

# Under Mary's Mantle

Our Lady, Lily of the Valley Curia, Surrey, BC

June 2019

Issue no. 35

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## Legion Linking Wisdom to Youthful Vitality

*"Let us ask the Lord to free the Church from those who would make her grow old, encase her in the past, hold her back or keep her at a standstill..."*

*"The Church is young when she is herself, when she receives ever anew the strength born of God's word, the Eucharist, and the daily presence of Christ and the power of his Spirit in our lives. The Church is young when she shows herself capable of constantly returning to her source. [35]."*

These words are taken from Pope Francis' recent beautiful Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation **Christus Vivit – Christ is Alive** addressed to Young People and to the Entire People of God. We could substitute **'The Legion of Mary'** for 'the Church' in these quotes and ask the Lord to free us from growing old and renew it in youthful and faith filled vitality.

The place and role of young people in the Legion is one of the major themes of the Handbook, and Fr. Bede McGregor stated in his Allocutio to the Concilium of June 2013, that "perhaps today in some parts of our Legion world this is an especially urgent and important topic". At the outset of this meeting we quoted from the handbook in its response to the objection "**Young people have to work hard during the day and require their free time for rest**":

"In such an alternation between a day of toil and an evening of pleasure, it is very easy to drift into a practical materialism, which, after a few years, leaves hearts without an ideal, eating themselves out for the youth which has prematurely fled, taking with it the only things they had been taught to prize". (p. 185)

Elsewhere in the Handbook we find the following:

"If the young once form the habit of looking to purely worldly or even irreligious systems for the active idealism for which generous natures crave, a terrible harm has been done, for which future generations will pay." (p.64)

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In these short quotes we see a great deal of wisdom, an understanding of how we must serve young people and help them to reach mature fulfillment.

Yet, we can ask ourselves how we can help each other. In this Apostolic Exhortation we find a very full answer to questions it poses: 'What are today's young people really like? What is going on in their lives?' [64]. Let us desire to know what our young people face today in today's world marked by conflict, migration, new technology and consumerism and wounded by abuse.

Pope Francis offers a striking image:

"A young person stands on two feet as adults do, but unlike adults, whose feet are parallel, he always has one foot forward, ready to set out, to spring ahead. Always racing onward. To talk about young people is to talk about promise and to talk about joy. Young people have so much strength; they are able to look ahead with hope." [139]

However, there is always the temptation for young people to lose hope and give up. Here, as legionaries, we can help young people to make the best of their youth. We can see that they don't observe life from a balcony. Don't confuse happiness with an armchair, or live [their] life behind a screen. That they do not become the sorry sight of an abandoned vehicle or be parked cars, but dream freely and make good decisions,' as Pope Francis asks them. [143]

Over twenty years ago St. John Paul said:

"Youth must not simply be considered as an object of pastoral concern for the Church: in fact, young people are and ought to be encouraged to be active on

behalf of the Church as leading characters in evangelisation and participants in the renewal of society. Youth is a time of an especially intensive discovery of a 'self' and 'a choice of life'. It is a time for growth which ought to progress 'in wisdom, age and grace before God and people.'" (Lk 2:52) (*Christifideles Laici*, 46)  
- a quote we find in the Handbook Chapter 36 pp. 228-9.

The Apostolic Exhortation includes words of Pope Francis to the youth of Panama at the celebration of World Youth Day this past January. Referring to Our Lady's 'yes' to God's call, he says,

**"Mary did not know the words, 'Let's see what happens'. She was determined; she knew what was at stake and she said 'yes' without thinking twice. Hers was the 'yes' of someone prepared to be committed, someone willing to take a risk, ready to stake everything she had, with no more security than the certainty of knowing that she was the bearer of a promise." [cf. 44]**

May her prayers assist us in a new commitment to youth as legionaries, helping our young to live to their full potential and allowing their vigour to reinvigorate us with Gospel joy.

**30 April 2019 Allocutio by Fr. Liam O Cuiv**  
Administrator, Episcopal Vicar, Priest of the Dublin Diocese



## Photos Taken at the Acies 2019



**Legion altar thoughtfully decorated for the occasion**



**Fr. Patrick Chisholm, president, gave us his reflection on Mary's "yes!"**



**Excellent attendance from approximately 180 active and auxiliary members, family and friends**



**Curia officers being introduced during potluck dinner**



**Hosting praesidium, Mary Spouse of St. Joseph, Langley, in a souvenir pose with Fr. Chisholm**



**Everyone enjoyed this musical number from Mary, Mother of the Church praesidium in Surrey**



**Limwel Buidon, a youthful pianist from St. Bernadette parish, graciously volunteered to provide the accompaniment to the hymns**

## ACIES 2019

**S**t. Joseph Parish Church in Langley was the venue for this year's ACIES. Indeed, we, the members of Mary Spouse of St. Joseph praesidium are very grateful to God through Mother Mary's intercession that the ACIES anniversary celebration was held in our area. Being the host of the event, each of us brought our specialty food for fellowship.

Initial estimates indicated around 180 attendees for the 2019 Acies. Officers and members as well as visitors from different praesidia of the Lily of the Valley Curia came .

The program opened reverently with the hymn "Come Holy Ghost" followed by the recitation of the Legion prayers in the Tessera. The rosary was then prayed by the Legionaries present. Fr. Patrick Chisholm, pastor of St. St. Joseph church, gave a brief homily.

This was followed by all the Legionaries processing towards the altar where the vexillum was set up and consecrating themselves to the Blessed Mother with the words "I am Thine, my Queen, my Mother, and all I have is Thine"

The singing of "Immaculate Mary" was sung during the individual consecration of all members.

Benediction and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was officiated by Fr. Patrick. After the group Act of Consecration and the closing prayers, fellowship followed in the parish hall center.

Everyone enjoyed the delicious potluck dishes, which included a roast pig donated by one of the praesidia. It was also exciting for members to meet and greet old friends from the 15 different praesidia of Lily of the Valley Curia.

*Article written by Sis. Linda Edmilao, Mary, Spouse of St. Joseph, St. Joseph Church, Langley*

## Mary, Help of Migrants, Pray for Us



**W**hen I was growing up in the Philippines, I heard from my catechism classes that as the only Catholic country in Asia, our country was blessed and meant for great things. God orchestrated history to ensure that the whole archipelago—more than 7,000 islands—would be converted to Christianity. Certainly, our ancestors experienced being oppressed and colonized yet that was also part of the plan to forge our people and

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make us strong. Three centuries or so later, the Philippines would become one of the world's primary sources of labor, exporting human capital to countries in the Middle East, Europe and North America.



With 12 million overseas workers— not to mention migrants who choose to settle in their host countries—we were told that we were actively participating in the “ new evangelization.” It made us feel good to know that we had a crucial role in the history of salvation.

We were encouraged to be faithful and bring Christianity to the countries where we worked, infusing post-Christian Europe, secular America with the spirit of Christianity. I read once that some Europeans who were brought up by Filipino nannies were practicing their faith and participating actively in their parishes. There are also several stories on social media of successful professionals from the Middle East who attribute their positive outlook and humane dispositions to Filipino nannies who taught them good things.

I was in college a year after the 1986 People Power bloodless revolution that ended the twenty-year

Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines. Though Marcos had authored laws and pushed for mass overseas employment, there was sustained resistance against brain drain and patriots campaigned against it. Any talk of leaving the country to work overseas was considered “treason” because the country was in shambles and so much work needed to be done. Everybody was expected to roll up his sleeve and contribute in big and small ways to rebuilding the nation. It is true we needed the remittances sent by overseas workers to keep the economy afloat, but professionals esp. teachers needed to stay home to keep the four walls together.

Since I was a teacher, I was happy to embrace my role as an educator and happy to stay home because I felt I was not strong enough to face the challenges encountered by overseas foreign workers. I went to China and learned that no one is strong enough; people endure because God gives them the strength and God gives them the strength because He wants them to succeed in their mission. I went to Xiamen, in the south of China to teach IB English at an international school. I had read a lot about the underground Catholics and I was intrigued by the idea of living one's faith in such an environment. In Xiamen, there was only one Catholic Church and we had to take the ferry to go to Sunday Mass. Going to church there felt like going to church back home because there were many Filipinos. But when the weather was bad, ferry service was suspended; we could not go to Mass. I knew in my heart I could not stay in China because I was convinced God did not want me to be in a place where I could not go to Sunday Mass.

However, I had signed a contract so it would not be easy to get out of it; I prayed for a solution. Twenty-two days after I arrived in China, the headmaster summoned me to his office and scolded me for something he thought I did. It was a misunderstanding involving the head teacher but towards the end of that conversation, the headmaster said, “If this is not resolved, I will have you repatriated!”

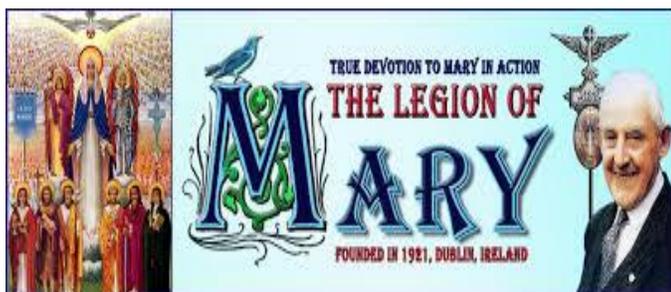
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I grabbed the opportunity he offered and saw it as an answered prayer. I said yes and at 10:00 pm that night I was back in Manila. I heard from my co-teachers that the headmaster often threatened faculty with repatriation when he wanted to make them do something. I was the first one to take him up on his offer. The employment contract I signed was legit, but God found a way and used the idiosyncrasy of my boss to make it happen. It was the month of August—with two Marian feastdays: the Assumption on August 15 and Queenship on August 22—so I was certain of Mother Mary's intercession as well.

I was an active member of the Legion of Mary in Makati City, Philippines when I left for Xiamen and I was sad to leave. I came back happy and relieved, knowing that I would go back to my Legion works again.



A few years later, I experienced in my life in a palpable way Mother Mary's intercession. I was hired by my sister to take care of her two sons in Surrey and I came to Canada in June 2014 via the caregiver program. In December, I developed a severe form of asthma, was rushed to the emergency room twice, and confined to the hospital. I am a farm girl with the constitution of a water buffalo. I can lift a fifty-kilo sack of rice and be ambulatory even when I'm nursing a 39-degree fever and I have hypertension, but I don't feel anything even when my blood pressure is high. Asthma was a lesson in mortality. I hated wheezing and not being able to breathe. It was torture to get out of bed, change into fresh pajamas and go to the bathroom, which was a mere ten steps away. I could not get the hang of inhalers and spacers. I saw many doctors and specialists, had many tests. I got a

prescription for special inhalers that cost a hundred dollars for a month's supply; and the idea of spending that much gave me more asthma attacks because I did not have extended healthcare for prescription medicine. I prayed again for a solution: for healing, for fortitude, for acceptance of the will of God. I went to Mass as often as I could, knowing that Jesus in the Holy Eucharist could heal me if he wanted. A doctor and his Filipino secretary gave me free inhalers and seeing four inhalers handed casually to me: four months' worth of medicine brought tears to my eyes.

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*From the Philippine Statistics Authority  
The number of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) who worked abroad at anytime during the period April to September 2018 was estimated at 2.3 million. There were more females than males among the OFWs, with the female OFWs comprising 55.8 percent of the total OFWs. Female OFWs were generally younger than male OFWs, with about half (47.5%) of the female OFWs belonging to the age group 25 to 34 years. In comparison, male OFWs in this age group made up 38.9 percent. Male OFWs aged 45 years and older accounted for 21.2 percent of all male OFWs while their female counterparts in this age group made up 14.5 percent.*

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“Please come back anytime you run out or if you need more,” the secretary said. “Thank you so much! What's your name, please, so I can pray for you. It's the least I can do,” I said. “Maria,” she said. As soon as I heard her answer, I became convinced she had been sent by Mama Mary. I felt in a physical way the presence of my Heavenly Mother, who wanted to assure me she had my back. In 2016, I finished my two-year contract as caregiver and was accepted to one of UBC's graduate programs. I prayed for a job that would allow me to go to daily Mass and be an active member of the Legion; these petitions were granted right away. Maria the medical secretary continued to give me a steady supply of inhalers; and in the meantime, my asthma attacks were becoming less and less frequent. I remember many times I would

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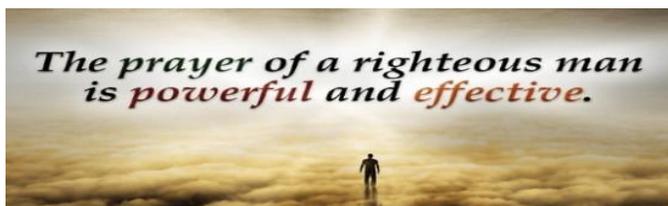
pray. "Please don't let me have asthma today so I can do my assigned work for the Legion." This prayer was almost always granted.

I graduated in May 2019 and began to work full time. Since I could already afford inhalers, I bought one. I had to explain why it was the first time I was buying a hundred dollar inhaler that I had been using for years; the pharmacist could not believe I had been living on samples from 2015- 2019. "You have been extremely lucky!"



To this day, I myself am blown away - it's all because of Mary!! I have many more stories about how God and Mary have helped me. I have also heard tons of stories from other migrants who felt the hand of God and intercession of Mary in their lives. It is true what the saints say. First, God gives you a mission and then He provides you with the means to fulfill it!

*Article written by Sis. Arlene Avila, president, Mary Mother of God, Immaculate Conception Parish, Delta*



*The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*

## Legionary Reflection

### 45 Years - Truly, A Source of Great Pride and Joy

by Sister Connie Anderson (as told to Sister Arlene Avila)

*(There's a separate article detailing the history and journey of the first praesidium, Mary Mother of God. In these few lines, I would like to share some details about how Mary Mother of Christ praesidium was born out of the original one in our parish.)*

In April 2019, we celebrated 45 years of the Legion of Mary in Immaculate Conception parish, Delta. In 1974, Sisters Mary Yartz, Gladys Gigeuno and Mary Heemskirk were the first members. I joined the Legion of Mary a few months later and though I had six children and a full-time job as a nurse, the members who invited me said that I would manage and by the grace of God, I did. Originally, the praesidium was called "Immaculate Conception" but the Concilium in Ireland requested that we change our name since there was already another praesidium with the same name and they wanted to avoid confusion. Fr. J.Franks was our spiritual director and we met in the rectory; I vividly remember that he always had a table ready for us. The Handbook says that the weekly meeting should last for about an hour and a half and in 2015, when our praesidium became too large, we decided to have another one (thus, Mother of Christ praesidium was born) that would meet on Thursday mornings. It was a perfect schedule for retired people like me who attended the daily morning Mass. Another bonus was the fact that the weekly parish fellowship was scheduled on Thursdays as well, so we got a fresh boost of energy from the coffee and goodies served by the parish volunteers before the meeting. To this day, this schedule has worked really well. When we recruit members, we can offer two time slots: one for people working full time, who are available after office hours and another for people who are retired or those with flexi-time, available in the morning.

This was not the first time that Mary Mother of God Praesidium gave birth to another praesidium. Almost twenty years ago, legionaries from Mary Mother of God praesidium also started another

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praesidium in the parish of St. Bernadette, in Surrey. The incumbent Curia President, Sister Lily Tamkee is one of those who pioneered the Legion there and like me, she too came from Mary Mother of God. I was moved when I heard the announcement in the April Curia meeting that they are preparing for their twentieth-year anniversary next year. This, among others is one of the visible fruits, but I am certain there have been and there will be many more. When I look back on my 45 years in the Legion of Mary, I am grateful and astounded by the many graces, such as the conversions of many souls, that God and Mary have allowed me to witness. I also realize that the recipe of success lies in the faithfulness to the Handbook. We obeyed and strictly adhered to what Frank Duff had written and then watched the marvels unfold.



## **Congratulations to Mary Mother of God Praesidium on their 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

**M**ary Mother of God praesidium was the first praesidium established in the Fraser Valley in Immaculate Conception Parish in Delta, BC on April 1974. The pastor who gave life to this group was Fr. J. Franks. One of its original members is Sis. Connie Anderson, who still attends Legion meetings and events. Here are some of the photos taken on their anniversary Mass and celebration last April 27, 2019.

The present officers of Mary, Mother of God praesidium are: Antonette D'Lima, president; Norm Parent, vice president; Latha Ullatikulam, secretary; Elvira Villanueva, treasurer.

An offshoot of this praesidium is Mary, Mother of Christ praesidium whose officers are: Arlene Avila,

president; Connie Anderson, vice-president; Yvonne Pinto, secretary and Ched Sesto, treasurer.



**Members and guests pose with Fr. Camillus Tembah**



**Parishioners relished the fellowship after the anniversarymass**



**Delicious food was served and was a delight to all**

# THE DOUBLE MATERNITY OF MARY

**T**alking about the double maternity of Mary may seem obvious and discernible when discussing the characteristics of Mother Mary's motherhood. Let's see step by step what we are referring to.

In the gospel, St. Luke shares with us the experience of the Annunciation (Lk 1, 26 - 38). Here the Archangel Gabriel tells Mary that because she has found favor with God, she will be the Mother of the Promised Savior. This announcement by the Archangel makes Mary a mother in a unique way because it is not according to the laws of nature but by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit.

This maternity of Mary, chosen by God, brings us closer to her. It allows us to see her faithfulness as a person who always seeks to give herself freely and totally to God. Like a blank slate or letter for Him to do as He wishes.

Both the Gospels of Matthew (Mt. 1:25) and Luke (Luke 2 1-7) narrate the birth of Jesus and how Mary becomes a mother in an extraordinary way in the history of salvation. This is the first maternity of our Mother, to bring the Savior to this world according to God's plan of salvation.

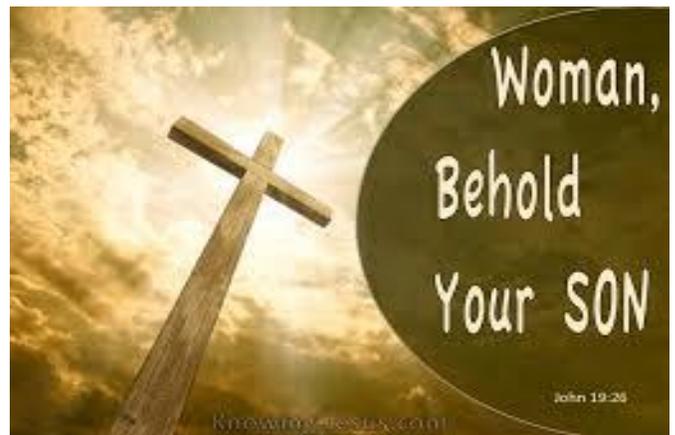
As we follow the life of Jesus in the gospel of John (Jn 19, 25 - 27) the second maternity of our mother takes place; While the Son is about to leave the world for the Father's house, he entrusts Mary, His mother, to the beloved disciple John who represents the church and all its followers. At this point it is necessary to consider that the declaration of our Lord Jesus goes in two directions: in the first place, by saying "Woman behold your Son" and in the second instance, by saying "Behold your mother."

Both have received the roles of mother to son and children; and the son to care for and watch over his mother. This is then our clear duty to honor and respect Mother Mary as she deserves. After the Ascension of Jesus, she was in the cenacle with Peter and the other disciples praying when the Holy Spirit came and the Church was born. As Mother of the Church, she, from heaven, takes care of us her children protecting and interceding for us before God, as she knows our weaknesses and gives us all the graces we need to go to heaven.

Let us follow the example of the saints, especially St. Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort and our Legion founder, Frank Duff, in making Mary known and loved by all men.



*At the Annunciation*



*At the Crucifixion*

*Article written by Bro. Roberto Pacheco, Our Lady of the Divine Will of God praesidium, Our Lady of Good Counsel church, Surrey*

## **The Feast of the Visitation- May 31<sup>st</sup>**



The feast of the Visitation celebrates the visit of the Virgin Mary, pregnant with Jesus, to her cousin Elisabeth, who was carrying John the Baptist in her womb. It was during this visit that Mary proclaimed the Magnificat

prayer which sprang from her exultation: "My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour, because he has looked upon his servant in her lowliness."

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## *President's corner. . .*

**G**reetings! The Lord is Risen, Alleluia!

In a few days we will be celebrating Pentecost so let us ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten, guide, transform and energize each one of us to continue to serve Jesus through Mary in our Legion activities and our personal lives.

Our Curia has grown by one more praesidium. Mother of Perpetual Help is now active at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish. Our praesidia are all thriving because of dedication and hardwork, and of course, by the grace of Mother Mary.

Let us welcome our newly elected Curia treasurer, Sr. Antonette D'Lima, who replaced Sr. Rhiza Adaza. Thank you Sr. Rhiza for your efficient and dedicated service to Our Blessed Mother and our Curia.

We have all worked hard this past winter and spring as soldiers of Mary. Now, it is time to relax a bit and take care of our bodies and mind. So let us enjoy the summer season with our families and friends. No, I am not giving you the summer off, we still have to continue with our Legion duties, etc. Above all pray to

the Blessed Mother for her continued protection in keeping us safe and away from harm.

I would like to thank our Spiritual Director Fr. Junjie for his support, encouragement and his awesome, enlightening allocutios. God Bless you, Fr. Junjie!

Last but not least, I would like to thank our editor, Bro. Dong Edmilao for his great dedication to this magazine. God bless you too, Dong!

***Enjoy your summer and keep safe everyone!***

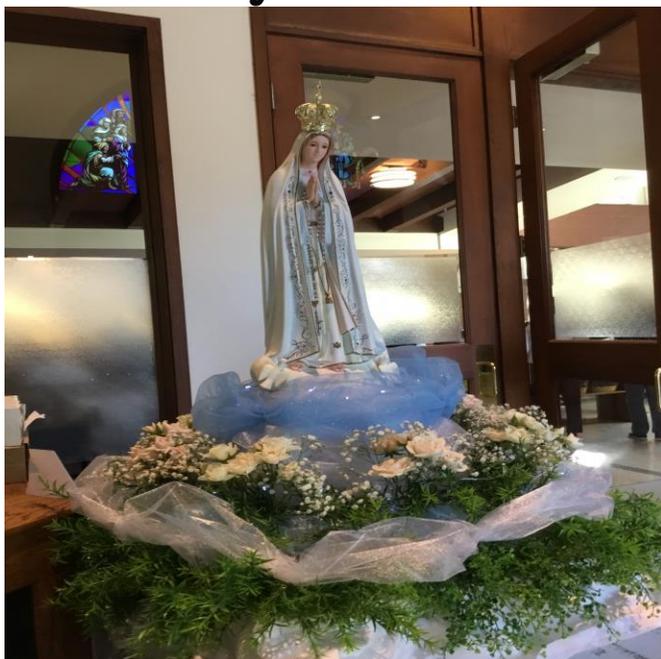
***Sr. Lily Tamkee, president, Lily of the Valley Curia, Fraser Valley West, BC***



### ***Legion of Mary Events Coming Up***

- **July 20, 2019** - Curia Picnic at Fleetwood Park, Surrey, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to be hosted by Mary Mother of the Church praesidium of St. Matthew's Church, Surrey.
  - **November 6, 2019** - 7 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel church, Surrey. Memorial Mass for the death anniversary of Frank Duff, founder of the Legion of Mary
  - **December 8, 2019**- Annual General Reunion to be hosted by Mary Queen of Victory and Mary Help of Christians praesidia of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Surrey, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
  - **March 2020** - Acies to be hosted by Our Lady of Lourdes and Queen of Angels praesidia of St. Bernadette Church, Surrey. This is also the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Our Lady of Lourdes praesidium.
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## **Crowning of Mary and Rosary Procession**



**Beautifully decorated statue of Our Lady of Fatima**



**Knights of Columbus honor guards added solemnity and color to the event**

**M**ary, Spouse of St. Joseph praesidium of St. Joseph Church, Langley, celebrated the Crowning of Mary and Rosary procession last May 18, 2019, Saturday, at 4:00 p.m., complete with Knights of Columbus honor guards. Our Lady was crowned with beautiful white roses by Kriszell Ramos, an 8 year old girl from St. Joseph church.

The Rosary was prayed around the church parking lot and consecration prayers were said inside the church consecrating those in attendance to the Immaculate Heart of Our Blessed Mother. More

than a hundred people came to the crowning and rosary procession.



**Parishoners pray the rosary outside the church processing around the parking lot**



**Each mystery of the rosary was artfully depicted on a tarpaulin**



**Kriszell Ramos shows off the rose crown of Our Lady prior to the actual crowning**

## **2019 Marian Conference In Vancouver**

**M**ay 25, 2019 saw approximately 650 Marian devotees gathered together in the Croatian Cultural Centre in Vancouver for this year's Marian Conference. Everyone eagerly listened to the six international speakers including a retired Archbishop Ramon Arguelles from the Philippines. Other speakers were Fr. Greg Bramlage, Fr. Jerry Thompson, Sr. Celeste Cabral, OSB, Nikki Kingsley, Zachary King, and Richard Lane who shared their testimonies and conversions to the Catholic Faith. As well, they pointed out Our Lady's integral role in their transformation in life.

In between speeches was a concert by Flaviane Montenegro and her band. The Stella Maris Concert Choir provided music for the 6:30 p.m. Mass presided by Archbishop Michael Miller. There were also Catholic exhibitors and concession stands available for all attendees. It was an inspiring day spent with faith-filled believers who are all children of Mary!



**This Marian conference was packed with the faithful Marian people and was well attended**



**Bob and Loretta Latta of Ave Maria Centre for Peace had a concession table with books and other items for sale and some free.**



**Two of the speakers, Fr. Jerry Thomson and Richard Lane pose with the main conference organizer, Ethelyn David of Immaculate Conception parish .**



**Retired Bishop Ramon Arguelles from the Philippines poses with some of the conference organizers.**



**This is the Stella Maris concert choir which sang magnificently at the Mass.**