



Mary's Notebook

June 2008

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Arlington Regia Retreat

The Arlington Regia will be holding a retreat at Mount Zion Retreat from October 17 - 19 of this year. All Legionaries are encouraged to attend a retreat ever year, such as this one. [CC p.2]

Prayers Needed

Prayer is, among other things, a school for hope. In a sense, even when no one listens to a person's needs, God still listens. If you or someone you care about are in need of prayers, e-mail Webmaster@legionofmarytidewater.com - we'll add you to our prayer list. [CC p.2]

Heroic Action Must be the Norm

In an attempt to extend the Legion of Mary in a new parish, Alfie Lambe visited a parish ten miles from where he was staying and asked the priest if it would be ok to start the Legion. The priest said he had no interest in the Legion at his parish. Alfie asked if he could come back the next day, and the priest said yes, but that there is no point in it because the priest had no interest in the Legion. Alfie proceeded to bike back the 10 miles in the rain to where he was staying, and then came back to visit the next day. [CC p.3]

Divine Mysteries: The Media

Taken From MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER BENEDICT XVI 42nd WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY - Sunday

1. The theme of this year's World Communications Day – “The Media: At the Crossroads between Self-Promotion and Service. Searching for the Truth in order to Share it with Others” – sheds light on the important role of the media in the life of individuals and society. Truly, there is no area of human experience, especially given the vast phenomenon of globalization, in which the media have not become an integral part of interpersonal relations and of social, economic, political and religious development. As I said in my Message for this year's World Day of Peace (1 January 2008): “The social communications media, in particular, because of their educational potential, have a special responsibility for promoting respect for the family, making clear its expectations and rights, and presenting all its beauty” (No. 5). [CC p.4]

News and Events

Mount Zion Retreat

The Mount Zion Retreat will be held 17 - 19 Oct 2008. This message is a reminder for those interested in attending:

1. A deposit of \$25 is due by 15 July 2008.
2. The cost for full weekend is \$160, for commuter weekend is \$110, and for Saturday Only is \$65. HOWEVER a \$10 discount is available for those who pay in full by 30 JUNE 2008. This means the cost for full weekend will be \$150, \$100 for commuter weekend, and \$55 for Saturday only.

Please mail the reservation form and payment to:

Trudy Carder
Arlington Regia, Legion of Mary
820 Gibbon St., #203
Alexandria, VA 22314

If you need a form, please contact
webmaster@legionofmarytidewater.com

Please Pray For:

PPC veteran and member of the Potomac Curia, Lenett Moore is ill. Please keep her in your prayers

Please pray for Mary Lesperance, a long time legionary and wife of Frenchy Lesperance, fell and injured her hip.

Please join in the Pope's prayer intentions for June 2008:

- **Friendship with Christ.** That all Christians may cultivate a deep and personal friendship with Christ so to communicate the strength of his love to every person they meet.
- **International Eucharist Congress.** That the International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec may lead to greater understanding that the Eucharist is the heart of the Church and the source of evangelization.

Regia Meeting Time

The Arlington Regia will continue to hold meetings starting at 2:00 p.m. in the Diocesan Center Conference Room.

Solicitation for Articles

Just a reminder that article solicitations, letters to the editor, news and events, etc are always welcome. Praesidia and councils who wish to help spread the news about events, activities, etc. are always welcome to write articles or inform us of news that may be of interests to readers. Please submit any stories or news to
webmaster@legionofmarytidewater.com.

Handbook Study

Heroic Action Must be the Norm

When Alfie arrived at the priest's door the next day, he was invited to enter. The priest then said he wanted the Legion of Mary in his parish, saying

You came out here yesterday in the slush and the rain and then you went the ten miles of road in the rain back to Killarney [where Alfie was staying] and you promised to return here today. The communists work hard, but you people certainly do too. I have been thinking about this during the night and I have decided to start two praesidia in the parish.

Although dedication like this is truly heroic, the more one learns about the life of Alfie Lambe, the more one realizes that this dedication is not extraordinary for Alfie Lambe, but that it is his normal way of evangelizing and of spreading the Legion.

The Legion of Mary Handbook asks the question, "*What effort shall a man make for the salvation of his neighbor?*"

The Handbook answers the question saying, "*Assuredly, it must be a supreme effort - even to the peril of death, were such necessary.*"

When put into the perspective of the willingness to sacrifice one's life for one's fellow man, the decision to drive 20 miles in the rain sounds ... well ... normal. Indeed, the example we take from Alfie Lambe's life must not be that his life was extraordinary for a Legionary, but that every Legionary should strive to follow his example, so that their ordinary behavior is heroic.

It is not necessary to bike 20 miles in the rain to do heroic work. Heroic work is sometimes as simple as a legionary, who has a habit of forgetting his notebook, taking extra steps to ensure he remembers it. It is sometimes as simple as a timid legionary getting up the courage to go door-to-door the first time. It is sometimes as simple as for a talkative legionary to silently pray, rather than interrupting someone.

A legionary must continually be involved in heroic work. Once he masters one challenge, he must then approach the next more daunting task. Perhaps the shy Legionary must first go the heroic task of saying a "hi" to a new face. Later, the heroic task of giving a work report. Later, of giving patricians talk. Soon he will find himself routinely doing what he once thought was impossible.

By Chris Miller

Divine Mysteries

The Media

[CC. p.1]

2. In view of their meteoric technological evolution, the media have acquired extraordinary potential, while raising new and hitherto unimaginable questions and problems. There is no denying the contribution they can make to the diffusion of news, to knowledge of facts and to the dissemination of information: they have played a decisive part, for example, in the spread of literacy and in socialization, as well as the development of democracy and dialogue among peoples. Without their contribution it would truly be difficult to foster and strengthen understanding between nations, to breathe life into peace dialogues around the globe, to guarantee the primary good of access to information, while at the same time ensuring the free circulation of ideas, especially those promoting the ideals of solidarity and social justice. Indeed, the media, taken overall, are not only vehicles for spreading ideas: they can and should also be instruments at the service of a world of greater justice and solidarity. Unfortunately, though, they risk being transformed into systems aimed at subjecting humanity to agendas dictated by the dominant interests of the day. This is what happens when communication is used for ideological purposes or for the aggressive advertising of consumer products. While claiming to represent reality, it can tend to legitimize or impose distorted models of personal, family or social life. Moreover, in order to attract listeners and increase the size of audiences, it does not hesitate at times to have recourse to vulgarity and violence, and to overstep the mark. The media can also present and support models of development which serve to increase rather than reduce the technological divide between rich and poor countries.

3. Humanity today is at a crossroads. One could properly apply to the media what I wrote in the Encyclical *Spe Salvi* concerning the ambiguity of progress, which offers new possibilities for good, but at the same time opens up appalling possibilities for evil that formerly did not exist (cf. No. 22). We must ask, therefore, whether it is wise to allow the instruments of social communication to be exploited for indiscriminate “self-promotion” or to end up in the hands of those who use them to manipulate consciences. Should it not be a priority to ensure that they remain at the service of the person and of the common good, and that they foster “man’s ethical formation ... man’s inner growth” (ibid.)? Their extraordinary impact on the lives of individuals and on society is widely acknowledged, yet today it is necessary to stress the radical shift, one might even say the complete change of role, that they are currently undergoing. Today, communication seems increasingly to claim not simply to represent reality, but to determine it, owing to the power and the force of suggestion that it possesses. It is clear, for example, that in certain situations the media are used not for the proper purpose of disseminating information, but to “create” events. This dangerous change in function has been noted with concern by many Church leaders. Precisely because we are dealing with realities that have a profound effect on all those dimensions of human life (moral, intellectual, religious, relational, affective, cultural) in which the good of the person is at stake, we must stress that not everything that is technically possible is also ethically permissible. Hence, the impact of the communications media on modern life raises unavoidable questions, which require choices and solutions that can no longer be deferred.

4. The role that the means of social communication have acquired in society must

now be considered an integral part of the “anthropological” question that is emerging as the key challenge of the third millennium. Just as we see happening in areas such as human life, marriage and the family, and in the great contemporary issues of peace, justice and protection of creation, so too in the sector of social communications there are essential dimensions of the human person and the truth concerning the human person coming into play. When communication loses its ethical underpinning and eludes society’s control, it ends up no longer taking into account the centrality and inviolable dignity of the human person. As a result it risks exercising a negative influence on people’s consciences and choices and definitively conditioning their freedom and their very lives. For this reason it is essential that social communications should assiduously defend the person and fully respect human dignity. Many people now think there is a need, in this sphere, for “info-ethics”, just as we have bioethics in the field of medicine and in scientific research linked to life.

5. The media must avoid becoming spokesmen for economic materialism and ethical relativism, true scourges of our time. Instead, they can and must contribute to making known the truth about humanity, and defending it against those who tend to deny or destroy it. One might even say that seeking and presenting the truth about humanity constitutes the highest vocation of social communication. Utilizing for this purpose the many refined and engaging techniques that the media have at their disposal is an exciting task, entrusted in the first place to managers and operators in the sector. Yet it is a task, which to some degree concerns us all, because we are all consumers and operators of social communications in this era of globalization. The new media – telecommunications and internet in particular – are changing the very face of communication; perhaps this is a valuable opportunity to reshape it, to make more visible, as my venerable predecessor Pope John Paul II said, the essential and indispensable elements of the

truth about the human person (cf. Apostolic Letter *The Rapid Development*, 10).

6. Man thirsts for truth, he seeks truth; this fact is illustrated by the attention and the success achieved by so many publications, programmes or quality fiction in which the truth, beauty and greatness of the person, including the religious dimension of the person, are acknowledged and favorably presented. Jesus said: “You will know the truth and the truth will make you free” (Jn 8:32). The truth which makes us free is Christ, because only he can respond fully to the thirst for life and love that is present in the human heart. Those who have encountered him and have enthusiastically welcomed his message experience the irrepressible desire to share and communicate this truth. As Saint John writes, “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life ... we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing this that our joy may be complete” (1 Jn 1:1-3).

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to raise up courageous communicators and authentic witnesses to the truth, faithful to Christ’s mandate and enthusiastic for the message of the faith, communicators who will “interpret modern cultural needs, committing themselves to approaching the communications age not as a time of alienation and confusion, but as a valuable time for the quest for the truth and for developing communion between persons and peoples” (John Paul II, Address to the Conference for those working in Communications and Culture, 9 November 2002).

With these wishes, I cordially impart my Blessing to all.

From the Vatican, 24 January 2008, Feast of Saint Francis de Sales.

BENEDICTUS XVI

Legion Spirit

Praying as Legionaries

GENERAL: As legionaries in Mary's army, we are asked to be exemplary in our dress, in our manner and in our actions. When in an army, one must be obedient. It is Regia policy, and Concilium policy as well, to kneel when we pray at Legion meetings and gatherings. For the record, we kneel for Opening Prayers, which include the Rosary, we stand for the Catena Legionis, and we kneel for Concluding Prayers. This means all, who are physically able, should kneel. It is a matter of obedience, as well as a matter of respect and reverence for Our Lord Jesus and His mother. It is not up to us to judge the physical ability of another. That is an issue between the individual and Jesus who suffered so much for us. However, if an individual does not kneel because of a slight discomfort, then the Legion is probably not the right vocation for that person.

PRAYING AS A GROUP: Group prayer is much more effective than individual prayer, if done properly. Some deficiencies have been noted. When someone is leading the prayers, especially if it is a Priest, we need to follow the leader. We do not race ahead of the leader. We adjust the pace to the leader's pace. When responding as in the Hail Mary, let the leader finish before responding, especially when the last word is "Jesus". Some refer to this unthoughtful practice as stepping on Jesus. No one wants to be guilty of stepping on Jesus.

Some groups pray in such perfect unison their prayers are like beautiful music. This must get Mary's attention and bring her great pleasure.



Other groups pray as individuals, and this results in disharmony or noise, not beautiful music. One can picture Mary with her eyes tightly shut and covering her ears.

In summary, let us all kneel when we should even though it might be uncomfortable. Let us be respectful when we pray as a group making beautiful music for Our Blessed Mother. And let us vow NEVER to step on Jesus.

In the service of Our Lady,

Dennis G. Monroe
Arlington Regia President

Special Excerpt

Some Legion Heroes

Mary Kennedy

1915 - 2008

Mary Kennedy was born in Rockfield, Co. Limerick in 1915 the youngest and only girl of a family of 6 children. Her brothers sent her to school in England and at the outbreak of war in 1939 she joined the Land Army working on farms in Wales to keep the food chain going. She was drafted into the Army and rose to the rank of Captain. She later worked with the British administration in Palestine, studied hotel administration in Switzerland before moving to America where she ran hotels from Florida to California and up to Toronto.

She was appointed Legion Envoy to Canada and served 5 years in that capacity. Many of her letters to Concilium came from Indian reservations. It was claimed that she was the first white woman to live with the Indians. After completing her five-year Envoyship she stayed in Canada for 10 years before returning to Ireland.

Some time before she died on the 15th February, she was asked if she had heard from Manitoulin Island where she had lived with the Indians. "Of course" was her answer. "And do they still have the Legion?" "Of course they do" she said. May her soul rest in peace.

Margaret Mary (Marjorie) Quinn

1909 - 2008

Marjorie was born in 1909 in 56 Shelbourne Road, Dublin. She was an only child, her brother dying in infancy. She was educated by the Holy Faith nuns and took a degree in French and History at University College Dublin. She then commenced her teaching career.

Marjorie joined the Legion of Mary after graduating in 1933 and on her death this year, having completed 75 years legionary service, became the longest serving legionary in the world to date, a record that will no doubt stand for some considerable time. Marjorie was present at the Concilium meeting in July 1936 when Edel Quinn was appointed as an envoy to Kenya. She also, was a Legion of Mary envoy to North Africa from 1958 to 1961. She served as a Curia and Concilium Officer.

Her fluency in the French language made her a regular visitor to France particularly to the Legion Permanance in Lourdes, it has been noted that she died on the 4th February 2008 the month when we celebrated the 150 anniversary of the apparition. May her soul rest in peace.