

ISSUE  
#04



CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS  
JOHOR BAHRU ✕ 新山耶稣圣心主教座堂



*stories from  
the heart...*



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JOHOR BAHRU

1982-2022

# **LEGION OF MARY IN THE CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS**

Shalom. I am Josephine Louis. I am the current president of the Legion of Mary also known as LOM of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Johor Bahru. Though our members are few but they are very active in many church ministries including, Lectors, Announcers and Extraordinary Ministers for Holy Communion. Let me share with you the history of how LOM started in the Cathedral.

The Legion Of Mary started in the Cathedral in 2009. John Chia was the president with Monica Aw as the Secretary and Geraldine Chia as Treasurer and together with a few other members, they started LOM of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. There were only about five to six members at that time.

I was a Legionary at the Church of Immaculate Conception, Johor Bahru from 1996 to 2008. Later I joined the Legion of Mary of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In 2011, I became the president of the LOM of the Cathedral. Thereafter I have held various post in the LOM of the Cathedral right up till today.

Praying the rosary is very important for LOM. Through the years we have organized many rosary marathons and rosary processions- 'Living Rosary', in particular in conjunction with the World Day of the Sick which falls on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on 11 February and also The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on 7 October. Legionaries would carry the statue of our Lady during the Living Rosary procession while praying the rosary, often in different languages, including english, mandarin and tamil. This would then be followed by mass usually celebrated in several languages after which parishioners would join in the fellowship prepared and enjoyed in the church hall. Sadly many of these had to be suspended because of the pandemic in the last 2 years.

On 13th May 2017, Legionaries took part in the Rosary Procession – ‘Living Rosary’ in conjunction with the celebrations of the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima. That was a big event attended by many Legionaries and parishioners alike. Legionaries from the English, Mandarin and Filipino groups attended the event together with all their families and friends.

## Sacred Heart Cathedral celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima

JOHOR BAHRU: The Sacred Heart Cathedral, on May 13, commemorated the 100th anniversary of Mary's first appearance to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal May 13, 1917.

Fr (Dr) Michael Teng was the main celebrant, with parish priest, Fr Edward Rayappan concelebrating.

Prior to the Mass, the Legion of Mary (Mary Star of the Sea Praesidium) and the Mandarin speaking Legionaries, together with the Liturgical team, marked the event with the Legionaries pinning roses on a board to form a rosary while reciting the rosary.

Highlights of the celebration included blessing of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the procession from the hall to the cathedral altar before the start of the Mass.

Later, a video clip on the apparitions of Fatima was shown.

In his homily, Fr Teng said all present were there because of their devotion to Mary.

Fr Teng said he had just returned from a critical sick call at the General

Hospital and explained that it is the teaching, tradition and practice of the Church that such matters need quick attention, unless the priest is celebrating Mass.

He described how Mary went in haste to help Elizabeth in her pregnancy as soon as she was told. Responding to the Word and Will of God calls forth a sense of urgency.

He told the congregation that many know this fascinating story of what happened 100 years ago, adding that, "Mary asked for prayers, penance, sacrifices for the conversion and salvation of sinners and peace in a time of suffering, war, destruction, revolution and death."

Fr Teng went on to say that the phenomenon of the 'dancing sun,' in response to a request for a sign of authenticity to inspire belief, was witnessed by an estimated 70,000, including the media, and movies were made of it.

He said that it had been raining heavily but at the end of the sun's dancing, the ground and the spectators' were dry. He then asked the congregation, "Are we a wicked,

unbelieving people asking for signs? And when Jesus comes again, will He find faith among us?"

He also reminded the people that the May 13, 1969 was also a tragic page in inter-racial and religious peace and harmony in our national history. He urged Catholics to be attentive and increase efforts to foster understanding and cooperation among our peoples.

Josephine Louis, president of the Star of the Sea Praesidium of the Sacred Heart Cathedral said "The message of Our Lady of Fatima for prayer and penance and her exhortation to pray the rosary unceasingly is as relevant today as it was 100 years ago, particularly as we are facing challenging times, with threats to world peace."

According to Josephine, the Legionaries had conducted many events in the Cathedral. In February this year, on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Legionaries conducted a 'rosary marathon.' This was followed by a healing Mass to commemorate World Day of the Sick. — By Vincent D'Silva



Fr Michael Teng blessing the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, as Fr Edward Rayappan (far right) looks on.

\*\*Attached herewith the extract of the news cutting from HERALD of the procession on the 100th anniversary of the Feast of our Lady of Fatima.



One of the most important Legion function is the Acies which is celebrated annually by all Legionaries from various praesidiums in the presence of our Spiritual Director, whereby we will consecrate ourselves to Mother Mary by renewing our Legionary Promise, so that we may work better in union with her. (A Praesidium is parish level while a Curia governs the several praesidium in a city and a Regia is a council of authority over the Curia in a larger region) We open our hearts to Mary so that she may guide and bless us through the year. The ceremony will also include eucharistic adoration.



*Acies held in Church of St Joseph, Plentong with Fr Moses Yap.*

Legionaries also often visit the sick and elderly in homes, hospitals and care centres. We also often join force with the Parish Office of Human Development (POHD) of the Cathedral to cook and distribute food to the poor and for homes such as, Graceville and Villa Paulos. We also collect donations for orphanages in our country and other countries including Myanmar, Africa and India.



*Visiting the sick in Ponderosa Home.*



*Members taking part in OPUS DEI as cooperators with Fr Lebrano & Spiritual Director Chonzi.*



*Visiting Legionaries from Singapore.*

Legionaries also often meet up for prayers, retreats and fellowship. Our Legionaries from Singapore used to cross the causeway often to meet up with us before the pandemic. We also used to meet up with Legionaries from the other churches, in particular Church of Immaculate Conception, Johor Bahru, and also the churches in Muar and Batu Pahat.



*After a retreat at the church of St Henry Batu Pahat.*

Despite the pandemic, we have been holding meetings every Saturday 9am to 10.15am via video call. We encourage one another to attend Holy Hour and to attend mass regularly. We also hold CURIA zoom meetings once a month with Friar Moses Yap Poh Sing, OFM, (the spiritual director of the Curia) members also have online meetings (zoom) once a month.



*Feast of Holy Rosary 2018*



*Feast of Holy Rosary 2018*

When I joined the Legion of Mary 25 years ago, it was indeed a struggle for me as at that time I was very active in the Charismatic Group of the Cathedral. I felt very inspired by the Holy Spirit to join the Legion of Mary. I realized that while I was in the Charismatic group, I was only growing spiritually for myself. I felt I was being called to do more for Jesus and to spread His kingdom on earth. It was only when I joined the Legion of Mary that I realised I had found a true and fulfilling calling.



As a legionary, I ministered to a lot of people including the poor, the marginalised, the downtrodden, those hospitalised and alone, the neglected elderly in various homes for the aged, single mothers, lonely people and many lapsed Catholics. Through these visits, I felt I was able to serve the Lord as His disciple and evangelise for Him.

Through the Legion of Mary, I also found good, caring friends who have helped me grow in faith, hope and love. Although I am advanced in age now, I still want to continue being a legionary because Mother Mary has always guided and protected me all these years. It is my fervent desire to serve her and Her beloved Son till the day the Lord calls me HOME.

*Josephine Louis*  
*President - Legion of Mary*