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LEGION OF MARY  
FOUNDED 7 SEPTEMBER 1921

# Laureate Member - Bartley Oliver

## Native of San Francisco



**Bartley Oliver, (1854-1945) wealthy San Francisco businessman, very generous to the Catholic Church, and especially to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, contacted Concilium because of an article he read in a Catholic Newspaper about the Legion of Mary running a hostel for homeless men in Dublin. Frank Duff sent Celia Shaw to San Francisco in 1933 to fully explain to Mr. Oliver the scope of the Legion of Mary.**

## First Praesidium Established at Saint Monica Church (1933)



**During Celia Shaw's stay in San Francisco, Fr. William Cantwell, pastor of St. Monica's Church in SF founded the first praesidium in San Francisco on November 14, 1933 for women, and later a praesidium for men and a junior praesidium. Because of his example other parishes founded praesidia – St. Agnes in 1936, Fr. John Kelly of St. Leander's Church, in San Leandro started a Junior praesidium and also a Senior praesidium in 1936, the first in Alameda County.**

# Most Holy Redeemer (1937)



**A praesidium was founded at Most Holy Redeemer in 1937. Mary Foudy, later SF Comitium secretary and then president joined the praesidium at Most Holy Redeemer in 1938.**

## **Envoys of the Legion Started at the “City by the Bay”**

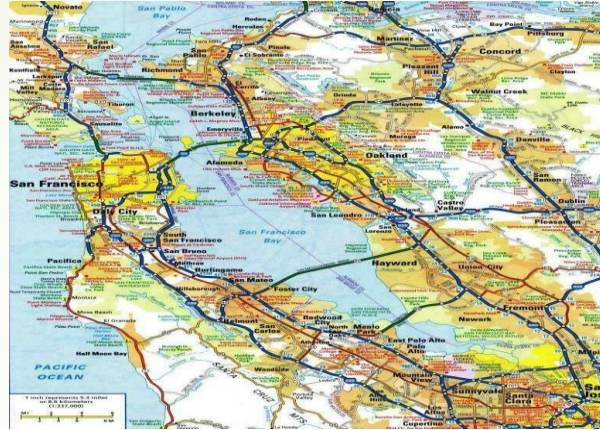
**Shortly after Celia Shaw’s visit Mr. Oliver wrote to Concilium to offer to fund the first Legion envoys to America to start the Legion of Mary -- Mary Duffy came from Ireland and spread the Legion throughout the western USA and John Murray in the east.**

## **The San Francisco Curia (1937)**

**The San Francisco Curia with 6 praesidia in San Francisco and 2 praesidia in San Leandro was founded in 1937, with Mary Duffy presiding at the first meeting. Mrs. Hicklin was elected Curia president, and Clara Coghlan, secretary. She was Mr. Oliver's personal secretary. By 1939 there were 33 praesidia attached to the San Francisco Curia throughout the Archdiocese which included 13 counties and included much of what is now the Oakland, San Jose, Santa Rosa and Stockton dioceses.**

# The San Francisco East Bay Connection

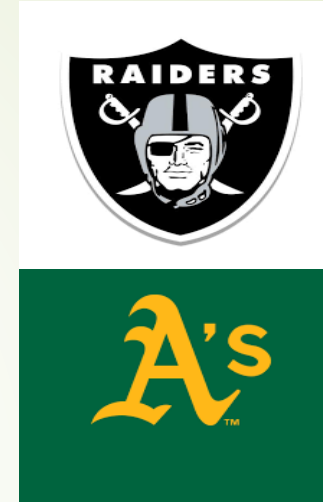
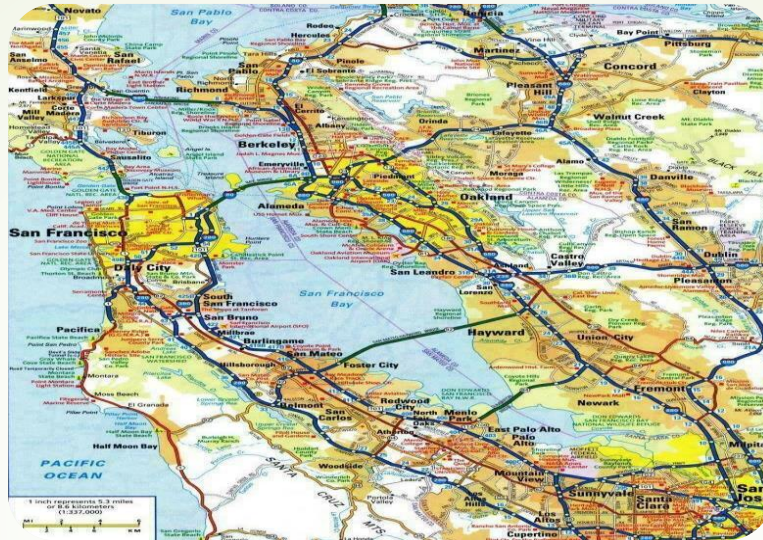
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# The San Francisco-East Bay Connection

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## **The San Francisco-East Bay Connection**

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**In 1941 Alameda County Curia was formed and the San Francisco Curia raised to a Comitium. Clara Coghlan elected Comitium president, and Mary Foudy secretary. Fr. Cantwell was Spiritual Director until 1952. On Dec. 7, 1941 Rev. Francis Ripley, expert on the Legion of Mary from England, spoke to Legionaries gathered at St. Monica's.**

**In 1943 the San Francisco and the Alameda County Curia celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Legion of Mary in the archdiocese. Ruth Povey succeeded Clara Coghlan as Comitium president serving until 1953. Fr. James O'Connor was spiritual director from 1952 to 1963.**

# They Left Their Hearts in San Francisco



**Fr. Aedan McGrath** attended a Comitium meeting in 1945 or 1946 on his way to China to spread the Legion of Mary.



In August of 1946 **Joaquina Lucas**, 1<sup>st</sup> Legion envoy to Mexico was traveling from Manila and stopped in San Francisco and attended the San Francisco Comitium meeting. From Mexico she went to South America where she learned Portuguese. She was already fluent in Spanish. Later she was envoy to Japan, Indonesia and Korea.

## **The San Francisco-East Bay - Peninsula Connection**

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**Mary Foudy president from 1953 to 1959. In the 1950's in addition to the praesidia in San Francisco and Alameda County Curia there were attached praesidia in San Jose, Gilroy, Stockton, Contra Costa and Solano County She learned to drive and bought a car so that she could visit all these. Lorraine Bush was extension chairperson and helped to start praesidia all along the peninsula. Stockton Curia was formed in 1957 and the Contra Costa-Solano Curia formed in 1959.**

# Junior Praesidia in SF High Schools

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**Many Catholic high schools had junior Legion praesidia. A Junior Congress was held on May 16, 1954, at Notre Dame High School in San Francisco. The Dominican Sisters at Immaculate Heart Academy started a praesidium for the girls in 1952, one of the members was Eva Pera, who remains in the Legion of Mary to this day, first living in Half Moon Bay now in Idaho, served as Idaho Curia president.**

# Mary Brady of Saint Kevin's Church

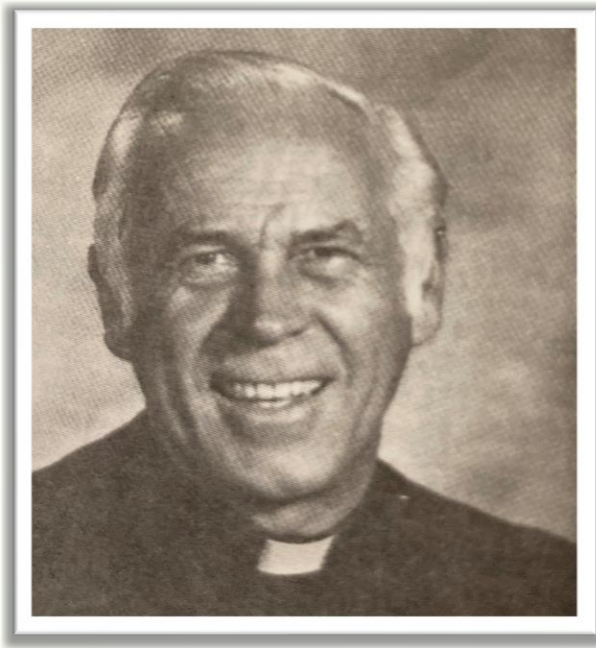


**Outstanding Legion of Mary member Mary Brady of St. Kevin's parish. She served as Comitium president from 1976 to 1982. With her sisters Mary Murphy and Eileen Giannini she visited the Concilium and helped to start the Apostolate to the Crowd in San Francisco, and participated in Peregrinatio Pro Christos in Idaho, Utah, Israel, and even to Russia before the collapse of the Soviet Union. Eileen started English, Spanish and Portuguese praesidia in Half Moon Bay. Several members who moved to Idaho and Oregon started praesidia of the Legion of Mary in their new home parishes.**

## Los Angeles Senatus

**The Los Angeles Senatus was formed in 1958 and the San Francisco Comitium was attached to that Senatus. Formerly the Comitium had reported directly to the Concilium. In February 1959 Mary Foudy and the Oakland Curia president Vicky Cotter attended a meeting of the Los Angeles Senatus.**

## **San Francisco Comitium Spiritual Director**



**Fr. Howard Rasmussen became Spiritual Director of the Comitium in 1963 and served until 1979 when he became Vicar of the Archdiocese and Fr. Goode took over as Comitium spiritual director.**

## **1960's: A Changing Landscape**

- **In 1961 the San Mateo County Curia was formed.**
- **In 1962 three new Catholic dioceses were formed in Northern California, Santa Rosa, Oakland and Stockton, which reduced the number of counties in the Archdiocese from 13 to 4. New councils were formed in these new dioceses and the Legion in these new dioceses no longer reported to the San Francisco Comitium but rather to the Los Angeles Senatus. As well, Solano County was now a part of the Sacramento diocese**



# Comitium/Senatus Presidents

<b>Robert Dixon</b>	<b>1959-1961</b>
<b>Mark Codd</b>	<b>1961-1964</b>
<b>Harry Collins</b>	<b>1964-1966</b>
<b>Tobias Casey</b>	<b>1966-1967</b>
<b>Settimo Carrara</b>	<b>1967-1973</b>
<b>Robert Karp*</b>	<b>1973-1976</b>
<b>Mary Brady</b>	<b>1976-1982</b>
<b>Daveen Spencer</b>	<b>1982-1985</b>

\*ordained a Deacon in 1976

## Comitium/Senatus Presidents

<b>Mary McGrath</b>	<b>1985-1988</b>
<b>Mary Peterson</b>	<b>1988-1994</b>
<b>Jun Pasion</b>	<b>1994-2000</b>
<b>Ray Frost (Comitium/Senatus)</b>	<b>2000-2006</b>
<b>Dave Marten (Senatus)</b>	<b>2006-2012</b>
<b>Ando Perlas (Senatus)</b>	<b>2012-2018</b>
<b>Ray Frost (Senatus)</b>	<b>2018 to the present</b>

# Highlights

**May 7 to May 11, 1966 Fr. Aedan McGrath spoke to Legion groups in San Francisco**

**1967 Junior Curia Congress**

**1970's Establishment of Apostolate to the Crowd in San Francisco**

**1970's and 1980's Legion members participate in PPC's to Utah, Idaho, Mexico, Israel and Russia**

**1980's Praesidium established by students at USF**

**1980's Exploratio Dominicalis was emphasized throughout Comitium**

**1981 in June Father Bradshaw, Fr. Willie Ryan and Fr. Aedan McGrath speak at the Comitium**

**Fr. Bradshaw came from Iceland where he started Incola Mariae project. Fr. Ryan of the Stockton diocese had been organizing PPC's to Utah for many years.**

# Highlights

**1981 San Jose Diocese created and the Legion of Mary councils in the diocese separated from San Francisco and attached to Los Angeles Senatus**

**1981 Establishment of the North San Mateo Curia**

**November 1983 - Celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Legion of Mary in San Francisco with a Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Daniel Walsh.**

**1980's – several Congresses were held**

**1987 – two day Marian Conference held at USF sponsored by the Legion of Mary with talks by Fr. Roger Charest, De Montfort father**

**1996 and 1999 Congresses held**

**1990's Formation of the San Francisco Korean Curia**

**1990's Public Grand Rosary Rally and Eucharistic Procession starting and ending at St. Patrick's Church organized by Legion of Mary praesidia at St. Patrick's.**

# Highlights

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**1995 Junior and Senior Legionaries attend World Youth Day in Manila**

**1996 Conference for Spiritual Directors of the Legion of Mary**

**2000 Holy Year pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Francis in North Beach**

**2000 Student praesidium at USF re-established**

**2002 Comitium officers attend Los Angeles Senatus Synod**

**2003 Celebration of the Year of the Rosary at St. Thomas More Church with Msgr. John Sweeny**

**2003 Concilium informs us that the Comitium would be raised to a Senatus with attached councils stretching from Northern California to Alaska and from the Pacific Ocean to Idaho and Utah**

**2004 March 11, 2004, first meeting of the San Francisco Senatus – correspondents appointed to attached councils**

**In the years following Senatus organizes PPC's to Utah, Idaho, Nevada, Sacramento, Fremont, Half Moon Bay, Santa Rosa, Novato**

# Highlights

**2005 Family Praesidium established attached to North San Mateo Curia**

**2005 Talk by Irish legionary on Frank Duff and Mass at St. Cecilia to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Frank Duff**

**2005 establishment of praesidium at St. Patrick's Seminary**

**2006 Senatus officers participated in Concilium conference of American officers – Dave Marten, Tessie Velicaria, John Dymond, Bill Wehrmeister**

**2009 Establishment of San Francisco Mission Excelsior Curia**

**2009 Celebration at St. Paul's Church for the Year of St. Paul**

**2010 Conference on True Devotion to Mary by Fr. Frederick Miller**

# Highlights

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**2011 - Emphasis on visitation of councils**

**2011 At the request of Concilium Dave Marten and Ed Miller attend visitation of councils in Western Canada, Vancouver and Edmonton**

**2011 Celebration of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Legion of Mary at St. Anne's.**

**2011 Senatus organizes Rosary Rally at Civic Center to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Family Rosary Crusade of Venerable Father Patrick Peyton. Rosary Rallies continue each year after that.**

**2012 Formation of the Northern California Korean Comitium**

**2012 Formation of the San Francisco Spanish Curia**

**2012 Formation of Daly City-Colma Curia. North San Mateo Curia raised to San Mateo Comitium**

**2010's to the present Annual Senatus Conference at Santa Clara, first at Our Lady of Peace and after first year at Santa Clara Convention Center**

**2010's Establishment of Apostolate to Tourists**