

# LEGION OF MARY AWARENESS MONTH

## Mary's Warriors: The Legion of Mary

By: Sr. Nancy S. David, DW



On the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel 2018

Like any warriors, the Legion is composed of members who are in active service (active members) and those who support the troops by their work and prayers (auxiliary members). It took its nomenclature from the old Roman legion thereby using such Latin terms as Praesidium, Curia, Senatus etc. that gave the Legion a note of universality and unity. Both active and auxiliary members has the obligation to pray every day the official prayer in the Tessera.

As stated in the Handbook, "The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the sanctification of its members by prayer and active cooperation under the Ecclesiastical guidance in Mary's and the Church's work of crushing the head of the serpent and advancing the reign of Christ." It is interesting how the Legion Handbook identifies Mary's work with that of the Church, in what concerns "advancing the reign of Christ." This Legion objective gives it full right to be called Catholic Action.

Pope Pius XI once defined Catholic Action as "the participation of the laity in the true and proper apostolate of the Church." The Legion of Mary is Catholic Action founded on Mary. The Second Vatican Council's decree on the Apostolate of the Lay People states that the "the perfect model of this apostolic spiritual life is the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Apostles." Everyone should have genuine devotion to her and entrust his/her life to her motherly care.

The Legion recognize the role and influence of Mary in the dual work of personal sanctification and the apostolate, and then submit oneself fully to this maternal influence through intimate union with her to become an instrument of conquest with her. This is the secret of the Legionary apostolate. Since the Legionary's principal task is "to bring Mary to the world as the infallible means of winning the world to Jesus," it is obvious that "the Legionary without

Mary in his/her heart can play no part in this." Hence the necessity for each Legionary to seek union with Mary through imitation of her virtues and complete dependence upon her. "Its members thus grown into living copies of Mary, the Legion sees itself in truth a Legion of Mary, united to her mission and guaranteed her victory." This union with Mary, and imitation of her virtues, will inevitably lead to an apostolate that is essentially Marian, an apostolate through which Christ will not only be seen in every person but will be tended to and cared for with the love of Mary herself. To quote the words of the Handbook: "In and through her Legionary, Mary participates in every Legionary duty and mothers souls, so that in each of those worked for, not only the person of Our Lord is seen and served, but seen and served by Mary, with the same exquisite love and nurturing care which she gave to the actual body of her Divine Son." (cont. on page 3)



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D I V I N A G R A T I A E



# TRUE FACE OF THE LEGION

Sis. Maica Landicho

To the eyes of many, the Legion of Mary is just an ordinary Marian organization that prays the rosary and decorates the altar every May and October. While these are activities that the Legion does, it is no where near the end of the list. The Legion, though active in action, is not to be looked at as an organization that is bounded by its activities that people see and experience. It is more on spiritual growth than on actions and activities. We need not to go further to explain this as the Legion's promise and closing prayer already has information about what the Legion actually does.

To begin with, the Legion promise is not a promise to Mary, but a promise to the Holy Spirit - to God. It starts with a plea for wisdom from the Holy Spirit to *become an instrument of His mighty purposes*. A promise to unite with Mary so as to unite with Christ. It is a plea to let the Holy Spirit's power overshadow one's soul with fire and love and make it one with Mary; *so that Christ our Lord may likewise grow in "me". So that "I" with her, His mother, may bring Christ to the world and to the souls who need Him*. To put it in simpler words, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in dependence in Mary, the mother of Christ, a legionary becomes a *soldier* in this world. That through their works and prayer; their love and charity: other people may be brought as well to Christ through Mary. In the Legion's closing prayer, it says: *"Grant us a lively faith, animated by charity, which will enable us to perform all*

*our actions from the motive of pure love of You....."*  
*"A faith immovable as a rock....."*  
*"A courageous faith which will inspire us to undertake and carry out without hesitation great things for your glory and for the salvation of souls....."* We must also put emphasis on the Legion's object which is *the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active cooperation in Mary's and the Church's work.*

In conclusion, the Legion of Mary begins with a legionary becoming a soldier of Mary, who through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in dependence in Mary, must first strive for *personal sanctification* and get closer to Christ through prayer, charity, works, and active Church service.

The Legion's goal is not just to lead people in prayer nor just to introduce Mary to them; but instead, the ulterior motive is that Christ will be brought closer to all people through Mary and with full guidance of the Holy Spirit.



**THE LEGION ALTAR**

*The setting of every meeting shall be uniform.*  
(English Handbook, Chapter 18, #1, Page 105)

The Legion of Mary takes its name and discipline from the Roman Legion. And they're doing this "the way the Romans do". They are true soldiers fighting in true battles, yielding a weapon into their hands and rallying under the banner and command of their general. The Legion of Mary is an army set in battle array.

## IN BATTLE ARRAY

### FIGHTING THE TRUE BATTLE OF EVERYDAY LIFE.

The Legion is fighting to win souls for God. But it must start within their self. It is clearly stated in the Handbook "the Legion's battle for souls must begin in the heart of the individual legionary. Each one must wage the battle with himself, determinedly conquering in his heart the spirit of pride and self" (EHB Chapter 6 #2). After which the battle to win other souls follow.

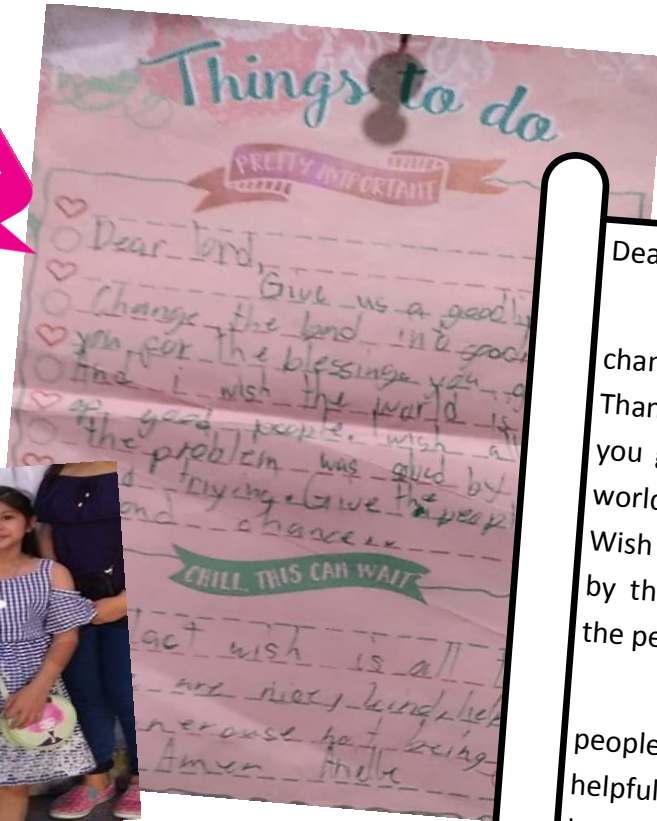
**THE LEGION WEAPON.** Prayer is the Legion's primary weapon. And the rosary is their sword. As St. Alphonsus Ligouri said,, "Prayer is beyond doubt, the most powerful weapon the Lord gives us to conquer evil . . . But we must

really put ourselves into the prayer, it is not enough just to say the words, it must come from the heart. And also prayer needs to be continuous, we must pray no matter what kind of situation we find ourselves in: the warfare we are engaged in is ongoing, so our prayer must ongoing also". A legionary must never forget to pray to protect himself from the snares of the devil.

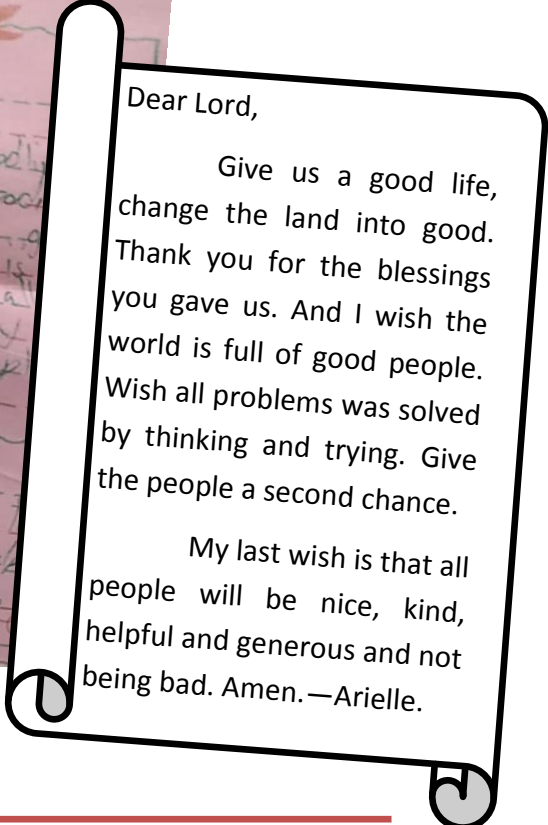
**MARY, QUEEN AND MOTHER.** The legionaries are Mary's soldiers. They hope to render themselves worthy of their great heavenly Queen by their loyalty, their virtues, and their courage. By following her examples of faith, humility and obedience, the Legion is sent to the world to find the last, the lost and the least. He is to work in such fashion that in those worked for and in one's fellow-members, the Person of our Lord is once again seen and served by Mary, his mother. He is to follow his Queens leadership. And in times of great needs and struggle, at times where he felt alone in this battle, a legionary must seek the help of his Queen, who is his Mother also. She will protect him under her mantle. The warrior is a child of Mary, too.

—Bro. Barry J. Villanueva





Prayer By Arielle Perpeña  
(10 years old)



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## Mary's Warriors (page 1)

The Legion has a Spirituality of its own that can be universally adopted and that rests on good, solid theological grounds as found principally in the Legion Handbook. The Legion Spirituality is: First, it is centered on the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier, One Who overshadowed Mary in the work of the Incarnation, the same Holy Spirit that came down upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost. The reason for this is obvious: The Legion is essentially Marian and Apostolic. Second, the Legion Spirituality is Christ centered. As Cardinal Suenens has pointed out that the Legion Promise, though directed to the Holy Spirit, is essentially Christocentric, since in this Promise, "neither the Holy Spirit nor the Blessed Virgin has any meaning for us without reference to the mystery of the Incarnation."

To understand the spirituality of the Legion of Mary, one must grasp the spiritual bond that links the Legion to the doctor of the Marian Mediation St. Louis Marie de Montfort. As the Handbook says; "Legionaries must undertake Montfort's True Devotion to the Blessed

Virgin Mary." The Legion of Mary's founder Frank Duff attested, "The Legion of Mary owes, you might say, everything to the Montfort devotion." The Handbook also states; "It can be safely asserted that no Saint has played a greater part in the development of the Legion than he." Indeed, he is really the tutor of the Legion.

The Legion warfare is won over through their union with Mary and through her, with her, in her and for her, their union with Jesus and their living out of Montfort's True Devotion to Mary, inaugurated by a formal act of Consecration and the subsequent living of that consecration. The True Devotion must represent not an act but a state. They are then assured of their success and imminent victory in advancing the reign of Jesus Christ.



St. Louis Marie de Montfort



**VENERABLE**  
**Legion of Mary**  
**Envoy to Africa**

-0o0-  
Born 9/14/1907  
Died 5/12/1944  
Cause for the Canonization  
opened in 1952

**A WOMAN FULLY ALIVE:**  
**EDEL QUINN A1907-1944)**

30 November, 1999

Edel Quinn combined devotion with a great zest for life. Talented and expressive, she found her life's work through the lay organisation, the Legion of Mary, and through it became a lay missionary in East Africa.

Edel Quinn was born in Kanturk in County Cork in 1907. Her father and mother were devout parents, but because of his job as a bank clerk, the family were often on the move, and the young Edel found herself attending schools in Clonmel and Cahir, Enniscorthy and Tralee.

From early on, daily Mass was very much part of her routine, but she combined devotion with a great zest for life. She learned to play the piano and violin, and enjoyed swimming and tennis.

**Legion of Mary**

Before her plans to enter the convent were realized, however, there was another chapter in her life which ultimately would prove to be decisive. It was while she was working in Dublin that she first came into contact with the Legion of Mary, a lay organization which had just begun life in that city. It became famous for its street ministry and door-to-door outreach, as well as other spiritual works of mercy.

Soon, Edel's dedication and efficiency were noted, and she was appointed to lead a branch of the Legion, called a Praesidium. It ministered to women in one of the poorest areas of inner-city Dublin. Many of these women fell into prostitution to make ends meet. Often, Edel would visit these women after a long day in the office as a typist.

Edel's reading of the writings of St. Thérèse of Lisieux made a deep impression on her, as she tried to emulate the Little Flower's practice of doing little things as perfectly as possible.

She would often endeavor to find opportunities to make small and hidden sacrifices. Edel would spend at least half an hour before the Blessed Sacrament each day, and she would also recite all of the Mysteries of the Rosary.

**(PRAYER FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF EDEL QUINN)**

*Eternal Father, I thank Thee for the grace Thou didst give to Thy servant, Edel Quin, of striving to live always in the joy of Thy presence, for the radiant charity infused into her heart by Thy Holy Spirit, and for the strength she drew from the Bread of Life to labour until death for the glory of Thy name, in loving dependence on Mary, Mother of the Church.*

**Legion of Mary**

If you like to join the Legion of Mary, contact your parish unit through:

**Senior Praesidium**  
(18 years old and above)

**MATER DIVINA GRATIAE – Sunday**  
at 11:00am / San Guillermo Parish

**BANAL NA INA NG DIYOS – Sunday at**  
9:00am / San Joaquin Chapel

**Junior Praesidium**  
(12 to 17 years old)

**QUEEN OF PEACE – Saturday**  
at 10:30am / San Guillermo Parish,

**INA NG KAPAYAPAAN – Sunday**  
at 10:30 am / San Joaquin Chapel

*"My vocation is a legionary one. Envoy and Praetorian -- consecrated to work for the Father by the Holy Spirit of Jesus and by Mary"*

*- Edel Quinn*



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