



## Reflections:

You have often seen in magazines a picture with the questions underneath “What’s missing in this picture?” Well, that’s the kind of a picture this is. We’re asking you, “What’s missing in this picture?”

We think you already know the answer. What’s missing is the members.

Mary is waiting here for those who will not say as those in the Gospel story, “I have married a wife and I cannot come; I have bought a farm and I must go to see it.” No! She is waiting for those who will say: “I have no talent, but I will give what I have and I know you will mold it to a fit instrument for your use.” For those who will say: “I have many things that I spend time on, but I realize your work is more important and I ask you to help me find the time for it.” For those who will say, “Mary, at Fatima you asked for sacrifice. For some in the world this means the sacrifice of life and home and loved ones, perhaps *this* is the sacrifice you ask of me – a few hours of my time. Gratefully I will offer this so that I too can say with Mary’s Legion: ‘I am all yours, my Queen, my mother, and all that I have is yours’.”

## What others have said:

“You are a movement of lay people who propose to make faith the aspiration of your life up to the achievement of personal sanctity.”—*Pope John Paul II*

“I say you have anticipated the Vatican Council — the future of the Church”  
—*Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen*

“Its name speaks for itself.”—*Pope Pius XI*

“Indeed the spirit of the Legion of Mary, while properly drawing fruitful nourishment from the strong interior life of its members, from their discipline, their dedication to the salvation of their neighbor, their unflinching loyalty to the church, nevertheless is distinguished and characterized by an adamant confidence in the action of the Blessed Virgin — recognizing in her the model, the guide, the joy, and the support of its members....” —*Pope Paul VI*

**“I encourage all parishes to have an active praesidium of the Legion of Mary” – Bishop Victor Galeone**

Your parish group has been named after a title of the Blessed Mother:

\_\_\_\_\_

It meets on \_\_\_\_\_

At \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

Invitation extended by:

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## **ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP**

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**The Legion of Mary reflects the true face of the Catholic Church” —Pope John XXIII**  
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**For more information visit:  
<http://www.jacksonvillecomitium.com>**

# *Legion of Mary*

## *What is it?*

The Legion of Mary is the largest apostolic organization of lay people in the Catholic Church with approximately 10 million active members worldwide — men, women, and children who offer their services to their pastor to aid him in performing spiritual works in the parish. The Legion is in almost every country in the world. The Legion has received continuous papal approval, and was endorsed by the Second Vatican Council.

## *Origin and Objectives*

September 7, 1921 the first meeting was held in Dublin Ireland and began to spread around the world. November 27, 1931 the first praesidium (parish group) met in the United States at Raton, New Mexico. It was composed entirely of men.

The objectives of the Legion of Mary are:

1. The personal sanctification of its members who, taking Mary as their model endeavor to imitate her virtues, especially her faith, charity, and humility
2. The performance of apostolic work (spiritual works of mercy) under the guidance and in cooperation with the priest.
3. The spread of devotion to Mary, primarily by encouraging the recitation of the Rosary as Mary has requested in her apparitions.

## *Types of Membership*

Active members — seniors and juniors — and auxiliary (praying) members.

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## *What are the advantages of becoming an active member?*

**...The assurance that one is putting forth his best effort in developing his own spiritual life.**

**...The knowledge that one is fighting the battle of Christ and His Blessed Mother.**

**...The feeling that one is making a worthwhile investment of his time on earth by “laying up treasures in Heaven where neither rust nor moths consume them nor thieves break in to steal.**

**...To be able to submit yourself to the Holy Spirit as an instrument of his work.**

**...And, with the help of that Holy Spirit and His spouse to do great things for “the glory of God and for the salvation of souls.”**

***“Come and see”***

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## *Who can belong?*

Senior membership is open to all practical Catholics 18 years of age and older; junior membership to those under 18.

## *What do I promise?*

The only obligation is being willing to venture a “faithful service” thus fulfilling the requirements of Canon Law and the obligations of our Baptism:

*“ Since lay people, like all Christ’s faithful, are deputed by baptism and confirmation, they are **BOUND BY THE GENERAL OBLIGATION, and they have the right, whether as individuals or in associations, to strive so that the divine message of salvation may be known and accepted by all people throughout the world.**”*  
(Can. 225)

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church, #900*, says it this way:

**“(L)ay Christians are entrusted by God with the apostolate by virtue of their Baptism and Confirmation; they have the right and duty, individually or grouped in associations, to work so that the divine message of salvation may be known and accepted by all men throughout the earth.”**