (June 1945): 23 (first mention of John Murray's involvement at the formation of the New York Curia). "Praesidium Celebrates First Fifty Years," *ML*, no. 1 (March 1995): NAS, 7, noted one praesidia established in 1945 at St. Mary's Church in Troy (NY). New York Regional Senatus Website, "Local Legion History." In 1945, the Junior Curia was established as a separate unit.

<sup>112</sup> "New York's Silver Jubilee," *ML* 13, no. 1 (March 1960): NAS, IV. New York Regional Senatus Website, "Local Legion History."

<sup>113</sup> New York Regional Senatus Website, "Local Legion History."

Another famous person involved with the Legion was Fr. Patrick Peyton. In 1944, as Mary Duffy started a praesidia in Albany, New York, he inspired her to involve the Legion of Mary in promoting the family Rosary Crusade.<sup>114</sup> The Legion did this with such success that, as one example from the very same year, the Scranton Curia had gotten 101 out of 115 homes visited "so far" to pray the family Rosary.<sup>115</sup> Fr. Peyton remained in contact with the Legion of Mary, notably preaching for the annual Acies held by the Los Angeles council in 1947.<sup>116</sup>

The New York Legion grew with many interesting events over the years. In 1949, the New York Curia was raised to a Comitium.<sup>117</sup> In 1953, Alfie Lambe, an Irish Envoy on his way to South America, stayed in New York long enough to address the local Legionaries.<sup>118</sup> In 1955, the New York Comitium was raised to a Senatus to govern the states of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania; the other New England states were added later, until the Philadelphia and Boston councils were formed to govern them.<sup>119</sup> After its elevation, the New York Senatus also produced an Envoy, Anita Agostini, who served from 1956 to 1965, for Mexico.<sup>120</sup> As of 2004, the New York Senatus remained strong, governing the state of New York and the northern half of New Jersey.<sup>121</sup>

### **5. The Chicago Senatus**

The Eucharistic Congress of 1932 had provided the Legion a positive international publicity with clerics and laity alike. When Irish-born Paul McKenna left Chicago to attend the

<sup>114</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 6 (Sept. 1944): 21.

<sup>115</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 6 (Sept. 1944): 22.

<sup>116</sup> "News from All Quarters: United States: Los Angeles," *ML* 5, no. 2 (June 1947): 20.

<sup>117</sup> New York Regional Senatus Website, "Local Legion History."

<sup>118</sup> New York Regional Senatus Website, "Local Legion History."

<sup>119</sup> "New York's Silver Jubilee," *ML* 13, no. 1 (March 1960): NAS, IV, stated November 1955, but they were inaccurate in other details. New York Regional Senatus Website, "Local Legion History," gave 1956 as the year.

<sup>120</sup> M.A. Parsons, "Mary's Mantle over Texas," *ML* 11, no. 1 (March 1957): 21. "Legion Envoys around the World," *ML*, no 2 (May 2012): 36.

<sup>121</sup> 2004 map.

Congress in Dublin, he became an active member of the Legion during his yearlong stay. When he returned to Chicago, he persuaded Msgr. Morrison, the Rector of the Cathedral, to start the first praesidium with men at Holy Name parish on the feast of the Annunciation, March 25, 1933.<sup>122</sup> By 1938, a Chicago curia governed ten praesidia.<sup>123</sup> Chicago was elevated to a Comitium in July of 1948.<sup>124</sup> The Concilium finally elevated it to a Senatus in 1965.<sup>125</sup> By 2004, the territory for the Chicago Senatus included the Chicago Archdiocese and the Dioceses of Rockford, Joliet, and Peoria in Illinois, as well as the entire states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and the Gary Diocese of Indiana.<sup>126</sup>

Shortly after the collapse of the Iron Curtain in 1992, Maria Smilga, the president of the Chicago Senatus, was recruited by the Concilium as an experienced Legionary fluent in Lithuanian to go as an Envoy to Lithuania. She served four years (1995-1999), starting the Legion there as well as in Estonia.<sup>127</sup> Thus, Chicago returned a blessing to Europe for the gift of the Legion so many years earlier in 1933.

## **6. *Cincinnati Senatus***

The first praesidium in Cincinnati was started in 1938, at St. Louis parish, with Fr. Edward B. Kotter as spiritual director; in the next fourteen years there, the Legionaries facilitated 500

<sup>122</sup> Hallack, *Legion of Mary*, 104. "Paul McKenna," *ML* 15, no. 2 (June 1964): 20, notice of his death in Dec. 1963.

<sup>123</sup> Hallack, *Legion of Mary*, 104.

<sup>124</sup> Dorothy Gubbins Colucci, "Brief History of the Legion of Mary in Chicago: Personal Reflections of a Former Council Officer," in *Legio Mariae: "I Am All Thine, My Queen and My Mother; and ALL That I Have Is Thine,"* ed. Chicago Regional Senatus (New Hope, KY: St. Martin de Porres Dominican Community, 1990), 40. "News from All Quarters: U.S.A.," *ML* 7, no. 1 (March 1949): 21.

<sup>125</sup> Colucci, "Brief History ... Legion ... Chicago," 46.

<sup>126</sup> 2004 map.

<sup>127</sup> "Appointment of Legion of Mary Envoy," *ML*, no. 2 (June 1996): 11, with photo; Rosaleen Brogan, "How the Legion of Mary Came to Lithuania," *ML*, no. 2 (Aug. 1999): 22-25.



conversions to Catholicism.<sup>128</sup> When Irish Envoy Una O'Bryne formed the Cincinnati Curia in 1939, Fr. Kotter became its spiritual director.<sup>129</sup> During this time, in 1940, this Curia proactively assigned a territory for each praesidium to start more groups.<sup>130</sup> In 1944, Fr. Edward B. Kotter was also the Spiritual Director for Mt. St. Mary's of the West, the major seminary for the archdiocese, a key position for forming future spiritual directors for the Legion of Mary.<sup>131</sup> With Fr. Kotter's expert guidance, the Comitium was raised to a Senatus in January of 1948, to govern Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee.<sup>132</sup> His booklet "The Spirit and Method of Legion Visitation" was one of the three that Auxiliary Bishop Helmsing sent, in 1953, to all the priests in the St. Louis Diocese, along with reprints of an article from *The Priest* explaining why every parish should have a praesidium, and *The Homiletic and Pastoral Review's* "Men in the Legion."<sup>133</sup> In 1980, the persevering Fr. Kotter was still the spiritual director of his parish praesidium.<sup>134</sup>

An interesting strategy was developed in Louisville, Kentucky, where Mary Duffy started six praesidia in 1939.<sup>135</sup> An enterprising Legionary, Miss Fosskuhl, managed to convince

<sup>128</sup> Robert Bradshaw, *Frank Duff: Founder of the Legion of Mary* (Bay Shore, NY: Montfort Publications, 1985), 115. "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 3 (Dec. 1944): 22, noted the Legion's fifth anniversary in that city.

<sup>129</sup> Helmsing, "The Legion of Mary in the USA," 314. "LNQ," *ML* 2, no. 3 (Sept. 1939): 30, happily noted the election of an African-American as the first Treasurer.

<sup>130</sup> "Legion News: United States," *ML* 2, no. 8 (Christmas 1940): 33.

<sup>131</sup> "Legion News: United States," *ML* 2, no. 6 (June 1940): 31. Helmsing, "The Legion of Mary in the USA," 314.

<sup>132</sup> Francis J. Ripley, "From Ocean to Ocean," *ML* 6, no. 6 (June 1948): 4, states that after the 1947 Marian Congress in Ottawa, he visited the Cincinnati Comitium that has since been raised to a Senatus. O'Carroll (*Legion of Mary*), 221.

<sup>133</sup> "On Their Toes: St. Louis, Missouri," *ML* 9, no. 1 (March 1953): "American News Supplement," 1-2.

<sup>134</sup> "Some Pages from History: October, 1980 Issue," *ML*, no. 2 (May 2010): NAS, 8. Joann Mohr, "Double Anniversary," *ML*, no. 4 (Dec. 1996): NAS, 1; some priests served as Legion spiritual directors for the rest of their active ministry, such as Fr. Paul J. Brinker, who celebrated 50 years of Legion involvement in the Diocese of Covington, KY.

<sup>135</sup> Margot Starr, "Agnes Greenwell," *ML*, no. 4 (Nov. 2000): NAS, 4.

most of the religious communities in Louisville to enroll as adjutorian members, inspiring one Mother General there to send a letter to all one hundred of her U.S. convents, encouraging them to enroll as well.<sup>136</sup> With such prayer support, it is no surprise that the next year John Murray established a Curia in Louisville.<sup>137</sup> Those prayers might be the secret to the success of one of those original six praesidia which was still functioning in Louisville sixty-one years later.<sup>138</sup>

As early as 1940, stories about and by Cincinnati Legionaries began to appear regularly in *Maria Legionis*, perhaps because they had their own quarterly newsletter—"Marineews"—to distribute in visits to their auxiliaries.<sup>139</sup> In 1944, a Cincinnati Legionary wrote an article for the international magazine *Maria Legionis* about the first Catholic information booth at the Hamilton County Fair that had started at least by 1942.<sup>140</sup> By 1946, Cincinnati was a Comitium with Catholic information booths at the Carthage and Montgomery County Fairs. As an example of what those booths did that year, the Montgomery Fair booth in Dayton, Ohio, distributed over 5,000 pieces of Catholic literature and began the instructions for three non-Catholics.<sup>141</sup> This booth was such a success that it has been continued every year since, and many councils followed this example.<sup>142</sup>

<sup>136</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 2, no. 4 (Christmas 1939): 24. It was the Mother General of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth. "LNQ: United States," *ML* 2, no. 5 (March 1940): 28-29, names the other communities—Good Shepherd, Ursuline, Carmelite, and Mercy sisters.

<sup>137</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 4 (March 1945): 24-25. "LNQ: United States," *ML* 2, no. 5 (March 1940): 28.

<sup>138</sup> Margot Starr, "Agnes Greenwell," *ML*, no. 4 (Nov. 2000): NAS, 4.

<sup>139</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 6 (Sept. 1945): 26. Other articles included such items as "LNQ: United States," *ML* 2, no. 6 (June 1940): 30; "If Mary Were Better Known," *ML* 4, no. 6 (Sept. 1945): 18; "Exploit the Chance Contact—As the Legionary in This Story Did," *ML* 5, no. 4 (Dec. 1946): 8, about a Legionary from St. Louis on vacation in Cincinnati.

<sup>140</sup> Marie Frohmiller, "Visitors to a Booth," *ML* 4, no. 6 (Sept. 1944): 7. *ML* 4, no. 5 (June 1944): 20, photo; Helmsing, "The Legion of Mary in the USA," 317, another photo.

<sup>141</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 5, no. 3 (Sept. 1946): 16-17.

<sup>142</sup> "A Stroll through the Fair," *ML*, no. 2 (June 1996): NAS, 1. "Evangelization at Fairs in U.S.A.," *ML*, no. 1 (2003): NAS, 9.

The Cincinnati Senatus and the Chicago Senatus together contributed two of the first Incolae Mariae (i.e., “missionary” or “sojourner”).<sup>143</sup> In 1976, Ivy Tominec from Cleveland, Ohio, and Frances Conley from Minnesota became two of the four members of the first team of Incolae Mariae to Iceland. These young ladies lived together in a Legion community, worked full-time jobs, and evangelized under the guidance of Fr. Robert Bradshaw. Ivy went home after a year, but Frances served four years in this irreligious country.<sup>144</sup> Thus, the Legion of Mary’s spirituality fosters such a strong apostolic and generous impulse that the laity volunteer to evangelize in foreign countries.

The Cincinnati Senatus had produced Legion literature, innovative recruiting, new apostolates, and Incolae Mariae. By 2004, this Senatus governed the states of Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Tennessee, and all of Indiana except the Diocese of Gary.<sup>145</sup> However, Cincinnati is also famous for Frank Duff’s only visit to the USA.

### **The U.S. Visit of the Founder, Frank Duff (1956)**

Frank Duff’s trip to Dayton, Ohio, made 1956 a landmark year for the Legion of Mary in the United States. He came to accept the Marianist Award given by the University of Dayton on December 8, 1956, in recognition for his “outstanding service in America to the Immaculate Mother of God.”<sup>146</sup> Indeed, by that time the organization he had founded had done considerable service, because the Legion of Mary had grown in the USA to “about 3,500 praesidia with 42,000 active members

<sup>143</sup> *Handbook*, Chap. 40. “‘Go Preach the Gospel to the Whole Creation’ (Mt. 16:15),” Sect. 9. Incolae Mariae, 326.

<sup>144</sup> Bradshaw, *Frank Duff*, 116. Phyllis McGuinness, “Our Departed Legionaries: Frances M. Conley,” *ML*, no. 2 (June 1995): 31. Ivy Tominec, “Frances Conley, as I Knew Her,” *ML*, no. 2 (June 1995): NAS, 1. Ivy Tominec Monahan, “The Day I Met Frank Duff,” *ML*, no. 1 (Feb. 2010): NAS, 6-7, 14, tells of being an indoor sister at a Dublin hostel, but does not tell of her later Legionary work as an Incola. In 1996, Ivy was involved with the Miami Regia, *ML*, no. 2 (June 1996): NAS, 4.

<sup>145</sup> 2004 map.

<sup>146</sup> “Brother Frank Duff Receives Marian Award from Dayton University,” *ML* 10, no. 8 (Dec. 1956): NAS, I. (Also, see photos at end of this article, p. 85.)



working in one hundred and ten diocese."<sup>147</sup> Several hundred Legionaries who had traveled from all over the USA filled the University of Dayton's Immaculate Conception Chapel. Frank Duff's acceptance speech recognized a symbiotic relationship between the Legion and the Marianists: "The Legion of Mary is one of the beneficiaries of this knowledge and of the spirit that the Marianists have been striving to spread. . . . I testify to the degree of obligation of the Legion of Mary to the Congregation. It must be a consolation to the Fathers and Brothers to see the Legion of Mary spread out, representing a machinery for the propagating and broadcasting of their doctrine."<sup>148</sup> Apparently the admiration was mutual.

Frank Duff made the most of his American journey. He toured the Marian Library in Albert Emmanuel Hall on the Dayton campus. He met with Legionaries as much as possible before and after his speaking engagements, posing for numerous photographs. He addressed Legionaries wherever his planes stopped. In New York, he spoke before Bishop Joseph Flannelly, Auxiliary of New York, one hundred priests, and over a thousand Legionaries at Cathedral High School.<sup>149</sup> The day after receiving the Marianist Award, he spoke to the Dayton Curia and then traveled to Cincinnati to speak to several hundred Legionaries.<sup>150</sup> On his return journey, he addressed Legionaries in Baltimore from the Baltimore Senatus.<sup>151</sup> Mr. Duff must have been very tired on his plane ride home to Dublin.

This brief trip to the United States was the only time Frank Duff traveled outside of Europe. The Marianist Award was the only award that Frank Duff accepted in a ceremony.

<sup>147</sup> Helmsing, "The Legion of Mary in the USA," 306.

<sup>148</sup> "Brother Frank Duff Receives Marian Award from Dayton University," *ML* 10, no. 8 (Dec. 1956): NAS, I-II, identified the following cities: St. Louis, MO; Nashville, TN; Detroit, MI; Covington, KY; Hammond, IN; and the following cities in Ohio: Dayton, Elyria, Toledo, Columbus, Sidney, Cleveland, Springfield, Canton, and Akron.

<sup>149</sup> Frank Duff, "Everyone . . . must pour himself into another soul," *ML* 11, no. 1 (March 1957): 3-8.

<sup>150</sup> "Brother Frank Duff Receives Marian Award from Dayton University," *ML* 10, no. 8 (Dec. 1956): NAS, III.

<sup>151</sup> *Ibid.* Caption with a photo.

These exceptions show how Frank Duff appreciated the Marianists and valued the honor that was paid to him for the accomplishments of the many Legionaries in the United States and around the world.

### 7. *Miami Regia*

Mr. Duff was especially happy to see was how the Legion overcame tensions due to color or race.<sup>152</sup> These have been contentious issues in the USA, especially in the South. Although the Legion had at least one praesidium by 1939, in Savannah, Georgia, at its Cathedral, it seems to have been simply for whites.<sup>153</sup> In 1944, the Superior General of the Josephite Fathers, whose ministry is specifically to African-Americans, encouraged all of his priests to have the Legion of Mary.<sup>154</sup> By 1944, John Murray had started both white and African-American branches in South Carolina.<sup>155</sup> In 1945, the first praesidium in Florida was set up with African-Americans at St. Augustine's Church in Jacksonville.<sup>156</sup> Although the praesidia seem to have been segregated, the praesidium officers attending the monthly council meetings would have had to pray and to work together. Within a meeting, active members even address each other as "Brother x" or "Sister y," thereby consciously building a spirit of fraternity with Mary as our common spiritual mother.<sup>157</sup>

By 1958, when the first praesidium in Miami itself had been set up, color and race were not often noted in *Maria Legionis*.<sup>158</sup> Instead, the Spanish language came to attention. In January of 1961, the Miami council was elevated to a Curia.

<sup>152</sup> Kennedy, *Frank Duff*, 130-132.

<sup>153</sup> "Monsignor Daniel J. Bourke R.I.P., Spiritual Director, Savannah Curia," *ML*, no. 1 (Jan. 1999): NAS, 3.

<sup>154</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 6 (Sept. 1944): 21.

<sup>155</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 6 (Sept. 1944): 21.

<sup>156</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 5 (June 1945): 24.

<sup>157</sup> *Handbook*, Chap. 13. "Membership" (15), 83.

<sup>158</sup> "Some Pages from History: October, 1980 Issue," *ML*, no. 2 (May 2010): NAS, 8-9, 20th anniversary celebration, notes that the founder of that group was Ms. Fimiani who later served as the Regia President in 1980.

Given the political situation of 1962, at that time all of their Spanish-speaking praesidia consisted of Cuban members<sup>159</sup>; the Curia became a Comitium sometime between March 1965 and 1968.<sup>160</sup> The Comitium was then raised to a Regia by 1970.<sup>161</sup>

Like other councils before, the Miami council inspired one of its members, Dick Soulliere, to volunteer as an Envoy for the Concilium from 1968 to 1971. With the many Spanish-speaking praesidia in the Miami territory, it is logical that his assignment was Mexico.<sup>162</sup> However, unlike the other American Envoys, when he returned to the United States, Mr. Soulliere entered the seminary. Now Fr. Richard Soulliere is a retired priest who still serves as the spiritual director for the Miami Regia.<sup>163</sup>

The Miami Regia is notable also for two ecclesial images in its territory—a side altar and a stained glass window. When Ethel Clay Price died, her bereaved Baptist husband, Julian, gathered the funds to build Our Lady of Grace church in Greensboro, North Carolina, as her memorial in 1952; a side altar evokes Ethel's Marian devotion with the Legion of Mary image from its prayercard, the Tessera.<sup>164</sup> Msgr. Patrick Cunningham was a Legion spiritual director for fifty-nine years,

<sup>159</sup> "Miami Developments," *ML* 14, no. 3 (Sept. 1962): NAS, IV.

<sup>160</sup> "Global Gleanings: U.S.A.: Miami," *ML* 15, no. 5 (no. 1 of [March] 1965): 26, names the Miami Curia's president.

<sup>161</sup> "Here and There: Miami, Florida," *ML* 19, no. 1 (1970): NAS, IV.

<sup>162</sup> "Eighty Years and Still New Horizons: Part 3 from 7th September 1961 to 6th September, 1981," *ML*, no. 4 (Nov. 2001): 11. "Legion Envoys around the World," *ML*, no. 2 (May 2012): 39 (with photo).

<sup>163</sup> Miami Regia, "Allocutiones," identified Fr. Soulliere as the spiritual director even in May, 2012, <http://www.legionofmarymiamiregia.com/ALLOCUTIONES.html>.

<sup>164</sup> "Parish History," Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro, NC, <http://www.olgchurch.org/history.html>, May 17, 2012. A photo of the side altar as it was prior to 1958, *The Capuchin Annual, 1956-7*, 315. "Thirty Pages of Legion Pictures," in *Capuchin Annual: 1956-7*, 320, has a photo of "Members of Immaculate Heart praesidium, Greensboro, North Carolina, U.S.A., distributing Catholic literature to patients in Guildford County Home." On p. 340, see photo with caption: "Legionaries attend first Mass for coloured people at Greensboro, North Carolina, U.S.A. The Mass was celebrated in the home of a non-Catholic, since converted, and now president of a praesidium for converts in the parish."



from 1942 until his death in 2002<sup>165</sup>; in 1995, when St. Mary parish of Fort Walton Beach built a new church, the old church was renovated into the Legion of Mary Center that has a chapel with a beautiful stained glass window portraying the Tesserà.<sup>166</sup> These church adornments are enduring testaments to the influence of the Legion of Mary on the Catholic Church in America.

By the year 2004, the Miami Regia governed the states of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, and Mississippi.<sup>167</sup> Its subsidiary councils included a Haitian Curia and a Spanish Comitium.<sup>168</sup> This council reflected the truly international character of the area and of the Legion of Mary's ability to include and to empower a diverse laity to work together.

### **8. Houston Regia**

From the very first American praesidium in Raton, the Legion spread throughout New Mexico and the surrounding states, often by way of Spanish-speaking groups.<sup>169</sup> In Texas, the first praesidium was set up in 1932.<sup>170</sup> Houston's first praesidium was established in 1938.<sup>171</sup> In 1945, John Murray set up Curiae in Houston and Austin; the Houston Curia started with ten praesidia, including two Mexican praesidia.<sup>172</sup> Houston's Curia was elevated to a Comitium in 1955.<sup>173</sup> Houston's council was elevated to a Regia in January 1995, governing

<sup>165</sup> Jeannette Hood, "Monsignor Patrick Cunningham, 1914-2002," *ML*, no. 2 (May 2003): NAS, 2.

<sup>166</sup> "The Many Homes of Mary: Legion Center, Fort Walton Beach, FL," *ML*, no. 3 (Aug. 2003): 2-3.

<sup>167</sup> 2004 map. "FLW: U.S.A.," *ML*, no. 2 (May 2000): 18.

<sup>168</sup> "FLW: U.S.A.," *ML*, no. 2 (May 2000): 18, for the Haitian. "FLW: U.S.A.," *ML*, no. 4 (Nov. 1999): 22, for the Spanish.

<sup>169</sup> "More LNQ: United States," *ML* 2, no. 1 (March 1939): 23, e.g., a praesidium at Willard, NM.

<sup>170</sup> Mary Bourgeois, "60th Anniversary Conference," [reprinted from *The Texas Catholic Herald*], in *ML*, no. 4 (Dec. 1992): NAS, 2.

<sup>171</sup> M.A. Parsons, "Mary's Mantle over Texas," *ML* 11, no. 1 (March 1957): 20-21.

<sup>172</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 6 (Sept. 1945): 26. "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 7 (Dec. 1945): 26.

<sup>173</sup> "Texas Advances," *ML* 10, no. 3 (Sept. 1955): NAS, IV, with photo.

Texas, Louisiana and New Mexico, as it does to this day.<sup>174</sup> As an example of the diversity within the Legion, the Houston Regia governs the Dallas Comitium that at the turn of the millennium had eleven Curiae, including Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese and Hispanic Curiae.<sup>175</sup>

The Legion in this territory owes much to the Irish Envoys who reached out to all Catholics. By 1939, Una O'Byrne was extending the Legion into Louisiana as well as Texas. She started praesidia in Shreveport for "coloured" people and Natchitoches for both whites and "Mulattoes."<sup>176</sup> The same year she formed two branches in Baton Rouge,<sup>177</sup> as well as the first praesidium in New Orleans.<sup>178</sup> By 1944, there were praesidia in Lafayette, Louisiana, as well as one for an African-American seminary run by the Divine Word Fathers.<sup>179</sup> These groups multiplied so quickly that, by 1945, John Murray helped to set up the New Orleans Curia.<sup>180</sup>

One of the Houston Regia's unique contributions is the annual Holy Spirit Conference that started in 1998. This event is an annual reflection on the *Peregrinatio Pro Christos* held around the country throughout the past year. Abbreviated as "PPC," this type of door-to-door evangelization project is organized by a council in a place distant from the council, but open to all active members anywhere to volunteer for a week or two straight. Many members sacrifice their vacation time to participate, and clearly like to discuss it later. The Holy Spirit Conference remains very popular to this day, attracting hundreds of people, some of whom travel thousands of miles to attend.<sup>181</sup>

<sup>174</sup> "FLW: U.S.A.," *ML*, no. 1 (March 1996): 15; 2004 map.

<sup>175</sup> "FLW: U.S.A.," *ML*, no. 3 (Aug. 2000): 14-15.

<sup>176</sup> "More LNQ: United States," *ML* 2, no. 1 (March 1939): 23. "Legion News," *ML* 2, no. 8 (Christmas 1940): 28, featured a photo of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament praesidium in "Shreveport," with their spiritual director/pastor, Fr. John M. Lundergan, C.S.Sp., and Fr. Joseph Baumgartner, C.S.Sp., assistant pastor.

<sup>177</sup> "More LNQ: United States," *ML* 2, no. 2 (June 1939): 28.

<sup>178</sup> "News from All Quarters: U.S.A.: New Orleans," *ML* 5, no. 4 (Dec. 1947): 18. "LNQ," *ML* 2, no. 5 (March 1940): 27, photo of African-American Legionaries, New Orleans.

<sup>179</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 3 (Dec. 1944): 22.

<sup>180</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 6 (Sept. 1945): 25-26.

<sup>181</sup> "Houston Regia Holy Spirit Conference," *ML*, no. 1 (Feb. 2004): NAS, 4-5.

### **9. Boston Senatus**

Far away from Houston is Boston where the Envoys might have felt a little more at home. Judging from his actions, Cardinal O'Connell could have had an inherited affinity for this Irish-born organization. In 1934, Mary Duffy's letter to Cardinal O'Connell prompted such great interest and support that he helped her in organizing it throughout the Boston Archdiocese; he rarely missed an Acies ceremony over the following twelve years.<sup>182</sup> With such episcopal support, the Boston Curia formed in 1938, with about forty praesidia.<sup>183</sup> Apparently not content with this, Cardinal O'Connell urged his priests at their fall 1939 gathering to have the Legion of Mary in every parish.<sup>184</sup> This encouragement probably helped Boston to become a Comitium by 1945, supervising four Curiae by 1946.<sup>185</sup> In 1960, the Boston Comitium celebrated its 25th Jubilee with a televised Mass.<sup>186</sup> The Boston Comitium was elevated to a Senatus on December 14, 1969, with Cardinal Cushing preaching at that celebratory Mass.<sup>187</sup> By 2004, the Boston Senatus governed the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont.<sup>188</sup>

One of Boston's unusual Legion works is the Sancta Maria House. Started in 1979, this overnight shelter for women in Boston is modeled on the Sancta Maria Hostel in Dublin. Like other shelters, the Legionary volunteers staff this house that provides a safe place for women to sleep and a hot breakfast in the morning. Unlike some shelters, the Legionaries also take the time to listen to the women, make free religious literature available, are willing to pray with the women and refer them to a church or priest as needed. One way that the Legionaries know that this work is being done in the right Marian spirit

<sup>182</sup> Duffy, "Twelve Fruitful Years," 3.

<sup>183</sup> Hallack, *Legion of Mary*, 105.

<sup>184</sup> "More LNQ: United States," *ML* 2, no. 1 (March 1939): 23.

<sup>185</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 4 (March 1945): 25. "LNQ: United States," *ML* 5, no. 2 (June 1946): 14.

<sup>186</sup> "Jubilee Celebrations Televised in Boston," *ML* 13, no. 5 (March 1961): 27-28.

<sup>187</sup> "Global Gleanings: U.S.A.: Boston," *ML* 19, no. 2 (1970): 19.

<sup>188</sup> 2004 map.



was a tribute given by one of their clients describing Sancta Maria House as “a kind, gentle place in a hard, hard world.”<sup>189</sup>

### **10. Philadelphia Senatus**

Although it is not clear when the first praesidium was established in Pennsylvania, it seems to have been sometime during World War II. By 1946, Bishop Hafey of Scranton was sufficiently impressed to want the Legion of Mary in every parish in his diocese. Spurred on by their bishop, the Scranton Curia formed two more Curiae that year.<sup>190</sup> The Archdiocese of Philadelphia lagged behind with its first praesidium only in 1956. The Curia established in 1957 was raised to a Comitium in 1962.<sup>191</sup> Only two years later, the Comitium was transformed into a Senatus on February 9, 1964, with a celebration attended by two bishops, 50 spiritual directors, and over 700 Legionaries of the 1,481 active members at that time.<sup>192</sup> By 2004, this Senatus governed Pennsylvania, Delaware, and southern New Jersey.

The fine spiritual directors in Philadelphia are notable for their Legionary publications and pioneering spirit as well as their lifelong service. Msgr. Thomas B. Falls was a spiritual director of the Philadelphia councils from 1961 until his death in 2004; a Patristic scholar by day, Msgr. Falls shared his writing talent by writing booklets for the Legion of Mary.<sup>193</sup> First as Msgr. Falls’ assistant and later his successor as Spiritual Director of the Senatus, Fr. Francis Lendacky has been providing articles on many timely topics frequently featured

<sup>189</sup> Sancta Maria House, Boston, RLINK “<http://www.sanctamariahhouse.com>” [www.sanctamariahhouse.com](http://www.sanctamariahhouse.com). They even have a link to accept donations.

<sup>190</sup> “LNQ: United States,” *ML* 5, no. 2 (June 1946): 16.

<sup>191</sup> “FLW: North America: Philadelphia,” *ML*, no. 4 (Nov. 2006): 28.

<sup>192</sup> Mary Peffley, “The Torch Is Passed On,” *ML* 15, no. 2 (June 1964): 18-19, notes February 9 as the date.

<sup>193</sup> Patrick Brady, “Death of a Legend,” *ML*, no. 2 (May 2004): NAS, 12-13. Msgr. Falls’ writings included: *The Spiritual Director in the Legion of Mary*; *Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces*; and *Legion of Mary, School for Saints*. “Eighty Years and Still New Horizons: Part 3, from 7th September 1961 to 6th September, 1981,” *ML*, no. 4 (Nov. 2001): 11, noted how he had brought 150 Legionaries from Philadelphia to the Concilium meeting in 1971.

in *Maria Legionis*.<sup>194</sup> Msgr. Albert V. Norrell, "Philadelphia's only priest ordained by Pope John Paul II and the first African-American monsignor," had started his Legion career as a layman, serving in the late 1950s as the treasurer of the newly-created Philadelphia Curia. As a permanent deacon in 1982, Al was sent to study for the priesthood in Rome. When visiting the Concilium in Dublin, Al was suddenly hospitalized with pain, only to learn that he had an advanced case of cancer. Cured when Frank Duff touched him with a relic of the True Cross, Al lived to be eighty-six. As a priest, Fr. Norrell remained an enthusiastic Legion spiritual director until his death on March 25, 2009, the feast of the Annunciation and the Legion's greatest annual event of the Acies.<sup>195</sup>

While the Legion of Mary helped Al Norrell, Dick Soulierre, and many others discern their vocation to religious life, the Legion also helped others discern their vocations to single life or to matrimony.<sup>196</sup> Mary Phelps had been the president of the Curia in South Bend, Indiana, and the secretary of Msgr. Fulton Sheen in Washington, D.C., before she traveled to Dublin where she accepted Frank Duff's suggestion to become an extension worker in Pennsylvania.<sup>197</sup> Mary was the president of the new Philadelphia Curia by 1955.<sup>198</sup> She married the Curia vice-president, Bill Peffley, on the feast of Mary's Nativity, September 8, 1958, and they named their three children after their Legionary heroes. Edel, named for Edel Quinn, was the president of the

<sup>194</sup> "Concilium Spiritual Director in Philadelphia," *ML*, no. 1 (Jan. 1999): NAS, 1. Fr. Lendacky's article, "Legionary Courage," *ML*, no. 3 (July 1998): 6-7, named his position as assistant spiritual director at that point. Examples of his numerous contributions include: "Litanies of the Legion," *ML*, no. 1 (April 1999): NAS, 4-5, and "The Tessera-Prayer Card of the Legion," *ML* (May 2004): NAS, 2-3, 10.

<sup>195</sup> "Monsignor Albert V. Norrell, III R.I.P.: An Acies in Heaven," *ML*, no. 3 (Aug. 2009): NAS, 1, 15.

<sup>196</sup> "More LNQ: United States," *ML* 2, no. 2 (June 1939): 29, the president and vice-president of a praesidium in Wheeling, WV. This trend continues as noted in Albert Lesperance, "Many Marriages, Many Cultures," *ML*, no. 2 (May 2003): NAS, 1, commenting on two marriages and one religious vocation from just one praesidium in two years.

<sup>197</sup> Bradshaw, 116. "News from all Quarters: United States," *ML* 10, no. 4 (Dec. 1955): 22-23.

<sup>198</sup> "News from all Quarters: United States," *ML* 10, no. 4 (Dec. 1955): 22-23.

Philadelphia Senatus when she married Steve Lukens, the Senatus treasurer on the anniversary of Edel Quinn's death, May 12, 2000; they honeymooned in Dublin, as Edel's parents had, to study the Legion.<sup>199</sup> Son Francis, named for Frank Duff, became a priest and spiritual director for the Arlington Regia. Daughter Natia, named for Fr. Ignatius Szal, the priest who had witnessed Bill and Mary's vows, also married a fellow Legionary, Greg Meehan, on September 8, 1990.<sup>200</sup> Bill and Mary Peffley are authors in their own right as well; Mary wrote a short life of Edel Quinn and Bill Peffley wrote *The Legion Song Book*, with a few original compositions but mostly parodies that range from uplifting to amusing.<sup>201</sup> They both have contributed articles for the worldwide *Maria Legionis* as well as the North American Supplement, even before Bill became the editor of the American pages.<sup>202</sup>

In 1979, Msgr. Charles Moss led a group from the Philadelphia Senatus, including Bill, Edel, and Francis Peffley, to Ireland to record the only formal videos of the Legion's founder, Frank Duff, age ninety at that point. Frank's recollections of the Legion's history were published as the book<sup>203</sup>; DVDs of the amateur videos are still a valuable resource to the world, thanks to the Philadelphia Senatus.

This trip to Ireland also prompted the Concilium, in 1980, to delegate to the Philadelphia Senatus the duty of publishing *Maria Legionis* and its North American supplement for the

<sup>199</sup> Mary Frances McCarthy, "Legion of Mary Leads to Weddings for Peffley Family," *Arlington Catholic Herald*, 2/12/04, as presented in "About Us," The Catholic Shop, thecatholicshop.com, May 17, 2012. "A Very Legion Wedding," *ML*, no. 2 (May 2001): NAS, 7. Edel Peffley, "Our Lady's Call to Youth," *ML*, no. 2 (June 1992): 7-10.

<sup>200</sup> McCarthy, "Legion of Mary Leads to Weddings."

<sup>201</sup> Bill Peffley, "A Legion Song Book," *ML* 13, no. 8 (Dec. 1961): 19-22. Bill Peffley, *A Legion of Mary Song Book* (Bay Shore, NY: Montfort Publications, n.d.). Mary Peffley, *Woman of Faith: The Life of Edel Quinn* (New Hope, KY: New Hope Publications, 2000).

<sup>202</sup> Mary and Bill Peffley, "Bringing Our Lady to the Mentally Ill," *ML* 13, no. 4 (Dec. 1960): 19-21.

<sup>203</sup> *Frank Duff: A Living Autobiography*, ed. Charles T. Moss (Philadelphia: Maria Legionis, 1983), has been republished as *Frank Duff: In His Own Words: The Dublin Interviews* (Philadelphia: Maria Legionis, n.d.).



U.S. and Canada.<sup>204</sup> Bill Peffley has been its editor ever since.<sup>205</sup> However, his favorite legacy is his children who continue to build the Legion in both Pennsylvania and Virginia.

### **11. Arlington Regia**

While 1940 was the year the first praesidium in Virginia was established, which one was the first is unclear, since two claim that title. John Murray apparently thought that he was starting the first praesidium in Virginia at Richmond.<sup>206</sup> But, in 1960, St. Mary's historic church in Alexandria, Virginia, celebrated its twentieth anniversary and claimed to be the site of the first praesidium.<sup>207</sup> Regardless of this confusion, the first meeting of the Arlington Curia was held in 1947. In October 1987, the Arlington council was raised to a Comitium.<sup>208</sup> In November of 1991, the Arlington Comitium was upgraded to Arlington Regia.<sup>209</sup> By 2004, this Regia governed Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Washington, D.C., and all of Maryland except for the Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware.<sup>210</sup>

The rise of the Arlington council brought to light the downgrading of Baltimore's from a Senatus. This lowering was the only example found in this research of a council of this rank being lowered and, therefore, deserves some comment. Both

<sup>204</sup> "Thoughts from Our New General Manager," *ML*, no. 1 (Feb. 2010): NAS, 8. Francis Lendacky, "The Legion and Its Magazine," *ML*, no. 2 (May 2010): NAS, 2, explains the North American Edition.

<sup>205</sup> Don Taggart, "Thoughts from Our New General Manager," *ML*, no. 1 (Feb. 2010): NAS, 8, describes how the North American Edition came to be, including how Walter Brown and Bill Peffley were co-founders of the NAS edition of the *ML*. A photograph of Walter Brown (R.I.P.) appears in Fr. Lendacky's "The Legion and Its Magazine," *ML*, no. 2 (May-July 2010): NAS, 6.

<sup>206</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 2, no. 6 (June 1940): 30.

<sup>207</sup> Photo with caption, *ML* 13, no. 3 (Sept. 1960): NAS, V. The specific dates each one was started were not given.

<sup>208</sup> Personal communication to the author, April 19, 2012, from Alfred Lesperance, President of the Arlington Comitium from November 1991 to 1997. Jan Clark assumed the presidency in 1997. Lesperance thought that the records for the Legion at St. Mary's have been lost.

<sup>209</sup> Cybele P. Vinet, "New Regia Established," *ML*, no. 3 (Sept. 1992): NAS, 4, to govern all of Virginia and North Carolina.

<sup>210</sup> 2004 map.

Baltimore and Washington rank as higher episcopal sees than Arlington, and the Legion's structure normally respects the ecclesial ordering. John Murray started the praesidia in Baltimore in 1943 and in Washington, D.C., in 1944—organizing Curiae in both cities by 1944.<sup>211</sup> Baltimore's council rose through the ranks to become a Senatus in 1951, with its inaugural meeting attended by twenty-five spiritual directors and about two hundred Legionaries.<sup>212</sup> However, in 1956, when Frank Duff stopped in Baltimore on his way back to Dublin from Dayton, the accounts merely mentioned his visit with the officers rather than an address to a group, as he had done in New York, Dayton, and Cincinnati.<sup>213</sup> From 1951 to 1980, the Arlington Curia reported to the Baltimore Senatus. But in 1980, the Arlington Curia began reporting directly to the Concilium when the Baltimore Senatus was downgraded to a Curia or a Comitium for unknown reasons.<sup>214</sup> In 2000, the Arlington Regia agreed to the Concilium's surprising request to accept jurisdiction over Maryland, Washington, D.C., and parts of West Virginia.<sup>215</sup>

The secret to Arlington's success had begun only shortly after Baltimore's collapse. One reason for Arlington's growth was Francis ("Fran") Peffley from the Philadelphia Senatus. In 1982, when Fran went to Christendom College in Front Royal,

<sup>211</sup> "LNQ: United States," *ML* 4, no. 5 (June 1944): 22. "FLW: United States," *ML*, no. 2 (June 1994): 17, notes the 50th anniversary (1993) of the Baltimore Legion. This is a personal remembrance of the author, who served as an officer of the Montgomery County Curia starting in 1987 and almost continuously until 2005. Fr. Charles Gorman, the first spiritual director of the Washington, D.C., Curia, remained a spiritual director of the Legion of Mary until his death in 1995, guiding praesidia in the Archdiocese of Washington and also in South America, where he served as a missionary for some years (Archdiocese of Washington necrology, November 20, 1995). "News from All Quarters: U.S.A.: Washington, D.C.," *ML* 5, no. 4 (Dec. 1947): 18, noted that Fr. Gorman recruited new members, including one he converted.

<sup>212</sup> "News from All Quarters: U.S.A.," *ML* 8, no. 2 (June 1951): 21, with photo.

<sup>213</sup> "Brother Frank Duff Receives Marian Award from Dayton University," *ML* 10, no. 8 (Dec. 1956): NAS, III (photo with caption).

<sup>214</sup> Lesperance, April 19, 2012 (see n. 208).

<sup>215</sup> "Legion's 80th Anniversary—Visit to Arlington Regia, U.S.A.," *ML*, no. 4 (Nov. 2001): 30.

Virginia, he had organized a praesidium that produced full-time Legionary volunteers and future spiritual directors.<sup>216</sup> Like Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, California, Christendom is a lay-run college where the Legion is part of a truly post-Vatican II renewal.<sup>217</sup> Fran and his younger sister, Natia, recruited and trained their fellow students so that within ten years of starting the first praesidium, forty Christendom alumni were active Legionaries in their parishes around the country; four became council officers, and four became extension workers (e.g., Katharine O'Brien went to Louisiana and Michelle Guettler to Delaware).<sup>218</sup> Cybele Vinet became an Incola Mariae in Iceland.<sup>219</sup> Michael Bliss is just one example of a Christendom alumnus who became a priest and Legion spiritual director; he still guides the Peoria Curia that was formed in 1998.<sup>220</sup> Fran himself became a priest of the Diocese of Arlington, founding and directing many praesidia and Legion councils, and eventually becoming the spiritual director of the Arlington Regia, as he is to this day.<sup>221</sup> As Bishop Charles H. Helmsing had noted in 1957, "While the national average for adult converts is three per parish priest, two hard-working priests in one such parish in St. Louis, Holy Guardian Angels,

<sup>216</sup> Edel Peffley, "Our Lady's Call to Youth," *ML*, no. 2 (June 1992): 7-10. With the college in its boundaries, the Arlington Diocese has benefitted with many priestly vocations. Two examples are: Fr. Stephen McGraw, "Bolivia: Spiritual Campaign of Virginia PPC," *ML*, no. 2 (May 2007): NAS, 2-4; Fr. Matthew Zuberbueller, mentioned in Barbara Sharp, "Summer Pilgrimage," *ML*, no. 2 (May 2009): NAS, 4.

<sup>217</sup> Eileen O'Brien, "Auxiliary Function at TAC," *ML*, no. 3 (Aug. 2000): NAS, 1, noted 28 active and 45 auxiliary members at Thomas Aquinas College.

<sup>218</sup> Edel Peffley, "Our Lady's Call to Youth," *ML*, no. 2 (June 1992): 7-10. This author was one of those 40 alumni.

<sup>219</sup> "Incola: 'The Real Thing,'" *ML*, no. 1 (Feb. 2002): NAS, 6-7. "A Legion of Mary Volunteer in Reykjavik, Iceland," in *Legio Mariae*, ed. Chicago Regional Senatus (New Hope, KY: St. Martin de Porres Dominican Community, 1990), 31-32.

<sup>220</sup> "From Far and Near," *ML*, no. 3 (Sept. 1997): 28, with photo. "Anniversary Walk," *ML*, no. 1 (Feb. 2004): NAS, 11. "Peoria Retreat," *ML*, no. 3 (Aug. 2009): NAS, 12, noted that Mike had become a monsignor by 2009, as he is pictured with Fr. Francis Peffley of the Arlington Regia.

<sup>221</sup> Eamon McCarthy, "Visiting America: Promoting the Cause of the Servant of God Frank Duff," *ML*, no. 1 (Feb. 2005): 29.



aided by a praesidium of zealous Legionaries, last year instructed and baptized 80 converts, an average of 40 per priest."<sup>222</sup> Like those earlier priests, Fr. Peffley knows how to use the Legion to full advantage and has about the same number of converts a year. Filled with Legionary enthusiasm, Fr. Peffley travels to encourage Legionaries around the USA with his inspiring and informative talks, often followed by a display of juggling.<sup>223</sup> He has written articles about the Legion for Catholic journals and *Maria Legionis*.<sup>224</sup> He was even featured on a "Mother Angelica Live" television program for the EWTN network.<sup>225</sup> Fr. Peffley lives the Legion like Fr. Donovan had done so many years ago.

Governing Washington, D.C., the Arlington Regia is blessed to have Legion images in the most famous church within its territory—the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. In 1957, Fr. Eamon R. Carroll, O.Carm., of happy memory in the MSA, became a member of the Shrine's Iconography Committee.<sup>226</sup> With his approval, and likely Fr. Roger Charest's involvement, the Legion of Mary is represented in the chapel dedicated to Mary, Queen of All Hearts, donated by the Montfort Missionaries and completed in 1965.<sup>227</sup> Its altarpiece shows men, women, and children carrying a Legion banner and vexillum. Later, Fr. Carroll and Fr. Frederick Jelly, O.P., also an MSA member of happy memory, were part of the Iconography Committee that carefully chose the images for the Oratory of Our Lady, Queen of Ireland.<sup>228</sup> The Legion of Mary again made an appearance in the alabaster window that pictured a

<sup>222</sup> Charles H. Helmsing, "The Legion of Mary Storms the USA," 34.

<sup>223</sup> Merle Ann Koenig, "A Legion Evening," *ML*, no. 1 (Feb. 2003): NAS, 11, tells of his 2002 visit to the Cincinnati Senatus.

<sup>224</sup> Francis Peffley, "The Legion of Mary as a Pastoral Tool: A Spiritual Director Speaks to His Fellow Priests," *ML*, no. 1 (Feb. 2002): 10-13, 26-28.

<sup>225</sup> "The Legion on EWTN Television," *ML*, no. 2 (May 2001): NAS, 7; Raymond Arroyo was the host.

<sup>226</sup> Gregory W. Tucker, *America's Church: The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception* (Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 2000), 144.

<sup>227</sup> Tucker, *America's Church*, 176.

<sup>228</sup> Tucker, *America's Church*, 231-32.

procession with Legionaries carrying their banner.<sup>229</sup> It is indeed most fitting that the National Shrine bears these symbols that represent the Legion membership of so many American Catholics to this day.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the Legion of Mary has a rich history of fostering its Marian devotion in the United States, from its small start in Raton, New Mexico, to the present day. From simple beginnings, in 1931, with Fr. Donovan's inspiration, B. P. Oliver's financial support brought four Irish Envoys—Celia Shaw, Mary Duffy, John Murray, and Una O'Bryne—to spread the Legion all over the United States. From just one Senatus in 1946, the Legion of Mary has grown to eleven councils to govern the Legion of Mary in the United States by 2004.

This brief overview gives only the slightest hints of the Legion of Mary's role in forming lay apostles in the United States. Spreading St. Louis Marie de Montfort's *True Devotion to Mary* and prompting the laity to evangelize, the Legion has inspired many lay Americans to find and to live their universal call to holiness and apostolic mission, as well as their individual vocations to the priesthood, religious life, the single life, or matrimony. The Legion of Mary has been and still is teaching members and those served to receive God's grace through Our Lady, Mediatrix of All Graces. So much more information is available than this paper could treat! Time and missing information may have limited this presentation, but eternity will remove these obstacles. Hopefully, we may all continue to hear "the rest of the story" when, "the battle of life over— / Our Legion may reassemble, / Without the loss of any one, / In the kingdom of [Christ's] love and glory. Amen."<sup>230</sup>

<sup>229</sup> Personal observation of the author, of the Mary, Queen of Ireland chapel on the Upper Church, as shown on the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, [http://www.nationalshrine.com/site/c.osjRKVPBjH/b.4953557/k.7180/Upper\\_Church\\_Floor\\_Plan.htm](http://www.nationalshrine.com/site/c.osjRKVPBjH/b.4953557/k.7180/Upper_Church_Floor_Plan.htm).

<sup>230</sup> *Handbook*, Chap. 22, "The Prayers of the Legion," 135, quoting part of the Concluding Prayers of the Legion of Mary said at every meeting.

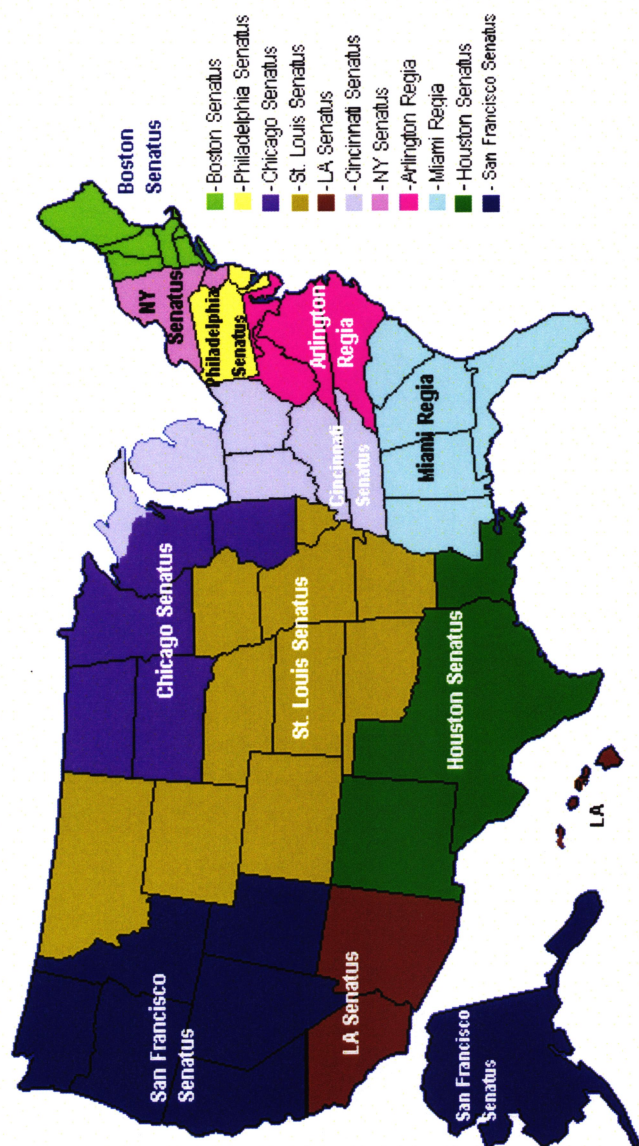


Image 1. Map of Legion of Mary in the USA





Image 2. Presentation of the Marianist Award to Frank Duff (Dec. 8, 1956)  
(left to right: Fr. Kobe, S.M.; Fr. Elbert, S.M.; Fr. Hoelle, S.M.; Frank Duff)



Image 3. Frank Duff visiting the Marian Library (Dec. 1956)  
(left to right: Fr. Philip Hoelle, S.M.; Frank Duff; Fr. Edwin Leimkuhler, S.M.)