

- ❑ For door-to-door visits keep a map and mark streets covered.
- ❑ Keep in touch with the curia. Attend the meetings monthly. Send a donation monthly to the curia.

The Rosary

Start the opening Prayers on the dot of time. Reflect that God is intimately close to us by His presence before we begin. Invoke the Holy Spirit to direct us rays of His light. Place ourselves in the presence of the Blessed Virgin Mary

As we meditate on the mysteries in Christ's life recall our union with Mary. She will perfect our prayers and meditations and offer them to God for us.

The Rosary is an abridgment of the New Testament. Guide for meditating on the mysteries:

1. Who are the principle persons in this mystery?
2. Why do those persons speak and act as they do?
3. What does the mystery teach me?

Reports

Must be prepared by the partners in advance from their notebooks, (every members should have one) and should be about two minutes in length. Each should have a notebook.

Must teach members something which will help them grow closer to Jesus. Mention what was taught or observed on visitation (e.g. doctrine, Scripture, virtues, attitudes, etc.)

Good legionaries take care in preparing and giving reports. Make them personal, vivid, distinctive and interesting. Don't use routine phrases.

Report only work that was assigned by the praesidium (president).

*"The Apostles returned to Jesus and **reported** all that they had done and taught." --Mk 6:30*

Based on various Legion sources and personal experience.

See: <http://www.jaxcuria.org> to download forms and other material.

Organizing (Draft) A New Praesidium



Jacksonville Curia

Legion of Mary

April 15, 2010

Version 1

The duty of extension is not the duty of the officers alone.
Nay, more, it is the duty of each and every Legionary.
--*Handbook*

NOTE: *The organization of a new praesidium of the Legion of Mary requires the attention and devotion of a number of experienced Legionaries to make the new group strong. You will need to “mother hen” your new “baby chicks” for two, three, and more months until they can fly on their own.*

- I. So, you completed the curia’s extension assignment; a drive was held; the first meeting is set; what do you do now?
- A. You should begin as always by getting together the “stuff” the new praesidium will need to start out:
1. Altar
 2. Rosary and Tesseræ
 3. Handbooks
 4. Recruiting material
 5. Notebooks and pencils
 6. Worksheets for officers
 7. Secret bag and treasurer’s book
 8. Forms for collecting names, addresses.
- B. Look for material especially appropriate for the spiritual director to use as allocutio material - “The Priest and the Legion,” articles from magazines, other books.....
- II. Sit down with the pastor/spiritual director and explain his role. Determine what works will be undertaken and when. Try to get a commitment for him to attend at least one

- If you cannot be present, be sure another member (vice-president or acting VP) has the workbook and is prepared to take over.
- You may change the time, the place, or the day of the meeting, but a meeting MUST be held each and every week without fail, even if only a very few Legionaries can attend.**

During Meeting.

- Speak in a clear voice so all can hear. Allow only one person at a time to speak.
- “Oversee” the other officers in the performance of their duties.
- As the reports are given, make sure the secretary has the following information:
Time spent, number of homes visited, number of “contacts,” amount of literature and sacramentals distributed, any positive results, name and addresses for call backs. Also if you recruit any auxiliaries give the 3 x 5 card to the vice-president with the names, addresses, phone numbers, date contacted and legionary who contacted them.
- YOU assign the works to be done in pairs at the end of the meeting. Assigned work is not left for the members to pick and choose or to the spiritual director.

After Meeting

- Say Frank Duff prayer for the spread of the Legion of Mary and recruitment of new members.
- Be sure cabinet and room are secure.
- Keep in touch with the members and spiritual director to coordinate works.
- Once a month put a paragraph in the bulletin to recruit new members.

- B. You can cut back to two the number of experienced Legionaries you assign to attend the new praesidium's meeting.
- C. It is desirable to rotate the duties among the experienced Legionaries.
- D. Be on the lookout for potential officers. Explain that officers will be appointed by the curia after they have taken their promise.

VIII. Seventh to Twelfth meeting:

- A. Explain the promise
- B. After 12 weeks the members should start taking their promise one or two at each meeting.
- C. Make the promise-taking an event.
- D. Recommend officers to the curia.

IX Gradually start to wean the group away from your intervention. Every other week at first and then go back after a month for a final check and answer questions.

X CHECK LIST FOR PRESIDING OFFICER:

Before Meeting

- Prepare president's worksheet
 - ✓ Spiritual Reading (suggest starting with Chapter 5)
 - ✓ Handbook Discussion (suggest starting with Chapter 39 - one member should be assigned to lead discussion.
 - ✓ Assignments for the coming week.
- Get flowers and set up room for meeting.
- Prepare allocutio if SD cannot be present.

meeting a month. Be sure he is present when you do your recruitment drive and supports you with his homily or remarks.

III. Gather a list of appropriate Handbook readings for spiritual reading. (For the first year, the praesidium must use the Handbook for spiritual readings.)

- A. The excerpts from the Venerable John-Paul II show great insight into the Legion and cover the basics. It is found near the front of the Handbook.
- B. Or Chapters 1 and 2 of the Handbook
- C. If the spiritual director is present, a good reading is "The Priest and the Legion," Chapter 10 #4.
- D. Or the first part of Chapter 5, "The Devotional Outlook of the Legion."

IV. The first meeting:

- A. Pass out Rosaries and Tesseræ
- B. Say, "Every Legion of Mary meeting since the very first one has begun with the Invocation of the Holy Spirit and five decades of the Rosary. I will lead the first, third and fifth decades, and you will respond. You will lead the second and fourth decades and I will respond. Don't worry if you mess up- -even experienced Legionaries do some times. These prayers are normally said kneeling, but many of us cannot, so it is OK to sit."
- C. After the prayers, pass out Handbooks. It is OK if some have to share. Say: "The Legion of

Mary Handbook costs us \$___. (currently \$8 in Jacksonville) It is the only thing we ask you to pay for. I will collect the Handbooks after the meeting unless someone wishes to buy one today.

- D. Spiritual reading (less than 5 minutes.)
- E. Minutes - prepare sample minutes telling works being done in the area and have one of the experienced Legionaries act as secretary. Show them the secretary worksheet.
- F. Standing Instructions - read and explain briefly.
- G. Roll Call - Pass around a form for them to write their name, address, and phone number.
- H. Treasurer's Report - Have an experienced Legionary explain the secret bag. Explain what the curia is giving to them to get them started and why it is necessary to contribute to the higher council.
- I. Report on Assignments - Have experienced Legionaries explain the types of work they do, and recount an interesting event. (Less than 30 minutes.)
- J. Catena and Allocutio (Hopefully by spiritual director.)
- K. Discussion of Handbook. Allow for questions. (No more than 20 minutes.) Show the president's worksheet and explain that this is the agenda for every meeting.
- L. This is important: Go around the table and ask each person, "Do you think the Legion of Mary would be an asset to your parish." ("Yes" or "No" - no discussion.) "Will you come again next week?"

- M. Give each one material to recruit active members - not auxiliaries, not yet - assign them to contact at least one other person and bring them next week. If you have names of prospects that are not, you may assign them to be contacted.
- N. "After the closing prayers we will be available to answer questions."
- O. Closing prayers and Frank Duff prayer.

V. The second and third meetings: Follow the same format as a regular meeting.

- A. At the third meeting introduce the idea of auxiliaries - how they are recruited, cared for, and how important they are. Auxiliary membership should not be regarded as an "easy out" from our apostolic obligation.
- B. Be on the lookout for prospective officers.

VI. Third or fourth meetings:

- A. Invite a member to sit beside each of the experienced Legionaries and see how they do their officer job.
- B. Then next time (or when ready) have a member of the new group take over and the experienced Legionary may advise.

VII. Fifth or sixth meeting:

- A. The group should now have their apostolic action in full swing. You may need to accompany them on more difficult tasks.