

# LEGION OF MARY

## SENATUS OF NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER



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*Inside the Issue:*

### **ALLOCUTIO: LORD STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH**

Spiritual Director: Rev. Fr. Andrew Matthew

### **YOUTH CRIME ON THE RISE: WHAT CAN THE LEGION OF MARY DO?**

Senatus President: Br. John Tagiilima

### **TRUE DEVOTION TO MARY**

Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort



### **LORD STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH**

*REV. FR. ANDREW MATTHEW*

During this Lent we have been strengthening our virtue of Catholic Faith. Remember there are three steps to an act of Faith.

To believe in God, as our loving Father, the Almighty.

To believe in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord.

To believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church and the communion of Saints.



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We followed these steps at the Easter Vigil to renew our baptism.

The virtue of faith guides us in prayer.

It is through the virtue of faith that we can use our memory to recall the goodness and perfections of God. His absolute power in creation; His goodness in giving us life; His personal love for each of us and finally His mercy in forgiving us.

It is through faith that we are able to let our understanding seek out ways of responding to God's love. Every day trying to do better. We can offer all our thoughts, words, and deeds through our morning offering.

It is through faith that we strengthen our will to do ever more for Him who loves us. We can submit our will to His Will and confidently submit to His plans whatever they may be. Humble yourself as it befits a creature before its creator.

This is why we should pray every day, using our memory, our understanding, and our will.

These were the thoughts of Our Lady all through her life.

This is the essence of Our Lady's fiat....

***"I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done unto me."***

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## **YOUTH CRIME ON THE RISE: WHAT CAN THE LEGION OF MARY DO?** JOHN TAGIILIMA



This week one of the much talked about news items on mainstream media is the amount of ram raids, youth offenders and break-ins during the night. This is such a sad outlook when you think that the future of any nation depends upon the young people of today. While some may say it's only a small percentage of the population, the stats tell us that 41% of the total convicted age group are from ages 29 and below. But rest assured these are only based on the ones that were arrested by the police and not including the ones that got away.

While it's a sad outlook one can only think of what we can do to address this situation. Well, I can only manage what I can control. We all belong to a family some way or another, we have siblings or children or we're a part of a church parish. Catechism of the Catholic Church 2222 Parents must regard their children as children of God and respect them as human persons showing themselves obedient to the will of the Father in heaven, they educate their children to fulfill God's law. 2223 Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children.

St Alphonsus Liguori quoted, "Parents are guilty of sin against the duty of educating their children, if they so not instruct them in matters of faith, and in what regards their eternal salvation."

St Theresa of Calcutta reiterated that The Family That Prays Together Stays Together - Proverbs 22:6. Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

As Members of the Legion of Mary, we are at the forefront of this battle. Hold on to your rosary and to your faith. Our way of participating is for every senior praesidium to prioritize setting up an attached junior praesidium if they haven't done so. We can do with more outreach, contact or recruitment work. We can adapt the theme Recruit, Renew and Rejoice as a guideline for our work for the coming year.

Let us use the graces from the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ as a source of fulfilment and a way to evangelise. I'll leave you with this thought. When Jesus was buried in the tomb and was working. Mary was there holding the fort and was a source of strength for the apostles because they were scared. So don't be afraid to do the mahi and reach out for our young as we have Mother Mary on our side.



## SENATUS MEETING DATES FOR 2023

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



## TRUE DEVOTION TO MARY

ST. LOUIS-MARIE GRIGNION DE MONTFORT

Few men have contributed so much to spread Marian devotion as Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort. He was a popular and vigorous missionary from the west of France, who died at the age of 43 in 1716, exhausted by his sermons and his penances. His famous books such as *Mary's Secret* or *The Treaty of True Devotion*, which became known a long time after his death, had a considerable influence. "It is also through Mary that we must approach God and unite ourselves perfectly and strictly to his Majesty, without fearing rejection."

"Only God!" is one of Grignon's key formulas. For him, everything comes from the Father and everything returns to the Father. Mary is at the heart of this and rightly so: "When someone has once found Mary, and through Mary, Jesus and through Jesus, God the Father, he has found all that is good...all of God's grace and friendship, all truth against lies, all ease and victory against lies, all ease and victory against difficulties of salvation, all sweetness and all joy in the bitterness of life".

The fact of serving Mary does not lessen the importance of the Cross but it presents it in a totally different way. "Since Mary is the mother of the living, she gives all her children pieces of the Tree of Life, which is Jesus' cross. (CONCILIUM LEGIONIS MARIAE 2010) **ST. LOUIS-MARIE DE MONTFORT was canonized on 20 July, 1947 and his feast occurs on 28 April.**



## IMPORTANT DATES FOR APRIL 2023

**16 APRIL**

Divine Mercy Sunday

**28 APRIL**

St. Louis-Marie de Montfort

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