

Aiken's Makin ~ The Legion of Mary ~

This year Aiken's Makin enthusiasts who toured the myriad of wares along Park Avenue were treated to the annual historic tour of St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church as the parish continues with its biggest fundraising effort yet - to expand its original structure. The enterprise, "Building on Faith and Love," is aptly named for the sacrifice it entails. Members of the parish's Legion of Mary were on hand to meet and greet people as they entered the church to learn about the history of the Catholic faith in Aiken as well as to learn of the church's initial plans for its building project.

Founded in 1921, The Legion of Mary is a worldwide organization of Catholic men and women who place themselves under the banner of Mary, Queen of the Legion. The focus of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members, which is developed by prayer and active cooperation in advancing the reign of Christ.

The Local Praesidium of the Legion at St. Mary's is named *Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception*, in honor of that moment when Mary was conceived free of original sin in her mother's womb in order to be a worthy dwelling place for the Savior. Open to all Catholic men and women at least eighteen years of age who seek to advance their spiritual interior life, members of the Legion participate in the life of the parish at St. Mary's through visitation of the sick in the hospital and in other missionary activities assigned by our Pastor. A Junior Legion exists for those between the ages of ten to eighteen years of age. The Legion boasts six million members world-wide and its international headquarters is in Dublin, Ireland.

Active members meet weekly to pray, report on their visitation assignments and their work in the world. The meetings are held each Wednesday in St. Mary's School Library at 6:15 pm for about one and one half hours. Auxiliary membership is also available for those who cannot attend the weekly meetings and perform the assignments of the Legion. These Auxiliaries are the praying arm of the Legion of Mary.

The Legion's priority is the spiritual and social welfare of its members. That spirituality—symbolized in the Legion of Mary Standard—is centered on the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier, the One Who not only overshadowed Mary in the work of the Incarnation, but also came down upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost. The Legion is essentially Marian and apostolic. It must therefore be animated by the Holy Spirit both for the sanctification of its members and for their apostolic action.

The work of the Holy Spirit in the Church, therefore, is to bring to realization the work of Christ in the world, just as it is the work of Mary to lead us to Christ. In other words, the Legionary is asked to lend himself or herself to the action of the Holy Spirit, in and through Mary, to serve Christ and to continue His mission on earth.

For more information, contact Mrs. Mary Anne Wellendorf 803-648-5304 or MaWell@atlanticbb.net. www.stmarys-aiken.org click on *Parish Ministries & Activities* then on *Prayer & Worship*