

1 LAST PRAESIDIUM !

[Editors note: This material is taken from Allocutios given by the Rev. Bede McGregor, OP, spiritual director of the Concilium Legionis Maria in March and April 2017, based on "Mary and the Mystical Body of Christ." (cf, Handbook pp 51-58) --Bro. Charles Kane]

On several occasions our founder, Frank Duff, expressed the conviction that if the whole Legion was blotted out and forgotten, but there was one last praesidium left that followed the spirit and the letter of the Handbook, it would have the same great potential to expand and spread throughout the whole world just as did that original band that met on the eve of the Nativity of Our Lady in 1921!

[Think about that when we complain that our numbers are few! --ed]

The unbelievable success of that first group was not caused by any exceptional ability, influence or gifts. They were a group of ordinary people like us. Every praesidium has that same potential as the original group. Listen to how Frank Duff explained it:

"If you ask me in a few words to say to you what that power lie in, I'll tell you that it lies in its approach to the Blessed Virgin. That is the central germ. That group offered itself deliberately to Mary to be used by her and in her Mothering of souls. That was the notion that brought them together and that was the thought that filled them."

The prayer for the beatification of our founder begins, "God Our Father, you inspired your servant Frank Duff with a profound insight into the mystery of your Church, the Body of Christ, and of the place of Mary the Mother of Jesus in this mystery."

Let us explain in the words of our founder: **"I have said that apostleship depends on the doctrine of the Mystical Body.... Without him we are nothing and we can do nothing. With him we can literally do all things."** The apostolate of the Legion in all its extraordinary variety is nothing else than the Apostolate of the Risen Lord working itself out in and through us, His members.

The section of Catholicism which embraces Mary as the Mother of the Mystical Body in the full way described in the Handbook, and sets out with her to share in her mothering functions towards the Church is used by the Holy Trinity as its instrument in the world.

Dear brothers and sisters, we have lost all right to any form of pessimism. Or put more positively, we are called to habitual hope and joy! Why? Because the Risen Christ is always living in us and with us in his Mystical Body, the Church. The powers of evil and our own human weakness have seemed to smash us into smithereens. That is only the devil's deception. Christ is really present in us and with us, and He has the last word! With Our Lord and His Mother we can do all things! Nothing is impossible! Amen!