



# Legion of Mary

SENATUS OF SYDNEY

BULLETIN

May 2025



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## OUR LADY, QUEEN OF THE MAY



“Mary, our Mother and Queen, accept these flowers of love in this holy month. Lead us always closer to your Son. Amen.”

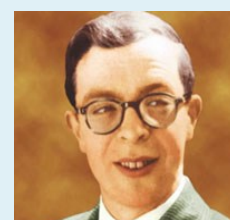


LEGION OF MARY  
FOUNDED 7 SEPTEMBER 1921

Pray for  
Beatification of :



*The Servant of God*  
**Frank Duff**



*The Servant of God*  
**Alfie Lambe**



*Venerable*  
**Edel Quinn**



## *Our Lady, Queen of the May*

The month of May has long been dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Catholic Church. Why May? Because it is a time when nature blossoms beautifully—symbolizing new life, purity, and grace—all of which reflect the virtues of Mary.

The title “**Queen of the May**” comes from traditional European customs where Catholics honored Mary by offering flowers and crowning her statue with floral wreaths. This tradition, known as the **May Crowning**, is a heartfelt act of devotion, especially led by children and families, accompanied by hymns like “*Bring Flowers of the Rarest*” and “*Hail Holy Queen.*”

Crowning Mary as Queen during May symbolizes our recognition of her as Queen of Heaven and Mother of the Church. It is also a reminder for us to imitate her faith, humility, and deep love for God.

When we call her “Queen of the May,” we are expressing our love and devotion to our spiritual Mother who always leads us closer to her Son, Jesus.

*“With a mother’s love, Mary watches over us and guides us always.”*



## **Friendly Reminder :**

Let us come together  
to honour

Edel Quin , our beloved  
Legion envoy and servant  
of God.

All Legionaries are warmly  
encouraged to attend this  
special Mass in her memory.  
Let’s pray together and be  
inspired by her example of  
faithful service .



**LEGION OF MARY  
SENATUS OF SYDNEY**

Cordially invite all active &  
auxilliary members to.....



**EDEL QUINN'S ANNIVERSARY MASS**

**Saturday, 17 May 2025**

*Time: 10am Prayer, 10:30 am Mass*

*Venue: Immaculata House*

*243 Broadway, Glebe 2037*

*Celebrant: Fr Dominic Nguyen*



## Allocutio

By: Lucy Waty –President

### *“With Mary, Faithful in Service”*

May is a special month for us Catholics, especially for us in the Legion of Mary. It is the month when we honour Our Lady as *Queen of the May*. She is not only our Queen, but also our loving Mother who walks with us every day—in our lives and in our Legion work.

Mary’s presence reminds us that we are not alone. She helps us stay strong when we are tired, comforts us in hard times, and brings joy when we serve with love. She is our model of faith, humility, and trust in God.

We also remember the story of St. Bernadette. She was a poor and simple girl, but God chose her for a special mission. Like Mary, Bernadette said “yes” with humility and faith. She shows us that we don’t need to be important in the eyes of the world to do something great for God.

This is true for all of us in the Legion of Mary. Whether we serve in a praesidium, curia, or comitium, our goal is not to be praised or seen as successful. We are called to serve with love and faith, even in small, quiet ways. God sees everything we do, even if no one else does.

Sometimes our work feels ordinary or hard. Maybe meetings are small, or we don’t see results right away. But God is still working. He asks us to keep going and be faithful. Mary is with us, helping and praying for us. Let’s trust her and keep moving forward.

During this month of May, let’s renew our love for Mary. Let’s ask her to guide us, strengthen us, and help us bring more people to Jesus through our Legion work.

**“Mary is not only our Queen, but also our Mother. And a mother never forgets her children.”**

***“The Legion is built upon Mary. She is its life.”***

**— Frank Duff**



## **Little Ways of Mary**

### **Serving with a Smile**

Mary didn’t do big, dramatic things in public. But she did the small things with great love—visiting Elizabeth, helping quietly at the wedding in Cana, standing by the Cross. Her way was **simple, silent, and strong**.

As legionaries, we are invited to follow Mary’s little ways:

- A kind word to someone lonely
- A quiet prayer before a visit
- A smile even when we’re tired
- Doing what needs to be done—without needing to be seen

**True greatness lies in simple love.**

Let us live the little ways of Mary in our daily Legion work.



## When the Night Felt Like a Failure — But Heaven Was at Work

There was once a priest in a small town who loved his ministry deeply. One evening, he prepared himself with joy and anticipation to celebrate the Mass. He believed in the power of the Eucharist and looked forward to leading his parishioners in prayer. But that evening, something was different.

As the hour of the Mass arrived, the church was empty. After 15 minutes, three children came in. A few minutes later, two young people entered. With only five people present, the priest sighed quietly, but decided to begin anyway. He celebrated with the same reverence, with the same zeal as he always did.

Midway through the Mass, a couple slipped in and quietly sat in the back pew. Then, just as the Gospel was being proclaimed, a man walked in—half-dirty, holding a rope in his hand. The priest saw him and felt a strange heaviness in his heart. Still, he continued. He preached with all the fire he had in his soul. He gave his best, even if it felt like no one was really listening.

After the Mass, on his way home, the unthinkable happened—he was robbed by two men. They beat him, stole his folder which had his Bible, and left him bleeding. That night, alone in the parish house, tending to his wounds, the priest wept. He called it *“the saddest day of my life... a failure of my ministry... the most unfruitful day of my career.”*

But he ended his journal entry that night with one line:  
*“Never mind. I do everything with God, and for Him.”*

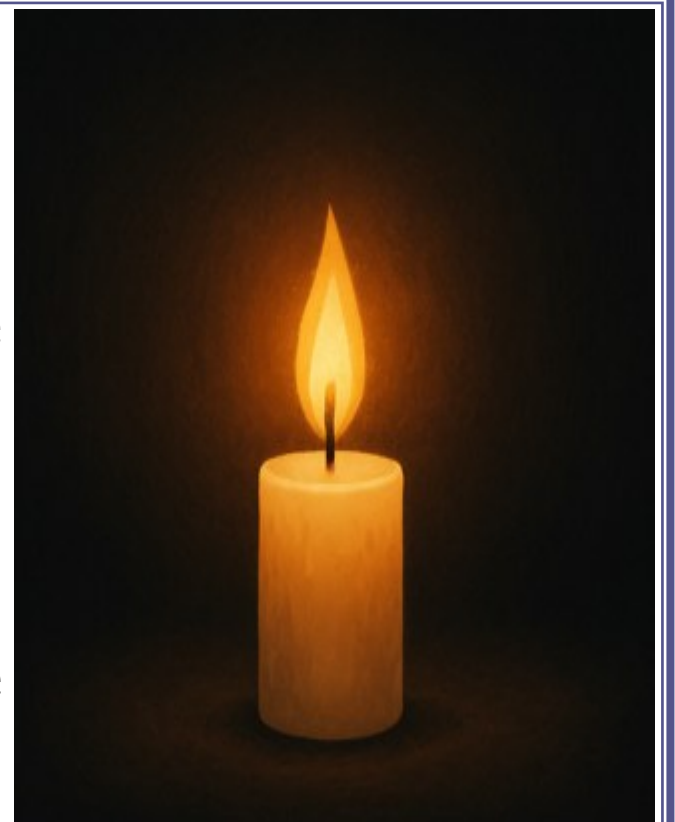
Five years later, during a special gathering at the parish, the priest finally shared that night with his congregation. As he finished the story, there was silence in the church—until a couple stood up.

“Father,” the man said, “we were the couple who sat at the back of the church that night. We had already decided to separate. We were on the edge of divorce after many fights and disappointments. We agreed to go to church one last time together... and then say goodbye. But that night, during your homily, something changed. Your words reminded us of the promises we once made, and the God who brought us together. We went home, not separated, but reconciled. Today, we are still together—with a restored marriage and a stronger family.”

Before the priest could respond, another man stood up. “Father,” he said, “I was the one who walked in with a rope. I was completely lost—addicted to drugs, bankrupt, and abandoned by my family. That night, I was on my way to end my life. But the rope I had broke. As I walked to find another one, I passed the church and saw it open. I went in, not expecting anything. But your words... they stopped me. They saved me. Today, I’ve been clean for years. My family came back. I own a business now, and I try to help others like me find hope.”

And then, near the sacristy, the deacon raised his hand. His voice trembled as he spoke. “Father... I was one of the thieves who attacked you that night. The other man died that same evening in another robbery. But when I opened the folder we stole, I found your Bible. I began to read it every morning. Slowly, it changed me. I turned away from crime, gave my life to God, and today... I serve here beside you.”

Tears filled the church. The priest stood in awe. That night, which he had once believed was his greatest failure, was in fact the most fruitful night of his entire ministry.



## Reflection

This story reminds us that in our darkest moments, **God may be doing His brightest work.**

We may not always see the fruits of our labor, especially when we feel discouraged, alone, or unappreciated. But we are called to remain faithful, to serve with love and integrity, and to trust that **God uses even our most broken moments to bring healing to others.**

*So keep going.*

*Preach that homily.*

*Make that visit.*

*Say that prayer.*

*Show up.*

Even when no one seems to notice, **Heaven is watching—and working.**

Because in God's hands, **no moment is ever wasted.**

*“So then, my dear brothers and sisters, be firm and steadfast. Keep busy always in your work for the Lord, since you know that nothing you do in the Lord's service is ever useless.”*

*— 1 Corinthians 15:58 (GNT)*



## *Supporting Leadership:*

A joyful Visit to Queen of The Rosary—Vietnamese Curia .

It was a blessing to witness the election and continuing service of the Curia officers, alongside their dedicated Spiritual Director Fr. Paul Van Chi Chu.





## Saint Bernadette Soubirous: Chosen by Mary



Bernadette Soubirous was born in 1844 in Lourdes, a small town in southern France. Her family was very poor, and Bernadette was often sick and weak. She was simple, humble, and uneducated—but she had a heart full of faith.

Everything changed in 1858 when Bernadette was 14 years old. One day, while gathering firewood near a cave called Massabielle, she saw a beautiful Lady dressed in white with a blue sash and a rosary in her hand. The Lady smiled at her, but didn't say anything at first.

Over time, the Lady appeared to Bernadette **18 times**. Many people didn't believe her, and some even made fun of her. But Bernadette stayed calm and brave, always repeating what the Lady told her.

During one of the apparitions, the Lady asked Bernadette to pray for sinners and do penance. She also told her to ask the priests to build a chapel at the site. When Bernadette asked who the Lady was, she replied:  
**"I am the Immaculate Conception."**

At that time, Bernadette didn't even understand what those words meant. But the priests were amazed—this was a special title of Mary that had only been declared by the Church a few years earlier.

One day, the Lady told Bernadette to dig in the ground. When she did, a spring of water appeared. Since then, **millions of pilgrims have come to Lourdes**, and many have found healing—both physical and spiritual—through that miraculous water.

Later in life, Bernadette became a nun in the town of Nevers. She lived quietly, often in pain from illness, but always offering her sufferings to God. She died at the age of 35, with peace in her heart.

She was canonized a saint in 1933. Today, **Saint Bernadette is remembered as a simple girl with a strong faith**, chosen by Mary to share a beautiful message of love, prayer, and hope with the world.

***"I was nothing and of this nothing God made something."***  
— ***Saint Bernadette Soubirous***

### **Her message for us:**

*Holiness is not about status or power, but about a heart open to God and faithful to Mary's call.*

### **A Legionary's Reflection**

As legionaries, we are called to follow Mary with humble hearts, just as Saint Bernadette did. Her simplicity, courage, and obedience remind us that God works through those who trust Him completely—even in silence and suffering. Bernadette didn't seek attention or honor she simply listened and obeyed. Like her, we are invited to be instruments of grace, serving quietly and lovingly, knowing that Mary leads us always to her Son.



## Reflection

Do I take time to listen to God in the quiet moments of my day—like Bernadette did in the grotto?

**Answer:**

*Sometimes life gets noisy and busy, but when I slow down and pray—even just for a few minutes—I feel peace. I want to be like Bernadette, finding God not in big events, but in the silence of my heart.*

Am I willing to trust God even when others don't understand or believe me?

**Answer:**

*It's not always easy to stand firm in faith when people doubt or criticize. But I've learned that what matters most is staying close to God and doing what is right, even if I'm misunderstood—just like Bernadette did.*

How can I respond to Mary's call to pray, do penance, and live simply?

**Answer:**

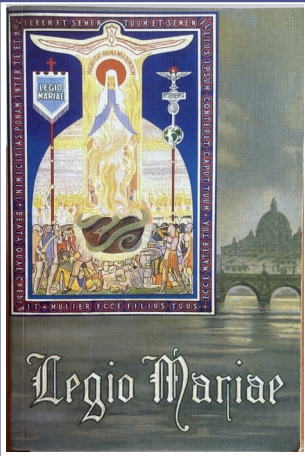
*I can start by praying the Rosary more regularly, offering small sacrifices with love, and choosing to live with less so others can have more. Mary's message is simple, but it can transform hearts—starting with mine.*



**ACIES March 2025 —Illawarra Curia — Led by Fr. Greg Morgan,  
the legionaries of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart came together to renew  
their consecration to Mary.**







## Handbook Revisited

### The Curia and the Comitium in the Legion of Mary Ch 28 -2 pp-161



#### 1. What is a Curia?

- A Curia is a governing body set up when there are two or more praesidia in a city, town, or district. It consists of all the officers of the praesidia in its area, including the Spiritual Director.

#### 2. What is a Comitium?

- A Comitium is a higher-level Curia that is given additional authority to supervise one or more Curiae while still functioning as a Curia for its own area.

**A Comitium is not a new council** but an existing Curia with added responsibility.

- It continues to oversee its own praesidia while also supervising other Curiae under its care.
- Every Curia and praesidium directly linked to a Comitium has the right to be represented in it.  
To reduce the burden on Curia representatives, they may only need to attend Comitium meetings every second or third session.
- A Comitium usually does not cover an area larger than a diocese.

#### 3. Appointment of the Spiritual Director

The Spiritual Director of a Curia or Comitium is appointed by the Bishop of the diocese where the council is based.

#### 4. Duties and Authority of the Curia

The Curia has authority over its praesidia according to the Legion's Constitution. Its main responsibilities include:

1. **Appointing praesidium officers** (except the Spiritual Director) and monitoring their terms of office.
2. **Ensuring that all rules of the Legion are followed** in the praesidia and by its members.
3. **Training and guiding praesidium officers** to manage their groups effectively.
4. **Receiving reports from each praesidium** at least once a year.
5. **Facilitating the exchange of experiences** among praesidia.
6. **Discussing and considering new works** to enhance the apostolate.
7. **Maintaining high standards** in all activities.
8. **Ensuring that every legionary fulfills their work obligations** properly.
9. **Promoting the growth of the Legion** by expanding praesidia and recruiting Auxiliary members.

Since these tasks require firmness and dedication, Curia officers must have **strong moral courage** to carry them out effectively.



## 5. The Importance of Curia for the Legion's Growth

The future of the Legion in any area depends on the development of its Curia. Until a Curia is established, the Legion's presence in that area is considered unstable.

## 6. Rules for Junior Members

Legionaries under 18 years old cannot be members of a Senior Curia. However, if needed, a Junior Curia can be formed under the supervision of a Senior Curia.

## 7. Accessibility of Curia Officers

Curia officers, especially the President, should be **easily accessible** to legionaries. This allows issues, ideas, or concerns to be discussed privately before being presented in a formal meeting.

## 8. Time Commitment for Curia Officers

It is ideal for Curia officers, particularly the President, to **dedicate sufficient time** to their roles since the effectiveness of the Curia depends on their leadership and commitment.

## 9. Large Number of Praesidia in a Curia

If a Curia has many praesidia, it may result in a large number of representatives at meetings. While this may pose logistical challenges, the Legion believes that **stronger connections between the Curia and its praesidia will create a more united and effective organization**. Curia meetings are essential for learning and spreading the true spirit of the Legion.

## 10. Regular Visits and Evaluation of Praesidia

The Curia must **visit each praesidium regularly**, preferably twice a year, to provide encouragement and ensure proper practices.

- These visits should **not be seen as criticism** but as a way to offer support with humility and love.
- A praesidium should be given **at least one week's notice** before a visit. If a praesidium **rejects the visit**, thinking it is "outside interference," this is incorrect because all praesidia are part of the larger Legion and must follow its rules.
- These visits are not optional but **part of the Legion's official regulations**.

During visits, the Curia representatives should:

- **Review membership lists, Secretary's and Treasurer's books, and work reports.**
- **Ensure that members who have completed probation have made their Legionary Promise.**
- **Submit a written report** on the visit to Curia officers. If issues are found, they should first be discussed with the **Spiritual Director and Praesidium President** before being raised at the Curia meeting.

## 11. Attendance at Curia Meetings

Praesidium officers must **attend Curia meetings regularly**, just as ordinary legionaries must attend their praesidium meetings. Being active in other areas does not excuse an officer from their duty to attend Curia meetings faithfully.

## 12. Frequency and Agenda of Curia Meetings

- Curia meetings should be **held at least once a month** or more often if needed.
- The **meeting agenda should be prepared in advance** by the Secretary in consultation with the President and shared with all Spiritual Directors and Praesidium Presidents.
- While a **preliminary agenda is set**, members should be allowed to **bring up additional topics** for discussion.



## 14. Delegation of Responsibilities by the Curia President

The Curia President **should not try to control every small detail** on their own.

- If too much responsibility is held by one person, **work will slow down**, and in large areas, it may even lead to organizational failure.
- **All officers should take on additional responsibilities** beyond their primary roles.
- Even **senior or promising members should be given leadership roles** to develop their potential and share responsibility for the Legion's growth.

## 15. The Importance of Unity in the Legion

Unity is essential in all of God's works. Every part of the Legion must cooperate and support each other to maintain the **spirit and effectiveness** of the organization.

## Understanding the Role of the Curia and Comitium in the Legion of Mary

The **Curia and Comitium** are essential structures in the Legion of Mary that help ensure the smooth functioning and growth of the organization. While praesidia focus on local-level work, the Curia and Comitium provide **leadership, guidance, and oversight** to maintain unity and effectiveness.

### Why is the Curia Important?

The Legion of Mary is not just a collection of independent praesidia. It is an **organized and structured movement**, and the Curia is the backbone of this structure.

### Here's why every area with multiple praesidia needs a Curia:

1. **Ensuring Consistency** – The Curia ensures that all praesidia follow the same standards, rules, and methods of the Legion.
2. **Training Leaders** – Praesidium officers may be inexperienced or lack knowledge about their roles. The Curia **trains and supports** them to become effective leaders.
3. **Encouraging Growth** – The Curia motivates praesidia to expand their membership and take on new works.
4. **Problem Solving** – If a praesidium faces challenges, the Curia provides **guidance and support** to address issues.
5. **Maintaining Legion Spirit** – Through regular meetings and visitations, the Curia keeps the praesidia connected to the larger Legion and ensures they stay focused on **spiritual works rather than material aid**.

A **praesidium without a Curia** is like a **branch cut off from a tree**—it may survive for a while, but it will eventually weaken without support and guidance.

### What Happens in a Curia Meeting?

A **Curia meeting** is more than just an administrative gathering. It is a place where the **Legion's spirit is nurtured** and passed on to the praesidia.

A typical Curia meeting includes:

- **Prayer and Spiritual Guidance** – Every meeting begins with prayer and spiritual reflection, keeping members rooted in faith.



- **Reports from Praesidia** – Each praesidium shares updates on their activities, challenges, and successes.
- **Discussion of New Initiatives** – The Curia plans and discusses new apostolic activities.
- **Training and Education** – Officers receive guidance on how to manage their praesidia effectively.
- **Encouragement and Motivation** – Members inspire and learn from each other, strengthening their commitment.

Through these meetings, **knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm are shared**, helping all praesidia to grow stronger

## The Comitium: A Higher-Level Curia

When multiple Curiae exist in a region, a **Comitium is established** to provide additional leadership. However, the Comitium does **not replace or separate from the Curia**—it simply has a **wider area of responsibility**.

The Comitium must ensure that **each Curia under its care** is well-supported and following the rules of the Legion. It functions as a **bridge between the Curiae and higher councils, such as the Senatus or Concilium**.

## Challenges Faced by Curia and Comitium

Being part of the Curia or Comitium comes with responsibilities and challenges. Some common difficulties include:

1. **Lack of Attendance** – If praesidium officers do not attend Curia meetings regularly, they miss out on guidance and support.
2. **Weak Leadership** – A Curia depends on **strong and committed officers** who can guide and motivate others.
3. **Resistance to Oversight** – Some praesidia may resist Curia visitations, seeing them as unnecessary interference. However, these visits are **essential for maintaining discipline and unity**.
4. **Time Commitment** – Being an officer in the Curia or Comitium requires **dedication and effort**, which can be challenging for busy individuals.
5. **Loss of Focus on Spiritual Work** – Some praesidia might drift into **charitable donations and material aid**, forgetting that the primary mission of the Legion is **spiritual outreach**.

To overcome these challenges, **officers must be well-trained, committed, and willing to work together** for the good of the Legion.

## The Role of the Curia in Extending the Legion

A strong Curia does not just **maintain existing praesidia**—it also **creates new ones**. Expanding the Legion is an important mission, and the Curia plays a **key role in outreach and recruitment**.

Ways the Curia promotes growth:

- **Identifying new locations** for establishing praesidia.
- **Encouraging existing members** to invite others to join.
- **Supporting weak or struggling praesidia** to prevent them from disbanding.
- **Providing training and resources** to help new praesidia succeed.

Without an active and motivated Curia, the Legion **cannot grow or thrive** in a given area.



## Final Thoughts: The Curia is the Heart of the Legion

The Curia is **not just a meeting place**—it is the **heart and brain** of the praesidia connected to it. It ensures that each praesidium operates **in harmony with the spirit of the Legion** and remains strong in its mission.

Similarly, the Comitium provides **leadership at a higher level**, ensuring that multiple Curiae work together effectively.

Both councils exist to **support, train, and guide legionaries** so that the work of evangelization continues and flourishes. Without the Curia and Comitium, the Legion would **lack structure, unity, and direction**.

Being part of these councils is a **great responsibility but also a great privilege**—it means helping to shape the future of the Legion and leading more souls to Christ through Mary.

## Franks duff

1. “The Legion is an army. Its members are not merely associates, but soldiers. They must be filled with a sense of their soldierly obligation, and must fight to the last breath.”

*> The Curia and Comitium serve as the command structures of this spiritual army. Their leaders must inspire and equip legionaries to remain faithful and courageous in the battle for souls, even in the face of fatigue or discouragement .*

2. “The Legion of Mary exists to set up a new standard of greatness for the world, based on Mary’s own standard: humility, prayer, suffering, and service.”

*> Curia and Comitium must guide their praesidia in upholding Mary’s standard. All leadership and decision making should be rooted in humility and prayer, never ambition or control. These council help ensure that the Legion always reflects Mary’s spirit .*

3. “If the Legion is to be great, it must have great members. If it is to have great members, it must have great officers.”

*> This speaks directly to the responsibility of curia and Comitium to form and support capable leaders. Their role in training, mentoring , and supervising praesidium officers is vital for the health and growth of this entire Legion.*

4. “To go out in search of souls is the essential duty of the Legion. Without that, the Legion is nothing.”

*> Curia and Comitium must constantly encourage outreach and extension — forming new praesidia, seeking new members, and promoting auxiliary membership. Without this missionary drive, the Legion loses its purpose.*

5. “Every Legion meeting must be a school of holiness.”

*> This applies to Curia and Comitium meetings as much as to praesidium meetings. Beyond administration, these gatherings must be centers of spiritual growth, where leaders are renewed and inspired in their calling to serve under Mary’s banner.*

## 28.3 Regia

### Understanding the Role of a Regia in the Legion of Mary

A *Regia* is a council appointed by the *Concilium* to oversee the Legion of Mary in a large region. It ranks just below a *Senatus* and can be directly affiliated with the *Concilium* or a *Senatus*, depending on the decision of the *Concilium*.

### Key Functions of a Regia:

#### 1. Governance & Membership

- A *Regia* oversees multiple councils and praesidia, ensuring they follow Legion guidelines.
- Its members include officers of directly affiliated councils and the officers of the council granted *Regia* status.

#### 2. Spiritual Direction

- The *Regia's* Spiritual Director is appointed by the bishops of the dioceses under its jurisdiction.

#### 3. Supervision & Communication

- It reviews and approves the election of officers in its affiliated councils. Officers of affiliated councils are expected to attend *Regia* meetings unless prevented by circumstances like distance.
- Correspondents are appointed to monitor distant councils, ensuring regular communication through reports and meeting attendance.

#### 4. Reporting & Structure

- Minutes of *Regia* meetings must be sent to the council it reports to (*Concilium* or *Senatus*).
- Any major structural changes in *Regia* require formal approval from the *Concilium*.

The word *Regia* originates from ancient Rome, referring to the office of the *Pontifex Maximus* (chief priest) and later a royal court. In the Legion, it symbolizes structured leadership, unity, and faithful service to the Church.

This summary helps clarify the purpose and responsibilities of a *Regia* within the *Legion of Mary*, ensuring its mission is carried out effectively across large regions.





## 28.4 the Senatus

### What is a Senatus?

A **Senatus** is a council appointed by the **Concilium** to oversee the **Legion of Mary** in a country. It serves as the highest governing body for the Legion in that area and must be directly affiliated with the **Concilium** in Dublin. In large countries, there can be more than one Senatus, each responsible for a specific region.

### Key Functions of a Senatus

#### 1. Leadership & Structure

- A Senatus is formed when an **existing council** is elevated to Senatus status by the Concilium. It retains its original duties while taking on new responsibilities.
- **Who are the members of a Senatus?**
- Officers of **directly affiliated councils** (e.g., Regia, Curia, etc.).
- Members of the **original council** that was granted Senatus status.

#### 2. Spiritual Guidance

- Every Senatus has a **Spiritual Director** who is **appointed by the Bishops** of the dioceses within its jurisdiction.
- This ensures that the Legion remains in harmony with the teachings of the Church and receives proper spiritual direction.

#### 3. Supervision & Elections

- The Senatus plays a crucial role in **approving the elections** of officers in councils that report directly to it.
- Officers of these councils are expected to **attend Senatus meetings** unless they have valid reasons (e.g., distance, illness, etc.).

#### 4. Correspondents for Distant Councils

- To ensure proper communication with councils that are far away, **the Senatus appoints correspondents.**
- **What do correspondents do?**
- Stay in **regular contact** with their assigned council.
- Review **monthly reports** sent by the council.
- Prepare a **summary** of the council's activities to present at Senatus meetings.
- Attend Senatus meetings but **do not have voting rights** unless they are official members.

#### 5. Reporting & Communication with the Concilium

- A copy of **each Senatus meeting's minutes** must be sent to the Concilium for record-keeping and guidance.
- If there are **major changes in Senatus composition**, such as adjustments to attendance or leadership, formal **approval from the Concilium** is required.

### Understanding the Role of a Senatus in the Legion of Mary

The **Senatus** is the highest governing body of the **Legion of Mary** in a country, appointed by the **Concilium** in Dublin to oversee the work of the Legion in a specific region. It ensures that all councils and praesidia remain faithful to the Legion's rules, spirituality, and mission.

In some large countries, **more than one Senatus may exist**, each directly affiliated with the Concilium and responsible for a designated area. The purpose of the Senatus is not only to govern but also to **guide, support, and strengthen** the Legion's apostolic work.

## Why is the Senatus Important?

The Legion of Mary operates in a structured way to **maintain unity, discipline, and efficiency** in its apostolic work. The Senatus ensures that:

- ☑ The **Legion's rules and spirit** are upheld in all councils and praesidia.
- ☑ **Proper leadership** is maintained through **elections and appointments**.
- ☑ **Distant councils stay connected** through correspondents.
- ☑ **Communication with the Concilium** remains strong.

Ven. **John Henry Newman** once said:

*“Order is the witness and instrument of unity.”*

This reminds us that every part of the Legion—whether a praesidium, Curia, Regia, or Senatus—has its role, and when everything is in order, the Legion remains strong in its mission to serve **Christ through Mary**.

As **Frank Duff**, the founder of the Legion of Mary, said:

*“Legionary government does not rest upon superiority, but upon service. True Legionary authority does not derive from itself, but from the duty it has to help others.”*

Let us continue to support and pray for the work of the Senatus, so that the **Legion of Mary** can **grow and flourish**, bringing more souls closer to Our Lady and her Son.

## What Does a Senatus Officer Do?

### *Understanding the Roles in Our Leadership Team*

The Senatus is the highest council of the Legion of Mary in a country or region. Its officers are not just administrators—they are **servant leaders**, chosen to guide, support, and protect the Legion's mission.

Here's a quick look at each officer's role:

#### **1. President**

Leads the council, chairs meetings, and ensures everything follows the Legion system and spirit. A good president inspires others through faith, humility, and love for Mary.

#### **2. Vice President**

Supports the president and takes over when needed. Often given special tasks. A good vice president is dependable, active, and loyal to the Legion's discipline.

#### **3. Secretary**

Prepares agendas, takes minutes, and keeps records. Helps communication flow clearly. This role needs good organisation and love for detail.

#### **4. Treasurer**

Handles finances, keeps clear records, and ensures all contributions are used properly.

A Legion treasurer must be honest, accurate, and humble.

*To serve in any of these roles is not about being perfect—it's about being willing.*

*Mary does not ask for greatness, only for a generous heart ready to say:*

*“I will serve.”*





## **28.5—The Concilium**

### **The Concilium Legionis Mariae: The Supreme Governing Council**

The **Concilium Legionis Mariae** serves as the **highest governing authority** of the Legion of Mary, responsible for maintaining the unity, structure, and mission of the organization worldwide. Its role is fundamental in **preserving the spirit of the Legion**, ensuring adherence to the **Legion's rules**, and guiding the growth of its councils and praesidia.

#### **What Does the Concilium Do?**

##### **1. Supreme Authority**

The Concilium has the exclusive right to **make, amend, and interpret** the Legion's rules, establish or dissolve **praesidia and councils**, determine policies, resolve disputes, and oversee membership matters. However, all decisions remain **subject to the authority of the Church**.

##### **2. Monthly Meetings in Dublin**

The Concilium meets **once a month in Dublin, Ireland**, where discussions are held on the state of the Legion worldwide, reports are reviewed, and decisions are made regarding its governance.

##### **3. Delegation of Responsibilities**

While the Concilium holds ultimate authority, it may delegate certain responsibilities to **subordinate councils or praesidia**. The level of delegation can be adjusted as needed.

##### **4. Council Representation**

The **officers of directly affiliated councils** are considered members of the Concilium. The **senior Curiae of the Archdiocese of Dublin** are the main attendees at meetings, while councils from other parts of the world participate as much as possible, given geographical constraints.

##### **5. Spiritual Director Appointed by the Church**

The **Hierarchy of Ireland** appoints the **Spiritual Director** of the Concilium, ensuring that its leadership remains spiritually guided.

##### **6. Approval of Officer Elections**

Any elections held by councils directly affiliated with the Concilium must receive **formal approval** before they are considered valid.

##### **7. Supervision of Distant Councils**

The Concilium appoints **correspondents** who maintain **regular communication** with distant councils. These correspondents review reports and present updates at Concilium meetings. Although they can participate in discussions, they **do not have voting rights** unless they are official Concilium members.

##### **8. Authority Over Legionary Areas**

Representatives of the Concilium have the right to **visit any Legionary area**, engage with local members, promote the Legion's mission, and ensure proper governance.

##### **9. Handbook Amendments**

Only the Concilium has the authority to **modify the Legion's handbook**, ensuring that any changes align with the **Legion's Constitution and guiding principles**.

##### **10. Changes to Rules Require Global Consultation**

Any proposed changes to the Legion's rules must be **communicated to all councils worldwide**. Sufficient time is given for feedback before a decision is finalized.

## A Reflection on Unity

As Ven. John Henry Newman beautifully expresses, God's attributes—wisdom, justice, love, and sanctity—work in perfect harmony, each operating within its own sphere while supporting the whole. Similarly, the Concilium serves as an **instrument of unity** within the Legion, ensuring that its mission remains faithful to **Our Lady's call to service and evangelization**

## Why Does the Concilium Matter?

Frank Duff, the founder of the Legion of Mary, once said:

*“The Legion of Mary is not just an ordinary organization, but a spiritual army that must be well-organized and always under proper authority.”*

This statement highlights why the Concilium is so important. Just like an army needs strong leadership to stay united and effective, the Legion needs the Concilium to **guide, support, and protect** its members worldwide.

For example, when a new council is established in a country, the Concilium provides **training, resources, and leadership support** to help it grow in the right way. If a council faces difficulties, the Concilium steps in to offer **advice and solutions**, ensuring that every part of the Legion remains strong and faithful to its mission.

By keeping the Legion **structured, united, and mission-focused**, the Concilium ensures that Legionaries worldwide can **serve Our Lady and the Church with confidence and clarity**.



## Did You Know?

Did you know that Concilium, the international council of the Legion of Mary, is based in Dublin, Ireland — the very city where the Legion was born in 1921?



The word “Concilium” comes from Latin and means “a council” or “a gathering.” It represents the highest governing body of the Legion worldwide.

Frank Duff, the founder of the Legion, chose this name to reflect the spirit of unity and cooperation among members from all nations, working together under the banner of Mary to bring souls to Christ.

Each level in the Legion — Praesidium, Curia, Comitium, Regia, Senatus, and Concilium — is a vital link in a spiritual chain, ensuring that every member stays connected, supported, and aligned with the true mission of the Legion.

*(Let us be grateful for this structure – not as a burden, but as a blessing!)*



## SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

Facing Criticism with a Faithful Heart

*“Am I now trying to win the approval  
of people, or of God?”*

— Galatians 1:10



Keep walking the path God shows  
you, even when others don't understand  
It.

— Inspired by Galatians 1:10

## DEALING WITH CRITICS (For Reflection)

Criticism is something we all face in life. It's unavoidable, and we shouldn't simply reject it.

At times, it can feel threatening — like it's waiting for the perfect moment to attack and bring us down. But we must not let criticism ruin our peace. Don't overthink it until it overwhelms your mind.

Criticism doesn't always need to be answered or debated endlessly. Take in what is constructive and let go of what is destructive. Both can teach us something.

If a critique is helpful, receive it with humility. It might be a stepping stone to a better future. True and helpful criticism often comes from a place of love. But if it's born from sarcasm, bitterness, or jealousy, let it go. Don't let it settle in your heart. Just move on.

Some criticism comes from people who find joy in seeing others struggle, and discomfort in seeing others succeed. Often, it reflects their own personal insecurities.

Whether we realise it or not, we all sometimes become critics — of others, or even of ourselves. That's why we must be careful: don't let constant criticism take away your joy or your smile.

Yes, criticism can be frustrating, exhausting, and uncomfortable. But don't run away from it.

Fear of criticism can make us afraid to act, speak, or become who we are meant to be. Life becomes bland — without purpose, goals, or dreams.

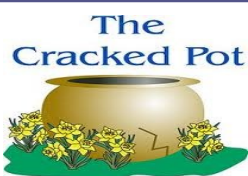
The truth is: we cannot please everyone. And we don't need to. Our lives are not meant to revolve around what others think of us. The road to heaven doesn't go past their front yard.

Trying to please everyone often forces us to ignore our conscience and set aside what pleases God. Worrying too much about what others think will only lead to unnecessary anxiety — especially over things that are actually small or normal.

So let every decision you make be guided by what God wants, not what people expect.

Ask yourself:

***“Am I now trying to win the approval of people, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.”***  
**(Galatians 1:10)**



## The Cracked Pot

*Even our flaws can water the garden.*

There was once a water bearer who carried two large pots, each hanging from the ends of a pole balanced across his shoulders. One of the pots was perfectly made, strong and shiny. The other had a crack along its side. Every day, the water bearer would go down to the river, fill both pots, and carry them back to his master's house.

But by the time he arrived, the cracked pot had leaked out half of its water. This went on for years.

The perfect pot was proud of its accomplishment—it always arrived full. But the cracked pot felt ashamed and broken. One day, the cracked pot finally spoke:

**"I'm so sorry. I've failed. You work so hard, but I only give you half of what I should."**

The water bearer smiled gently and said,

**"Did you notice the path we walk on every day? On your side, flowers are blooming. I knew you were cracked, so I planted seeds along your path. And every day, you watered them without even knowing it. Look at how beautiful the flowers are—because of you."**

### A Reflection for Us Today

Sometimes, we feel like the cracked pot. We think,

- *"I'm not good enough."*
- *"Others are more talented, more holy, more organized."*
- *"I make mistakes, I forget things, I struggle."*



We compare ourselves to others who seem "perfect," and we feel like we don't measure up.

But God sees things differently.

He doesn't just see what we do—He sees **how we love**.

He sees the *little kindnesses we forget we gave*, the *silent prayers we whispered*, the *smile we offered when we were tired*, the *visit we made even though we were busy*. These are the flowers growing on the path we don't always notice.

### Examples in Daily Life:

- A Legionary who quietly texts someone, "I'm praying for you," and lifts a heavy heart.
- A mother who feels like she's always behind but teaches her children to pray.
- An elderly person who can no longer walk the streets but offers their suffering for the Church.
- A young person who feels unsure in prayer but still shows up at praesidium.
- A worker who never leads meetings but always cleans up after everyone goes home.

You may feel "cracked," but **you are watering flowers along the way**.

### Closing Thought:

God is not waiting for us to be flawless.  
He is waiting for us to be faithful.

So the next time you feel like you're not doing enough—remember the cracked pot.  
Through your cracks, God can still make beauty bloom.

***"God has not called me to be successful. He has called me to be faithful."***  
— *St. Teresa of Calcutta*

**inspired by St. Thérèse**

***"Small acts done with great love are worth more to God than great deeds done without love."***





## Please pray for :

1. The causes of Frank Duff, Edel Quinn and Alfie Lambe.
2. For all the sick or departed Legionaries, families and friends.
3. For all the newly ratified and appointed officers, and also all the active and auxiliary members.
4. For conversion of sinners, victim of natural and other calamities, all children of the world, poor and dejected in the community, poor souls in purgatory and those asking for our prayers.

### 1. *Prayer Request:*

Please pray for one of our Legion members for their daughter, Dedodiya Yolanda Ximenes. They need our prayers for health and strength in life's journey. Let's pray for their path to be easier and for them to keep moving forward.

Thank You for praying with us.



*Happy 3rd Anniversary-  
Maria Queen of Heaven  
Praesidium Marayong -  
Three years of prayer ser-  
vice, and love under the  
care of Our Lady.*

*May we continue to grow  
in Faith and unity in our  
mission.*

*With heartfelt thanks to  
Fr. Agustinus Handoko,  
our Spiritual Director, for  
his faithful guidance and  
support.*



### Feedback Section

We value your opinions and suggestions! If you have any ideas, questions, or comments about our activities, feel free to share them with us.

### Contact details

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Thank you for your participation!