

LEGION OF MARY

SENATUS OF NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER



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CORPUS CHRISTI - THE SOLEMNITY OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

Back in the days of knights and crusades (1209 to be exact), a young, pious Augustinian nun named Juliana of Liège experienced a series of visions. She repeatedly saw a full moon, silver and majestic, in the night sky. However, marring its glory, Juliana saw that a slice of the moon was missing. It disturbed her greatly. She kept these images to herself.

To be continued Source: Corpus Christi



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In the years leading up to her visions, the faithful had started to spend time with the consecrated host in adoration, and Juliana realised that there was a connection. She came to believe that the missing slice of the moon represented the absence of a feast day in honour of the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Eventually she revealed her mystical secret, these symbolic images, to the Canon of Liège, who in turn told the Archdeacon, who told the Archbishop. Eventually, the news of her visions found its way to the Pope.

It was another fifty years before Corpus Christi, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, was celebrated in earnest by the Catholic Church. This is largely thanks to the persistence of St Juliana and her supporters, including Pope Urban IV, who had once been Archdeacon in Liège. Pope Clement V provided the tipping point.

Originally called Festum Eucharistiae, Corpus Christi is an opportunity for us to really contemplate the significance the Eucharist. Jesus said "I am the living bread which has come down from Heaven. Anyone who eats this bread that we break will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world." John 8:51

Through transubstantiation at the altar, the bread that we eat is the body of Christ and the wine that we drink is his blood. The Son of God is present in the Host in a very real sense. It is a complex sacrament, and the most beautiful of gifts. "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood dwells in me, and I will dwell in that person." John 8:58

This union with God is sacred and important. We are joined with him through his body and his blood, and we are joined together as a community in Christ, too. When I am in the presence of the Host, I genuinely feel like I am in the presence of our Lord, as if he is sitting with me. He is not. Because I take the Sacrament of the Eucharist, he is much closer. Jesus is part of me, in my heart and in my blood. At Corpus Christi, we contemplate this humbling truth.

"Do you realise that Jesus is there in the tabernacle expressly for you – for you alone? He burns with the desire to come into your heart... go without fear to receive the Jesus of peace and love." St Therese of Lisieux



A Message from the President:

DOOR KNOCKING WITH THE LEGION OF MARY

Door-to-door evangelization is usually considered the domain of the sects. When we hear knocks at the door, we assume they are -Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Seventh Day Adventists.

We don't think the evangelists might be Catholics, but some of them are, and many of the most effective are members of the Legion of Mary. The Legion uses time-tested methods to locate, identify, and invite into (or back to) the Church everyone from fallen-away Catholics to people uncommitted to any religion. The Legion does this quietly and unobtrusively, yet effectively. The results have been phenomenal.

The most common way to begin is with a parish census. Every family within the parish boundaries is contacted, and every door is knocked on to discover the inhabitants' religious preferences. Even on

the first call the parties contacted are invited to the parish, Catholic literature, including church schedules, are left.

After the initial call, the legionaries decide whether the parties are likely candidates for follow-up contacts. If so, they're put into the follow-up system. Normally these are lapsed Catholics and non-Catholics who indicate an interest in the Catholic Church.

The methods used by the Legion are non-threatening and neighbourly. The religious heritage of others is always respected. The census is highly structured and is designed to secure information quickly, pleasantly, and almost effortlessly. Legionaries don't argue, confront, or antagonize. Their strategy is long-term. I know, because I've been active in Legion work myself. Our Praesidium has started walking the streets again.

We work in pairs. After the initial objective is accomplished-after we identify and invite-we attempt to leave the house with an invitation to return. That's the short-term goal.

SENATUS MEETING DATES FOR 2023

11 JUNE

09 JULY

13 AUGUST

10 SEPTEMBER

08 OCTOBER

12 NOVEMBER

10 DECEMBER



IMPORTANT DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS 2023

11 JUNE

Solemnity of the
Body and Blood of
Christ

30 JULY

Officer's Training:
2-4pm Legion of Mary
Centre Pt. Chev.

The long-term goal is to get the fallen-away back to the Church and the uncommitted, non-Catholics to convert. This could take years of follow-up contacts, but occasionally we will strike luck on the initial call. Although this is rare but we pray that the Holy Spirit fills the visited and be able to enkindle within them the fire and be able to come back in to the fold.

Every Praesidium is encouraged to have some sort of evangelical work as it is good for the health of the praesidium both physical and spiritual.

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