



diocese
of limerick
our catholic community

October 2021

Message for Limerick Legion of Mary from Bishop Brendan Leahy

I am very pleased to offer you a greeting as you gather in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Limerick for a Mass of thanksgiving in the context of this year's centenary of the beginnings of the Legion of Mary.

I have so many grateful memories of the Legion and the many very fine people in it I've met over the years. I recall with gratitude being present at Frank Duff's funeral. People all over the world rightly speak highly of the Legion. I recall chatting on one occasion with the Venerable Van Thuan from Vietnam who spoke very enthusiastically about the great good the Legion does worldwide.

Bishop Donal Murray, the Emeritus Bishop of Limerick often recalls how his aunt, Kathleen Shannon, a member of the first Praesidium, was present when the Legion began at Myra House, Francis Street, in Dublin on September 7, 1921. Today, however, we thank God for the presence of the Legion in Limerick going back to October 1932. Since then many homes in Limerick have been visited, street contacts made, accommodation for homeless and working girls provided, and sporting pastimes put on for young people. How many Legion meetings held, rosaries said and Legion prayers recited! I thank God for this wonderful contribution to our Diocese and I join with you in praying for the previous generations who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.

While today the numbers in Limerick are not what they were in the past, the flame is still alive in you. You now are the custodians of the flame. While we entrust to the heart of God the future developments of the Legion, we renew our belief that in and through the Legion, Our Lady is at work. She still needs our hands and hearts and minds to bring peace to those in anxiety and troubled in all kinds of ways. To be a legionary is indeed a wonderful Marian vocation.

Let us pray that the inspiring spark of charity that filled the heart of Frank Duff and the early generations of the Legion will ignite anew here in Limerick for the good of the Church and society. Once again, I thank you for your commitment and perseverance. May God in his mercy grant you many graces. Every blessing,

Bishop Brendan Leahy, Bishop of Limerick

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"Come and see the works of God tremendous his deeds among us" - Ps. 66 (65)