

Legion of Mary Renews Dedication at Annual Meet

ST. CLOUD — "Once we dedicate ourselves to a cause, we should be **totally** dedicated to that cause." With these words Father Raymond Lang inspired members of the Legion of Mary to renew their consecration to the Blessed Virgin.

In his sermon during the ceremony Father Lang recalled how Mary herself was a person of total dedication. She committed herself to the cause of Christ, he said, "from the moment she said 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord.'" He also pointed out that members of the Legion of Mary must be in the front ranks of the Church's legion, combatting the evil influences of our day.

"As Catholics," he continued, "we are committed to the same cause as Mary, that is, the work of Christ. This commitment means that, like Mary, we dedicate our sorrows and joys, our hopes and disappointments, to the continuous redemptive work of Christ."

Legion of Mary members held their annual Acies meeting here in St. Anthony's Church on Sunday, March 24. Approximately 500 members from seven parishes took part in the meeting.

Theme of the meeting was the words of the prayer of consecration: "I am all thine, my Queen, my Mother, and all that I have is thine." Father Lang's sermon was centered around the words of the prayer.

The parishes represented at the meeting were St. Anthony's, St. Paul's, St. Peter's, Holy Spirit, St. Mary's, all of St. Cloud, and St. Francis, Sartell and St. Anthony's, Watkins. Spiritual directors from each of these praesidia (local groups) were also present.

The St. Cloud Curia is composed of these seven praesidia. It consists of 56 active members, 143 ad-jutorian members and 3,249 auxiliary members. Officers of the Curia are Mr. Vern Reller, president; Mr. William Brennan, vice

president; Theresa Wieber, secretary; and Rosemary Borgert, treasurer.

The Acies meeting began at 2:30 p.m. with a religious service. All members present renewed the Act of Consecration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given. A social hour followed in St. Anthony's parish hall.

The annual meeting, called an "Acies," is a coming together of all the members, both the active and the auxiliary. The auxiliary members are those who assist the work of the Legion by their prayers. The "Acies" is regarded as the principal annual function of the group, designed to help all Legionaries to re-dedicate themselves to the service of Mary.

THE 1962 REPORT of activities engaged in by the Legion of Mary reveals the following information:

- A total of 1705 home and institution visits and 453 census calls.

- Forty-three children enrolled in an instruction class.

- Five baptisms, four confirmations, seven first Holy Communions, 4 marriages validated, four returns to the Sacraments, four converts, one convert under instruction.

- Nineteen persons were taken to church; the Sacred Heart enthroned in eight homes; twenty-six sodality and society enrollments.

Other works performed by senior members of the Legion of Mary include organizing, supervising, inaugurating and servicing discussion clubs, libraries, junior praesidia, and mission groups as well as teaching catechism, distributing literature and similar works. A total of 512 hours were spent in this kind of work.

The junior praesidia spent over 2,400 hours in sacristy work, clerical work, baby-sitting, distributing literature and similar works.