

LEGION OF MARY

SENATUS OF NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER



· MARCH ·

· 2023 ·



40 DAYS OF LENT

FR. ANDREW MATTHEW

Over the 40 days of lent, we are asked to make a special effort in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving always deepens our Catholic Faith. Growing in our faith is a lifetime task.

Theologians say there are three steps to make before you can make a personal act of Christian Faith. Theologians call these three steps the “preambles” to a personal act of faith.

The first step is to believe in God, the second step is to accept Jesus Christ as your personal savior and the definitive revelation of God’s love and mercy. The third step is to acknowledge that the Catholic Church gives us the content of our faith in her teaching, her sacraments, and her community of faithful.

Strictly speaking, our Catholic Faith is personal and covenantal; it is lived personally, and then shared with others. Faith grows every day by seeking God to be active in your life every day.

How do we grow our faith?

We grow our faith through works of prayer, receiving the sacraments and works of charity. These works strengthen faith in our souls. The church also places before us in these 40 Days other works of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These spiritual works help us grow, personal faith.

Prayer allows us to stop look, and listen to the Lord.

Fasting gives us that poverty of spirit were we stop doing “my things” and start doing the Lord’s work.

Almsgiving is not only about material things, the greatest alms you can give in our wealthy country is your time, your presence, and your friendship, to those in need.



As members of the Legion of Mary we are asked to help others increase their faith, that is to find the lost sheep,... to give light to those dwelling in darkness. This is the heart and Spirit of the Legion of Mary.

***Confer, O Lord, on us, a lively faith, animated by charity,
a faith, firm and immovable as a rock,
a courageous faith which will inspire us,
a faith which will be our Legion's Pillar of Fire.***

During these 40 days of lent let us increase our Catholic Faith and if we have an opportunity to increase the Christian faith of others we should do it.



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ACIES FOR ME

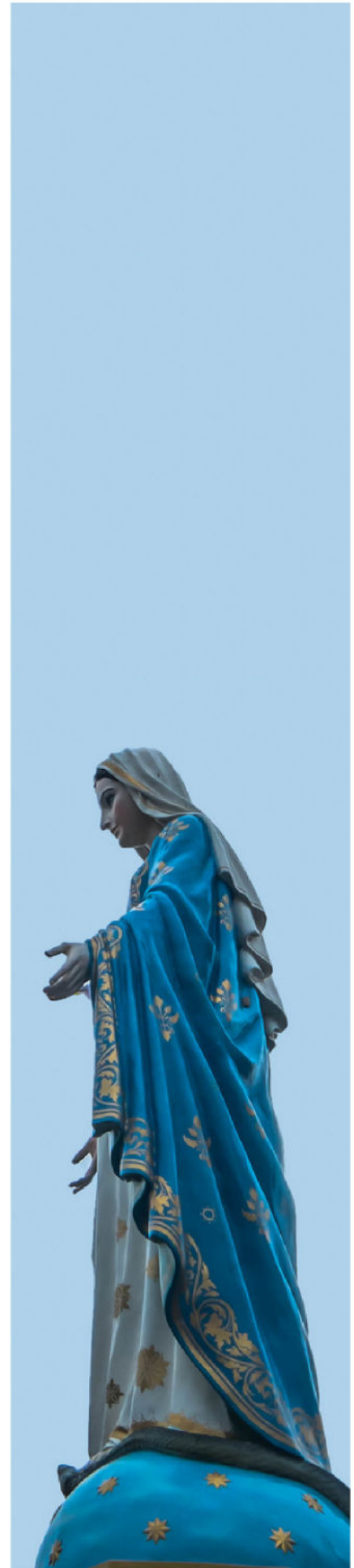
BR. JOHN TAGIILIMA

We may have some idea of what the Acies is for us but I thought it is fitting as we are getting closer to this year's ACIES ceremony to provide a gentle reminder of what is in it for me, you and any active or auxiliary member of the Legion of Mary.

Purposely every year, the Acies is strategically celebrated on or as near to the Feast Day of the Annunciation of Mary which is on the 25th of March. Why this Feast Day? Well it's the celebration of Mary's FIAT, Mary's "YES" to be the Mother of God. Mary's answer "Let it be done to me according to Thy Will" was the start of the work of salvation for the coming of the Redeemer of the world Jesus Christ.

So, for me the ordinary Legionary, my YES and my FIAT goes by our yearly promise to our Mother that ***"I am all Yours my Queen and My Mother and All that I have is Yours"***. Wow that's a powerful promise to think about it in the literal meaning of the word. But are we? Are we giving our all? ourselves, our works, joys and sufferings and prayers or only when we need, we will then ask to be given. Are we not withholding things back just in case? Are we second guessing ourselves in our devotion to our Mother who gave everything including her only son for the redemption of the world including your sins and mine.

Are we too attached to our worldly goods and riches that our vision is blurred by trying to be in a rat race with everyone that's trying to be on top of the pedestal; that are





SENATUS MEETING DATES FOR 2023

12	MARCH
15	APRIL
21	MAY
11	JUNE
09	JULY
13	AUGUST
10	SEPTEMBER
08	OCTOBER
12	NOVEMBER
10	DECEMBER

IMPORTANT DATES FOR MARCH 2023

**26 MARCH
ACIES CEREMONY
& HOLY MASS**

constantly begging for approval and praises from people around us. While on the same race we are neglecting the very people whom we should love the most which are our family.

Well brother and sisters, the reason why we make our promise each year is the same reason why we celebrate Mary's Annunciation and the same reason we also celebrate the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ every year in the Catholic calendar. It is a constant reminder that every drop of blood from the holy wounds of our Lord Jesus may not be in vain but a step in the right direction for every one of us. To make amends for our sins and to move forth in a life of grace and be witnesses of his love and life.

Your promise means a lot to Mary as she will gain a good soldier to fight another year. This soldier will work and bring in more souls to her son Jesus. Jesus himself said Luke 15:10 'In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.'

**ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH, GLENFIELD
ROSARY & LEGION PRAYERS AT 1:30PM
MASS AT 2:00PM**

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To order items from the Senatus Stall, Please contact Br. Mark Gasparini