



8th DECEMBER – SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Magnificat and Advent Hope

As we prepare for Advent, let us meditate on the Magnificat, or the Catena. The Magnificat is a poignant expression of Mary's faith, humility, and exultant praise. This hymn holds a special place in Advent observances as it powerfully proclaims God's redemptive plan for all creation. It also resonates with the transformative nature of the season.

This rich hymn of praise encapsulates the call to live humility and obedience, to act in justice and mercy and to celebrate God's faithfulness to his promises.

- **Humility and Obedience:** Mary's opening words, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46-47 ESV), reveal her humble acknowledgment of her role in God's divine plan. Her submission to God's will, expressed in her YES during the Annunciation, continues to resonate in the Magnificat as she acknowledges her lowly state and God's graciousness. She focuses attention on the greatness of God in the midst of what is humble and ordinary.
- **Social Justice and Mercy:** Mary's hymn echoes themes of social justice and God's concern for the oppressed. She celebrates the reversal of societal norms, proclaiming that God "has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty" (Luke 1:52-53 ESV). The Magnificat serves as a call to action, challenging us to embody God's compassion and work towards justice.
- **God's Faithfulness to His Promises:** Throughout the Magnificat, Mary reflects on God's faithfulness to the promises made to Israel. She speaks of God's mercy for generations and the fulfillment of the covenant with Abraham and his descendants. In doing so, Mary connects the birth of Jesus to the broader narrative of God's redemptive plan for humanity.



The Magnificat aligns seamlessly with the key themes of Advent—

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hope, peace, joy, and love. Mary's hymn becomes a lens through which we can view the season's anticipation. The promise of a Saviour, the expectation of justice, and the joyous recognition of God's faithfulness all find resonance in the verses of the Magnificat. In times of distress and uncertainties, the Catena calls us to focus on God's greatness and not on our troubles for God is bigger than all our concerns.

When we pray the Catena at each meeting, let us consider the implications of this hymn of praise for our own lives and that of those around us – our family members, colleagues, people we encounter in our personal contact work. May Mary's words become a source of personal meditation during Advent, prompting introspection on faith, humility, and the expectation of a Saviour in our own life. May praying the Catena lead us through this season of anticipation and preparation, inviting us to find not only a connection to the past but a timeless expression of faith that continues to echo through the ages, heralding the arrival of the long-awaited Saviour.

Reflection by Sr Veronica D'Roza, FMM – Spiritual Director of Mary, Handmaid of the Lord Praesidium



Senatus Allocutio – November 2023

by Br Okkie Tanupradja
Senatus President

Solemnity of Christ the King

Sunday, 26th November marks the celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King as the liturgical year nears its end. In Matthew 25:31-46, in contemplating the final judgment, Jesus uses the metaphor of a shepherd separating sheep and goats. The parable emphasizes the characteristics that please Him, portraying sheep as obedient and goats as stubborn and wicked.

Jesus intends to guide humanity toward true happiness, as reflected in His teachings from the Beatitudes to the parable's conclusion. The essence of God's good news is happiness, inviting all to enter the joy of the

Father's kingdom. Ultimately, Jesus came to teach us the path to happiness and lead us to eternal joy in heaven.

PRAESIDIUM OF THE MONTH

Mary, Star of the New Evangelisation Praesidium (Junior) – Church of the Holy Trinity



Mary, Star of the New Evangelisation, Junior Praesidium (MSOTNE) was set up in November 2015 by our former president, Sean Shrimpton. We started with 5 members and have grown to 15 members as of 2023. When we first began, members would head down to different catechism classes to recruit our members. Additionally, our parish has a yearly Confirmation attachment programme where confirmands would attend our meetings for a period of time before they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. After which, they can decide if they would like to

continue their spiritual journey with us.

As young legionaries, many of us are still in school, and our legionary work tends to be more spiritual in nature. These include praying for others, for people that have asked for our prayers and for ourselves. We also try our best to make time for other legionary work like helping out at our church canteen, serving as altar servers and leading prayers in our parish. Our praesidium strongly believes that a way to someone's heart is through food! We host potlucks and get together to introduce new members into our praesidium and to catch up with one another about our personal and spiritual lives regularly.

The goal of our praesidium is to journey with young and impressionable youths and we hope that we can provide them with a space to understand their faith on a deeper level. We would also like to thank Mother Mary for always being there for us and supporting us especially through the difficult Covid-19 period.

PROFILE OF A LEGIONARY

Natalie Wong – Our Lady Queen of the Sacred Liturgy Praesidium (Junior) – Church of Our Lady Queen of Peace



Hi! I'm Natalie Wong from Our Lady Queen of the Sacred Liturgy junior praesidium of Church of Our Lady Queen of Peace. I didn't realise how long I have been in the Legion till now. I joined the Legion right after my PSLE examinations. I am now preparing to sit for my O-levels examinations next year. 3 years in the Legion! That's how fast time flies when you are in the Legion.

Many may think that the Legion is just all about praying the rosary and devoting yourself to Mother Mary. At least, that was what I thought when I first joined the legion when I was 12. My mother encouraged me to consider joining the Legion when a friend introduced me to this praesidium. Since then, my time in the Legion has been very enjoyable.

I soon realised that the Legion was more than just praying the rosary. It is a community of like-minded people who are all on this journey to get closer to Mother Mary and God together. Everyone here is loving and caring towards one another and supportive of each other.

Every Saturday during our meetings, we have to report on the allocated work given to us for that week. Some of the allocated work include spiritual reading, and lately I have been trying to follow the Catechism in a Year podcast by Fr. Mike Schmitz. I do not think I would ever be engaged in such things on my own, if not for the Legion that has given me the opportunity to explore these areas of my spiritual life. I have learned so much more about my faith and my values through the Legion, which I would have otherwise not learnt in catechism class. I am very grateful to have found the Legion, and for this opportunity to share my legionary life.

PROFILE OF A LEGIONARY

Jade Peh – Our Lady of the Blessed Trinity Praesidium, St Gabriel's Secondary School

Hello everyone. My name is Jade and I am from the Mother of the Holy Family junior praesidium in Holy Family Church. I joined the Legion when I was 9 years old and have been in the Legion for 5 years.

I was first invited to the Legion by my sister's friend, which eventually led my 3 sisters and I to start going for weekly meetings. At first, I only went for Legion meetings because all my sisters were going and I felt compelled to stay. However, after a while, I started to appreciate the structure of the meetings and how each and every member had so much zeal and affection for our Lord in every meeting I attended.

In my 5 years of being a legionary, I have truly developed a deeper understanding and love for Our Lady through the recitation of the Holy Rosary. I am very grateful for the invitation to join the Legion and I can say with confidence that the Legion has improved my relationship with Our Lady and has deepened my love for the Lord. The Legion's focus on prayer and devotion has deepened my connection with God and allowed me to discover new facets of my spirituality.

By participating in the works of the Legion, such as visiting the sick and organising charitable events, I am able to tangibly express my faith and bring joy to those in need. Besides, whenever I need someone to turn to in times of need, I can always rely on Mother Mary to give me that sense of comfort. The Legion has provided me with a sense of purpose, deepened my spirituality, and allowed me to cultivate lifelong friendships. I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to be part of this incredible community, and I look forward to continuing my legionary journey, spreading God's love, one act of service at a time.





Concilium

CONCILIUM ALLOCUTIO – October 2023

By Fr. Paul Churchill

Saint Luke



Some of the Saints (and others) have commented that Our Lady spent most of her early life hidden in Nazareth and that once the Holy Spirit had descended on the Apostles she went back to the hidden life. Save for one man in particular who got her to share her memories, St. Luke. The most solid tradition has it that he was a gentile physician from Antioch. There he encountered the early Christians and he goes with St. Paul on part of his missionary journeys and eventually dies at 84 years of age in Bythnia.

There has never been any serious doubt about his authorship of the Gospel that bears his name and Acts. His style of writing shows him as an educated man with the best Greek. Those who are experts say however that the first two chapters of his Gospel, apart from his prologue (Lk 1:1-4), is notably more Semitic, indicating a Hebrew or Aramaic source. And that gives us confidence that what he writes there are memoirs revealed to him by a firsthand witness. Effectively these are the accounts by Mary herself of the events that led to the birth of Jesus and significant events in his early life.

So thanks to St. Luke, who took the trouble of meeting up with her, we have the joyful mysteries of the Rosary: the Annunciation, the Visitation, The Birth of Jesus in the manger at Bethlehem, the presentation in the Temple and the Finding of the child Jesus in the Temple. We can also add that the mysteries of the Ascension and the Descent of the Holy Spirit have a content they would not have had if Luke had not written what he did in Acts. Indeed we might not have been aware of the central role Mary played in those events but for him.

In the public ministry of Jesus Luke records that woman in the crowd who said, "Blessed the breasts you suckled" and he replied, "Blessed rather the one who hears the word of God and keeps it!" That particular Gospel passage is found in no other Gospel. It makes sense that that event would have been remembered by Mary when others only saw it as one of the many other moments.

That passage also about Jesus seeing Satan fall like lightening from heaven and Jesus giving authority to trample on serpents (Lk 10:17-19) does remind us of the Woman of Genesis. Interestingly it is only found in St. Luke's Gospel.

The story of Jesus raising the son of the widow of Nain (Lk 7:11-17) only appears in Luke but is not unlike the story of the Widow of Nazareth losing her son on the Cross but who also gets him back in his Resurrection.

It is true that Luke was not present at the events of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Commentators say he relied a lot on St. Mark's Gospel—or at least on the tradition that gave us that Gospel—but his account of the Passion shows content not in the other Gospels. And so if he had some meetings with Mary in doing his research—and he did say he inquired carefully into matters (Lk 1:3)—then we must look carefully at those inclusions in his Passion account to hear some of Our Lady's own recollections. She was a direct eye and ear witness.

Mary may well have been allowed entry to the High Priest's house with Peter and John (an idea also used by Mel Gibson in his *Passion of the Christ*). Luke records there something in no other Gospel: "... the cock crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter ... and he went out and wept bitterly". That phrase "looked at Peter" is not mentioned in any other Gospel. While everyone else was focused on the maid's challenge of Peter, Mary had her eyes on Jesus and was attentive to his suffering. She may well be the source for that detail. She saw that it was that deep look into Peter's eyes that caused him to go out and weep bitterly.

Luke mentions that Pilate sent Jesus over to Herod. No other Gospel mentions this. In the light of how things turned out it was a small side-show. But I suggest that Mary could not but remember how the same Herod had allowed the death of her nephew, the Baptist. She sees the same mistake being made by Pilate. Herod did not want the Baptist killed but got himself trapped by self-interest. Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent but finds himself in a similar trap of what public opinion would think. She sees the parallel between the two events and alerts Luke to this.

The meeting of Jesus and the women of Jerusalem also only appears in Luke. Might Mary, a woman, be the source of this detail? For whatever reason these other women stuck in her mind. Maybe it was Jesus' compassion for her species who are often the innocent victims of male mistakes?

Certainly St. Luke's version of the Passion does show the compassionate Jesus. Only in St. Luke do we hear the words, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!" Only in St. Luke do we hear Jesus engage with the good thief, "Truly I say to you, this day you will be with me in Paradise". I suggest that the remembrance of these words speaks volumes about how Our Lady grasped the central message of Jesus, the Lamb who died for sinners, who didn't condemn sinners but only responded with the compassionate heart of God.

There is one other passage in Luke's Gospel I must refer to and that is the appearance of Jesus to two of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. How come only St. Luke has it? Might he have got that from Our Lady? That is not impossible. St. Luke names one of those two disciples as Cleopas. St. John refers to one of the women at the foot of the Cross as the wife of Clopas. Some speculate that Clopas-Cleopas are the same person while others are unsure on this. We cannot rule out that the couple on the road to Emmaus were a husband and wife team. The phraseology of St. John's Passion has another woman at the foot of the Cross who by blood is a close relation of Our Lady. There is no doubt but that this event would have been a huge memory in the family of whoever this couple were. And thus it is really possible that this very special event came to Luke through Our Lady who had heard it as part of the family folklore and, as she so often did, pondered so much in her heart.

There is a tradition that St. Luke painted the first picture of Our Lady. And some paintings on canvas are suggested. But science is not supportive of this. The truth is more that St. Luke, using the information he got from Our Lady painted not just a picture of her Son for us but also paints an image especially of her inner soul way beyond what the other Gospels gave us.

I began by saying that Our Lady has a hidden life after Pentecost. In her act of charity to Luke, helping him in his project, she opens up and reveals much about herself. Where else do we get the Magnificat from? Thank you, St. Luke!

HIGHLIGHTS OF CONCILIUM WORLD NEWS – October 2023



LITHUANIA:

Telsiai Comitium. Praesidia reports: The Queen of Holy Rosary, a youth praesidium attends Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on First Fridays, visits the nursing home, sick and elderly people. The members help the Salesian brothers as volunteers in camps and other events and participated in Summer Camp for Youth organised by Franciscans.

Curiae reports: A praesidium reported a sixty-year-old woman converted and received her First Communion and a child was baptized. Legionaries also organise and supervise

three rosary groups.

Kaunas Comitium: They reported visiting their attached Curiae and praesidia and are also organising a Congress for October.

HUNGARY:

Budapest Regia. Elections were held for Regia officers. Reports- The apostolate of a praesidium of seven members is helping the sick to access the sacraments and to organise a spiritual day retreat for them. In Advent, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is organised for young people to help them to deepen their faith. In another praesidium several people completed the 33 days Consecration to Jesus through Mary.

Curiae reports:

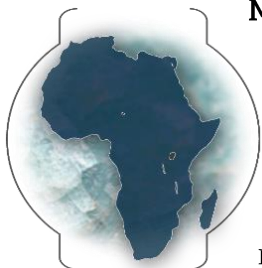
The attached Curia reported promoting the Miraculous Medal and organising Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on the First Saturday of the month.

POLAND:

Warsaw Praga Comitium. Five legionaries of a praesidium have taken the Legion promise. In one of the attached praesidia two men joined the Legion of Mary, and it was agreed that more men should be invited to Legion of Mary membership. A new praesidium with twelve members was set up in Kolka Curia.

Warsaw Comitium: A retreat for legionaries was well-attended. The attached praesidia and Curiae are visited. The apostolate of a Curia of eight praesidia is promotion and distribution of the Miraculous Medal, support of the sick and disabled and many Church activities.

Lublin Regia: Attendance at the Regia meetings of praesidia and Curiae is good. One of the attached praesidia does home visitation. One Curia reported seven new members who took the promise. Two people were brought to confession and fifteen people joined in praying the rosary. There is no presence of the Legion of Mary in Slovenia or Serbia.

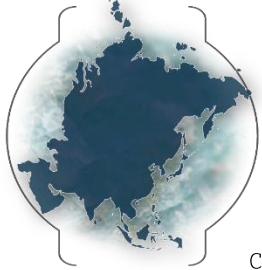


MAURITIUS Regia / incl. RODRIGUES:

Some beautiful photographs of legionaries participating at many functions such as retreats, processions and Legion of Mary meetings, holding banners and looking very joyful were sent in addition to the meeting minutes. All groups organised rosaries at grottoes, etc. during May. A special Legion of Mary stand was manned by members at a Day of Vocations held in Thabor in October. A retreat was organised by the Regia recently and other retreats were organised also by many Curiae to help strengthen the faith. A Mass was animated by junior legionaries helped by seniors in September. They have been in touch with their new Bishop Michael Durlone for a replacement of their Spiritual Director, Father Octavian who has been transferred to Australia. We thank him for his many years of service to the Legion of Mary. Treasurer's statements show printing and sale of Tesseræ and sale of Handbooks but no mention of Miraculous Medals and this needs attention.

RWANDA: Senatus of Kigali:

The June and July minutes are the first reports to be received by the correspondent since Covid started. Rwanda was one of the last countries in Africa where restrictions became more relaxed. The main item mentioned was the election of the new Senatus officers. Also, the hierarchy appointed a new Spiritual Director to the Senatus, as the previous Spiritual Director passed away. Father Clet Nahayo was one of the Rwandese who visited Concilium a number of years ago, so he knows the Legion of Mary very well. One needs to take notice of Comitium Nyyundo, which has forty-four Curiae and thirty attached praesidia with a total of over five thousand, five hundred (5,500) members. A restructuring of the set-up in Rwanda is very necessary, as the Senatus is also waiting for the final go ahead to raise two new Regiae.



KOREA:

Seoul Senatus. Archbishop Peter CHUNG Soon-Taick presided at the Mass in Seoul commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Legion of Mary in Korea. An Anniversary Exhibition held in conjunction with this event, originally intended to run from 28th June to 6th July, was so well received that it was extended to 16th July with the Archbishop providing a separate venue free of charge. Reports from attached councils show many returns to the sacraments and recruiting of catechumens. A lady from North Korea was helped to come into the Church as were a Protestant family.

Gwanju Senatus. To mark the 70th anniversary, the Senatus prepared an action plan on the theme of 'Recovery of Faith in the True Devotion of Mary' and has called on all attached Councils to implement this in order to revitalize the Legion of Mary in their areas. There has been a ready response to this as can be seen in the reports. For example, one Comitium reported of forty (40) people baptized, one hundred and forty-six (146) returns to the sacraments and ninety (90) people joining the Legion of Mary.

Daegu Senatus. Contact has been re-established with the Senatus after communication ceased with the onset of Covid early in 2020. The minutes of September 2023 have been received and these show an active apostolate. Also received were details of the elections of vice president, secretary and treasurer.

MALAYSIA: Kuala Lumpur Regia: Reports were taken from five Curiae with a total membership of three hundred and ninety-seven (397) active and six hundred and ninety-four (694) auxiliary members. Works reported included home, hospital, and care-home visitation. Legionaries assist with the liturgy in their churches. Contact with non-Catholic families was also reported. Five praesidia in a distant area are being formed into a Curia.

HONG KONG: The Junior Curia organized formation days for their members to which parents were invited. Senior legionaries have recommenced visitation of the women's prison. They support prisoners and encourage them to better themselves on release. They also write to prisoners through an association dedicated to that apostolate.

SINGAPORE: Senatus reported several outdoor functions were well attended, for example, three hundred (300) attended a candlelit rosary procession. Crowd contact is carried out in the market and on the streets. Twenty-six juniors attended a Lenten retreat organized by Kuching Comitium, (East Malaysia). Legionaries in Sibu Comitium recited a daily rosary in the Cathedral during May. A day of talks on the value of Legion of Mary membership organized for students was attended by thirty-eight (38) non- legionaries.

INDONESIA:

Jakarta Senatus. Bogor Comitium established a new Curia. The Legion of Mary is now in this area for sixty years and an anniversary Mass was celebrated in commemoration of this occasion. Forty-two (42) new members have joined praesidia in South Jakarta Curia. A praesidium has been established in the Seminary.

Malang Senatus. The Comitium reporting, which is based in South Sulawesi, has one thousand, seven hundred and eighty-nine (1,789) active and two hundred and seventy- three (273) auxiliary members. Patrician meetings featured in reports.

Kupang Senatus. A variety of works were mentioned in reports. Legionaries encouraged unwed couples to marry in church and arranged baptism of children. One attached Regia has a membership of nine thousand, eight hundred and ten (9,810) senior and two thousand, five hundred (2,500) junior members.

TAIWAN: Ximzhu's Queen of Apostle's Curia has thirteen praesidia with one hundred and seven active members. They continually reach out to young and active members in their parishes to join the Legion of Mary. Mystical Rose Curia in the Taipei 5th and 6th Deanery has seventeen attached praesidia with one hundred and sixty-five members. The average attendance at Curia meetings is 88%. The importance of recruiting is emphasized by Curia officers and Spiritual Directors at both Curiae. A general correspondents meeting was held in July. A new editor is being sought for the Legion's Newsletter.



18 ORDER OF THE PRAESIDIUM MEETING

31 Dec 2023 – 6 Jan 2024 pp. 113 – 114 “10. The recitation of ...” – “... in all ages.’ (MCul 18)”

Reflection

The Legion Picture

... Look at the border of the [Legion] picture and you see a representation of the Catena for the letters of the Latin texts are each in the links of a chain. Now look at the portrait of Mary herself. She is depicted as the antiphon of the Catena proclaims her, as “She that cometh forth as the morning rising, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army set in battle array.” She is the Morning Star, heralding the dawn of the Sun of Justice. So the artist has adorned her brow in the picture with a brilliant star.

The principal item in our Catena is Mary's own canticle, the song of the triumph of her humility, so the first verse of the Magnificat is inscribed over Mary's head. Was not this a thought which was ever present in her mind? Was not her spirit always raised to the praising of God? But do not overlook the fact that the letters are letters of fire. The zeal of Mary's followers must be as a burning fire, consuming every obstacle

to the apostolate. All the time it must be saturated with the spirit of Mary's humility. Otherwise it will radiate self instead of Christ. God will still depend on his humble Mother for His conquests. He continues to accomplish great things for His glory by the agency of those who are united with her.

The Versicle and Response of the Catena are those of the Immaculate Conception, which is one of the primary devotions of the Legion. The words set in the chain border also refer to it. They come from God's promise of redemption to the serpent in the third chapter of the Book of Genesis: "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head." In the picture we see this warfare. Between Christ and Satan enmity is complete. Likewise it is complete between Mary and Satan. All those who are consecrated to her share in this enmity. So the picture shows the conflict between the Legion and the powers of evil which are falling back scattered in defeat. ...

Very Rev. Francis J. Canon Ripley, "Talks to Legionaries", p. 91.

7 – 13 Jan 2024 pp. 114 – 115 "11. The Allocutio." – "... Father William Doyle")

Reflection

Introduction

... The ideal of the Legion is that every item in its system, and especially in the meeting, should play its part in forming the members. Most important is the training according to the system of Master and Apprentice. This runs right through the system. For example, the Spiritual Director's part in formation is not restricted to the short talk he gives at every meeting. He is at work for the whole ninety minutes for which the meeting may last. The Legion has always believed, and it has proved, that merely talking to people, taken by itself, is of very little formative value.

The allocutio is just one element in formation. By itself it is not tremendously important. But its place is enhanced when it is linked with formation according to the Master and Apprentice system. The official Handbook gives the following instructions concerning the allocutio:

1. It is a short talk given by the Spiritual Director;
2. Except in special circumstances it should be a commentary on the Handbook;
3. Its object is to familiarise the members with every point in the Handbook;
4. The Legion desires its members to have a degree of knowledge of the Handbook which can be imparted only by a systematic verbal explanation and expansion of the Handbook week after week, year after year;
5. When the Spiritual Director is absent the commentary should be made by the President or by any member designated by the President;
6. A mere reading from the Handbook does not suffice for the allocutio;
7. It should not last for longer than five or six minutes. ...

Very Rev. Francis J. Canon Ripley, "Talks to Legionaries", pp. 5 – 6.

14 – 20 Jan 2024 p. 115 "12. On completion of ..." – "... in the Modern World")

Reflection

The Peril of Routine

... If the Legion in its Councils, praesidia or members is not working to the maximum of its capacity, the mother-love of Mary is being frustrated. She wants to reach out to multitudes of souls through her Legion, but her Legionaries are too set in their ways, fail to recruit new members, refuse to widen their horizons or shy at the prospect of heroic work.

We must realise that the aim of the Legion of Mary is to mobilise the whole community to apostleship. There is plenty of room to doubt if the Legion is working to one-tenth of its capacity in certain areas where it is established. ...

The important thing about our work is to be quite definite about the end product. What are we aiming at? Are we taking all possible means to that end? Can we not enlarge our productive capacity? Could we not mobilise Patrician groups, organise auxiliary rallies, form a Guild of St. Monica to clean the church, or St. Joseph's Association for the maintenance of the fabric? Would it not be possible to promote cultural activities in the parish – a library, film shows, lectures, well run social events or dances (as distinct from those organised purely to make money), excursions to places of Catholic interest, outings or cycle trips among the young, a fine body of altar servers among men, youths and boys, a circle for missionary work and so on and so on. There is really no limit to what could be done – and it is easy to see that if it were being done, all dominated by the spirit of Mary, new members would come into the Legion, new interests would be created by the various reports and immense good would result in the Church.

Very Rev. Francis J. Canon Ripley, "More Talks to Legionaries", pp. 127 – 129.

21 – 27 Jan 2024 pp. 115 – 116 "13. Secret bag collection." – "... the Blessed Virgin")

Reflection

Harmony

The Handbook contains a remarkable quotation from Cardinal Newman in which he points out and explains the astonishing but true fact that when good, kind, zealous, spiritual, religious people come together to work in considerable numbers certain human weaknesses show themselves: passion, self-will, pride and unbelief make it seem that the spirit of these people is "in grave contrast to Christian simplicity and straightforwardness."

Elsewhere the Handbook tells that self-suppression must be the basis of all work in common. "Without it even the best workers may threaten the organisation. Those serve the Legion best who moderate their own individuality and adapt themselves most completely and most harmoniously to the whole." We are told very solemnly: protection against the spirit of the world "will lie in the exclusion of all words and attitudes which are hostile to charity." When harmony and charity depart, all good departs.

Those who offend against charity in the Legion of Mary deprive their work of merit; they cause scandal in the Legion and to those outside of it; they poison new members; they bring needless worry to the Officers; they prevent worthwhile work being done – in a word, they sin against the very essence of the Legion spirit, which is simply a love of God and men worthy of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Remember the quotation – that self-suppression must be the basis of all work in common – not just part of it or a quality of it but the basis, the foundation. Knock away the foundation and you destroy whatever stands upon it. ...

Very Rev. Francis J. Canon Ripley, "More Talks to Legionaries", p. 151.

28 Jan – 3 Feb 2024 p. 116 "14. Termination of the meeting." – "... (Mt 18:19-20)"

Reflection

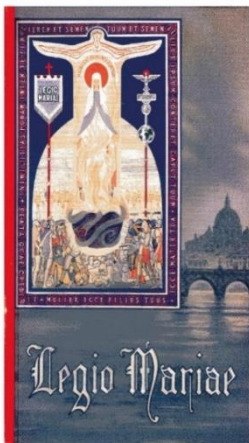
Individual Decision

... If in each praesidium just one member were to take seriously the task of extending works, increasing membership and bringing a spirit of adventure to the group – never, of course, offending against charity, obedience or humility – there would be a transformation. Other members would be won over; new recruits would come in; outlook would be broadened and there would soon be evident new zest, fresh enthusiasm, general enterprise, a progressive spirit, a determination not to be hampered by routine.

Councils of the Legion are constantly troubled by what are called "weak praesidia". Almost invariably it is suggested that new members be drafted in from existing strong praesidia and almost invariably the problem recurs before very long. Sometimes these weak praesidia are weak because their members are too slow or timorous in taking action themselves. Do they call on the parish priest and ask him for help in their difficulty and at the same time do they put before him the grand image of what the Legion can really do in the parish? Do they try to gain new members by undertaking fresh works? Do they approach other parochial organisations to offer the Legion's help in recruiting for them? Have they thought out a new approach to youth work? Have they considered organising a series of parochial pilgrimages or outings in the summer and for this purpose forming a committee of non-Legionaries to help them? Have they surveyed their whole possible apostolic field of the parish and assessed the needs in the order of gravity and taken appropriate action? ...

The Legion requires good administration. It is Our Lady's army. On the administrative as well as the apostolic side there should be efficiency worthy of her who cared for the little home at Nazareth. Remember the point: individual decision. If just one member in a Council or praesidium sees the Legion as it ought to be seen and determines that that meeting is going to be worthy of it, and then perseveres, in union with Our Lady to bring that about, working always with kindness, charm and "to the centre", a universal transformation for good would almost certainly result.



Very Rev. Francis J. Canon Ripley, "More Talks to Legionaries", pp. 154 – 155.





THE LEGION OF MARY - HANDBOOK

is now available for free in App Store and Play Store

Please encourage legionaries to download it and keep it in their smartphones





CHECKLIST for PRAESIDIA, CURIAE and COMITIA for the Year 2024

No.	Questions	Yes	No	Follow Ups
1.	Have we submitted our Annual Returns ?			Go to https://legiomariae.net/forms/ print, scan and email to legionofmary@catholic.org.sg
2.	Have we prepare for our regular Quarterly Report to Senatus ?			Please do it in advance. Kindly use the latest template for Quarterly Report http://bit.ly/qreports For praesidia please check https://legiomariae.net/forms/
3.	Have we ordered Maria Legionis for this year?			Email to senatustreasurer@gmail.com
4.	Have we updated our stock of Legion materials for next year? Eg. tesserae, miraculous medals, handbooks, secret bags, etc.			Go to: https://tinyurl.com/legionmaterials and order it for next month.
5.	Have we planned for Legion events in 2024 ? a. Acies b. Day of Recollection c. Outdoor/Indoor Function d. Frank Duff Mass e. Annual General Reunion f. Other Specific Events (according to the council's needs)			Please discuss among your fellow council officers and arrange a meeting via the Senatus Zoom account (it's free of charge) – <i>please allow several days for us to setup the meeting for you.</i> https://tinyurl.com/sgsenatuszoombooking
6.	Have we encouraged our members to read more of the Legion Handbook ? (recommend them to download the softcopy app so they can save it in their smartphones)			Go to: https://tinyurl.com/legionhandbook
7.	Have we encouraged our members to subscribe to the Senatus social media channels ?			Facebook: Legion of Mary Singapore Senatus (group) YouTube: Legion of Mary Singapore Senatus Instagram: lom_singaporesenatus Telegram: lom_singaporesenatus
8.	Do we need softcopies of Legion resources for our recruitment ?			Go to: https://legiomariae.net/references/
9.	Do you wish to offer a Spiritual Bouquets to your contacts or anyone who ask you to pray for them?			You can either fill-in the card available for download https://legiomariae.net/spiritual-bouquet/ print and mail to them or else you can just list your prayers through https://tinyurl.com/2uyf2jaw

SINGAPORE SENATUS WORKPLAN 2024

Event	Day/ Date	Time	Venue	Praesidium in Charge	Praesidium Annual Report	Praesidium Visitation Report	Council Quarterly Report	Curia Visitation Report
Meeting	Sat, 13 Jan	1:30 pm	Multi Purpose Hall Lvl 1 Church of the Holy Family	Mother of Perpetual Help	Mother of Perpetual Succour	Mystical Rose by Our Lady of the Sacred Heart	1. North 2. West 3. Mandarin City 4. Kuching 5. Sibü 6. Miri 7. Bintulu 8. Limbang	Nil
Meeting	Sat, 17 Feb	1:30 pm	Multi Purpose Hall Lvl 1 Church of the Holy Family	Mystical Rose	Mother of Mercy	Our Lady of Sorrows by Mother of Mercy	1. Serangoon 2. Mandarin East 3. Junior 4. Kota Kinabalu 5. Keningau	Mandarin City by East
Talk/Workshop (SS) - End of Life	Sat, 24 Feb	2pm - 5.30pm	TBA	1. Serangoon Curia 2. Mandarin West Curia				
Meeting	Sat, 9 Mar	1:30 pm	Multi Purpose Hall Lvl 1 Church of the Holy Family	Immaculate Conception	Nil	Mother of Perpetual Help by Seat of Wisdom	1. East 2. Mandarin West 3. Tertiary 4. Korean 5. Brunei	Serangoon by Korean
Acies Mass (CC)	Sun, 24 Mar	2:30 pm	Church of the Holy Family	1. Our Lady of Sorrows 2. Mother of Divine Grace 3. Mother of Perpetual Help				
Meeting	Sat, 13 Apr	1:30 pm	Multi Purpose Hall Lvl 1 Church of the Holy Family	Mother of Perpetual Succour	Mystical Rose	Immaculate Conception by Mother of Perpetual Succour	1. North 2. West 3. Mandarin City 4. Kuching 5. Sibü 6. Miri 7. Bintulu 8. Limbang	East by Mandarin West
Meeting	Sat, 11 May	1:30 pm	Multi Purpose Hall Lvl 1 Church of the Holy Family	Seat of Wisdom	Nil	Our Lady of Guadalupe by Mother of Divine Grace	1. Serangoon 2. Mandarin East 3. Junior 4. Kota Kinabalu 5. Keningau	Tertiary by Serangoon
Talk/Workshop (SS) - LGBT	Sat, 1 Jun	2pm - 5.30pm	TBA	1. North Curia 2. Mandarin East Curia				
Meeting	Sat, 8 Jun	1:30 pm	Multi Purpose Hall Lvl 1 Church of the Holy Family	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Our Lady of Sorrows	Mother of Divine Grace by Our Lady of Sorrows	1. East 2. Mandarin West 3. Tertiary 4. Korean 5. Brunei	West by Mandarin East

Event	Date	Time	Venue	Praesidium/Curia in Charge	Praesidium Annual Report	Praesidium Visitation Report	Council Quarterly Report	Curia Visitation Report
Junior Legion Day (SS)	Sat, 6 Jul	9.00am – 5pm	TBA	1. Tertiary Curia 2. Junior Curia				
Meeting	Sat, 13 Jul	1:30 pm	Multi Purpose Hall Lvl 1 Church of the Holy Family	Mother of Mercy	Immaculate Conception	Mother of Mercy by Mystical Rose	1. North 2. West 3. Mandarin City 4. Kuching 5. Sibü 6. Miri 7. Bintulu 8. Limbang	North by Junior
Day of Recollection (CC)	Sun, 28 Jul	9.00 am – 4.00pm	TBA	1. Seat of Wisdom 2. Our Lady of Guadalupe 3. Immaculate Conception				
Meeting	Sat, 10 Aug	1:30 pm	Multi Purpose Hall Lvl 1 Church of the Holy Family	Seat of Wisdom	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Seat of Wisdom by Our Lady of Guadalupe	1. Serangoon 2. Mandarin East 3. Junior 4. Kota Kinabalu 5. Keningau	Mandarin East by North
Meeting	Sat, 14 Sep	1:30 pm	Multi Purpose Hall Lvl 1 Church of the Holy Family	Our Lady of the Sacred Heart	Our Lady of the Sacred Heart	Mother of Perpetual Succour by Mother of Perpetual Help	1. East 2. Mandarin West 3. Tertiary 4. Korean 5. Brunei	Korean by Mandarin City
Outdoor Function (CC)	Sun, 22 Sep	9.00am - 12.30pm		1. Mother of Mercy 2. Mother of Perpetual Succour				
Meeting	Sat, 12 Oct	1:30 pm	Multi Purpose Hall Lvl 1 Church of the Holy Family	Mother of Divine Grace	Mother of Perpetual Help	Our Lady of the Sacred Heart by Immaculate Conception	1. North 2. West 3. Mandarin City 4. Kuching 5. Sibü 6. Miri 7. Bintulu 8. Limbang	Mandarin West by Tertiary
Founders Day Mass (SS)	Sat, 26 Oct	11.00am	TBA	1. East Curia 2. Korean Curia				
Meeting	Sat, 9 Nov	1:30 pm	Multi Purpose Hall Lvl 1 Church of the Holy Family	Our Lady of Sorrows	Mother of Divine Grace	Nil	1. Serangoon 2. Mandarin East 3. Junior 4. Kota Kinabalu 5. Keningau	Junior by West
Legion Seminar (SS) – Servant Leadership	Sat, 23 Nov	9am - 5.30pm	TBA	1. West Curia 2. Mandarin City Curia				
Meeting	Sat, 14 Dec	1:30 pm	Multi Purpose Hall Lvl 1 Church of the Holy Family	Mother of Perpetual Help	Seat of Wisdom	Nil	1. East 2. Mandarin West 3. Tertiary 4. Korean 5. Brunei	Nil
Annual General Reunion (CC)	Sun, 8 Dec	2.30 p.m.	TBA	1. Our Lady of the Sacred Heart 2. Mystical Rose				

SS = Singapore Senatus (for all councils' members under Singapore Senatus) **CC = City Curia** (for praesidia affiliated directly under Singapore Senatus).

For meetings, the praesidium in charge is to prepare the altar, purchase flowers for the altar, and arrange the seating in the room. For functions, the praesidium named in 1 is the co-ordinator.

2024 SENATUS BULLETIN COVER PAGE REFLECTION SCHEDULE BY VARIOUS COUNCILS' SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS

No.	Month	Theme of Reflection	Name of Spiritual Director	Name of Council	Submission Date
1.	January	Mother of God (Theotokos)	Rev Fr Damien Lim, OD	Junior Curia	6 Jan 2024
2.	February	Our Lady of Lourdes (World Day of the Sick)	Rev Fr Edward Seah	Serangoon Curia	3 Feb 2024
3.	March	The Annunciation of the Lord	Rev Fr Daniel Lim, OCD	Mandarin City Curia	2 Mar 2024
4.	April	The Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter)	Rev Fr Rusdi Santoso, SS.CC.	West Curia	6 Apr 2024
5.	May	The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Sr Jean Fernandez, RGS	North Curia	4 May 2024
6.	June	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	Rev Fr Henry Siew	Mandarin West Curia	1 Jun 2024
7.	July	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Sr Veronica D'Roza, FMM	Tertiary Curia	6 Jul 2024
8.	August	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Rev Fr John Park Jae Woo	Korean Curia	3 Aug 2024
9.	September	The Legion's Anniversary/Nativity of BVM	Rev Fr Kenson Koh	Mandarin East Curia	7 Sep 2024
10.	October	Our Lady of the Rosary	Br Nicholas Seet, FSC	East Curia	5 Oct 2024
11.	November	All Saints and All Souls' Days	Sr Francesca Tan, RC	East Junior Curia	2 Nov 2024
12.	December	The Immaculate Conception/ Nativity of the Lord	Rev Fr Adrian Yeo	Singapore Senatus	7 Dec 2024

Submitted 600 – 700 words of reflection in English on the above theme to legionofmary@catholic.org.sg before or latest on the submission date

2024 PRAESIDIUM OF THE MONTH – 150 or 200 words

January	Mother of Div. Grace Pdm - Senatus	6 Jan 2024
February	TBC	3 Feb 2024
March	TBC	2 Mar 2024
April	TBC	6 Apr 2024
May	TBC	4 May 2024
June	TBC	1 Jun 2024
July	Junior Curia	6 Jul 2024
August	Junior Curia	3 Aug 2024
September	Junior Curia	7 Sep 2024
October	Junior Curia	5 Oct 2024
November	Junior Curia	2 Nov 2024
December	Junior Curia	7 Dec 2024

2024 PROFILE OF A LEGIONARY – 150 or 200 words

January	Mother of Div. Grace Pdm - Senatus	6 Jan 2024
February	TBC	3 Feb 2024
March	TBC	2 Mar 2024
April	TBC	6 Apr 2024
May	TBC	4 May 2024
June	TBC	1 Jun 2024
July	Junior Curia	6 Jul 2024
August	Junior Curia	3 Aug 2024
September	Junior Curia	7 Sep 2024
October	Junior Curia	5 Oct 2024
November	Junior Curia	2 Nov 2024
December	Junior Curia	7 Dec 2024