

Mary, Our Most Beloved Mother Junior Praesidium

The Oratory / Holy Family Church – www.oratory-toronto.org
1372 King Street West, Toronto, ON M6K 1H3

The 22nd Annual Report for the Period 2 December 2001 to 24 November 2002

Our meetings are held on Sundays at 1:30 p.m. in the parish hall of Holy Family Church. However, on the first Sunday of the month, the meetings are at 12 noon to allow the officers of the senior praesidium to attend the Regia meeting. We currently have fifteen active juniors and one visitor. And our work is supported by the prayers of 73 auxiliary members.

Apostolic Work

Nursing Home Visitation

We have visited two nursing homes and one old-age home on several occasions. During one visit, we met an Eastern Orthodox man who joined us in a minute of prayer. He was very pleased with our visit. We also met a Jewish woman and sang a Hanukkah song for her. There was also a blind lady whom we visited on her 91st birthday. We joined her family in singing 'Happy Birthday'. Both she and her family were happy that we came. During these visits we give out parish bulletins and religious articles to all residents. We also make the Legion known to the nurses. We visit these nursing homes again with the senior praesidium and the spiritual director during the Christmas holidays to sing carols for the residents.

Door-to-door Visitation

We did door-to-door visits in the Bnai Fishel Towers on West Lodge Avenue and at an apartment building on Tyndall Avenue. We made 134 calls and were able to make speak with 234 people. We gave out religious literature such as *The Pillar of Fire*, which is a pamphlet that answers the more common Protestant objections to our Faith. We also gave out parish bulletins and rosaries and we prayed with several families. We also did follow-up visitations to our auxiliary members to invite them to the Acies ceremony and to our Auxiliary Night celebration. We have an opportunity to make further contacts during the follow-up visits to auxiliaries when we knock on a door only to find that our auxiliaries have moved in the meantime.

During one of our visits, an auxiliary member was worried about her twin daughters not being baptized. We gave their names to the parish priests to arrange for a baptism. The children were baptized on 24 November 2002, with two of our senior members as godparents.

We also did follow-up visits to our members who did not attend Legion meetings regularly.

Rosary Making

New members as well as the younger members are assigned to make rosaries. They made a total of 103 rosaries in the past year for distribution during door-to-door visitation.

Altar Service

Two of our members serve as altar boys. They report on the Gospel and homily at the meeting.

Service at Home

Juniors are sometimes assigned to help their parents do housework. This assignment includes saying the Legion prayers and rosary.

Functions Attended

Thirteen juniors attended the Annual General Reunion last year and fourteen children attended the Acies. The outdoor function was a trip to Niagara Falls which included a visit to the Niagara Falls Art Gallery, which is the permanent home of William Kurelek's paintings of the Passion of Christ. Kurelek was converted to Catholicism as an adult through the efforts of a Catholic nurse who tended him while he was under psychiatric care. He not only became a Catholic, but also joined the Legion of Mary in the 1960s in Saint Peter's Church in Toronto. The children (and adults) were impressed not only with the paintings depicting scenes from Saint Matthew's Gospel but also by a strong pro-life painting. Senior Legionaries and parents of juniors accompanied us on this trip which ended with a barbecue in Beamsville, where Fr Hilbert's parents have a farm. During our Auxiliary Night, we presented singing and dancing together with the Queen of Angels Praesidium.

Other Activities

We joined the parish procession in honour of Mary on Mother's Day. The older junior praesidium provided entertainment during the Canada Day picnic which was part of the parish's centenary celebrations. Both junior praesidia performed during World Youth Day. And in October, members of all praesidia took part in Life Chain, by holding up pro-life signs at the corner of King and Jameson. We always look for ways to recruit more members and have made 112 personal contacts in the past year.

Our Goal

We hope to please Mary, deepen our faith, and recruit more members.

Conclusion

We thank our Blessed Mother for her maternal presence at our meetings. We also thank Fr Martin Hilbert, our spiritual director, for his guidance and allocutios. We pray that our Lord will guide us to do our assignments.

Treasurer's Report

Revenue

Balance Forwarded (2 December 2001)	4.24
Secret Bag Collection	<u>182.55</u>
Total Revenue	186.79

Expenses

Donation to Regia	115.00
Masses for Frank Duff, Edel Quinn, and deceased Legionaries	40.00
Photo Copies	15.00
Flowers	3.34
Religious articles and sheets for President and Vice President	<u>12.40</u>
Total Expenses	185.74

Balance as of 24 November 2002	1.05
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Respectfully submitted,