



Membership Recruitment Membership Requirements Extension

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Praesidium
Saint Augustine's Church
Sis Shiony Mendoza
Sis Ofelia Maristela

WHY JOIN THE LEGION OF MARY

What would be the most compelling reason for a Catholic to join the Legion of Mary? While there is not a single and perfect answer to this question, there is the BEST answer we believe needs to be heard and that is - 'MARY NEEDS YOU TO CONTINUE THE WORK OF HER **SON'**

THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST

We, the baptized children of God, are members of the Mystical Body of Christ. Those that have not been renewed by the waters of baptism must be sought after! Mary's purpose is to nourish with graces the members of Mystical Body and bring ALL others to becoming members.

THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST

"Hence, it is that Legionaries do not really bring Mary to help them in their service of the other members of the Mystical Body. She it is who summons them to assist her. As it is her special and proper work, no one is able to take part in it save by her gracious permission." (HB p.54)

THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST

Our duty as Catholics is to take an active role in the mission of Christ, the mission of the Church and that is bringing forth our brothers and sisters into Mystical Body of Christ, His bride, the Church. The battle is being fought in all fronts, within and outside of the Church. We need disciples and missionaries to bring those outside in the Church. We need to rekindle those inside (the lapsed Catholics) to possess the missionary zeal of evangelization.

Therefore, membership recruitment is a duty of the Legionary to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We seek out Catholics in her name. She chooses her army and personnel. We can only do our part to cooperate with her, but she needs you to ACT!

A large number of praesidia and members in each praesidium is of vital importance to the success (or failure) of every Legion body as adequate membership results to the Legion ideal of making a personal contact with all members of a parish community.

Personal contact is the primary means of our apostleship. We do not rely on mass communications (social media or emails). Rather, we rely on each member to 'go out to the ends of the earth" to preach the Gospel in the most effective and intimate way - an encounter with a stranger!

"No! The approach to be really effective must be an individual and intimate one. The media can be made to play an awakening and supporting part... but the center of that scheme must be the appeal of one person to another person." (HB p. 312)

Therefore, to succeed and in order to bring as many souls to Christ under the Legion system, WE NEED AN ARMY of committed and qualified members - and yes, we need as MANY as we can recruit for Our Lady.

How then do we invite or recruit Catholics to APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP to the Legion of Mary? Please note that the HB states that those seeking membership to the Legion must apply and complete (pass) the three-month probation period. There are three (3) general ways in recruiting members: 1) Columban Drives 2) Advertisements and 3) Personal Contact.

The Columban Drive Membership Drive

The Columban Drive usually takes place during weekend the Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses. The pastor permission is necessary before a Columban Drive may be held. The pastor would inform his liturgical team of such activity so announcements can be made at each Mass.

The Columban Drive Membership Drive

At the end of each Mass, the priest announces that Legion of Mary members are present and here to invite them to join the Legion. The pastor or a Legion member may speak about the Legion, its object, purpose and apostolic activities. (This is optional due to time constraints).

The Columban Drive Membership Drive

A Legion of Mary altar is set up at the rear of the Church with informational materials and sign-up sheets. Legionaries are present at the end of each Mass to approach the people as they leave the Church. The more Legionaries in attendance, the better chance to get people to sign-up.

The Columban Drive - Membership Recruitment

At the end of the day, the president or officers of the praesidium collects all the sign-up sheets. A spreadsheet that lists all the names and phone numbers of those interested is created and immediately given to members and officers to be used for follow-up calls.

The Columban Drive - Membership Recruitment

If a new praesidium is being formed, an ORIENTATION MEETING should be held to provide potential members more information such as the history of the Legion of Mary, its object and membership requirements.

Personal Contact and Approach

We do not need to wait when the next Columban Drive will be held to invite parishioners (friends and family) to the Legion of Mary. We can invite anyone, everyday of the year - just by approaching them with the spirit of joy, enthusiasm and gladness.

Personal Contact and Approach

Don't be timid about our Lady. Don't fear as you lose nothing. Be reassuring and open. This person is a stranger, five minutes later he or she just maybe your next best friend ever! The power of approach lies in the fact that you are in control of the encounter.

Personal Contact and Approach

Would any of us be in the Legion if the person who invited you did not make the approach? Thank that person for having taken the time and risk rejection and even embarrassment to approach you on behalf of Our Lady! Recruiting is therefore a show of gratitude. It is also a duty and obligation.

Personal Contact and Approach ONE NEW LEGIONARY A YEAR CAMPAIGN

OUR ANNUAL RECRUITMENT QOUTA: "ONE LEGIONARY A YEAR" HOW DIFFICULT IS THAT?

IF EVERY MEMBER OF YOUR PRAESIDIUM PERSONALLY RECRUITS ONE NEW MEMBER A YEAR - AT THE END OF THE YEAR YOU WOULD HAVE DOUBLED THE NUMBER OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!!

LET'S PRACTICE

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"Easy Peasy"

Sarah: "Hey, Emma! I wanted to invite you to join the Legion of Mary. It's a great way to grow in faith while serving others. We meet weekly for prayer and do outreach projects together."

Emma: "That sounds amazing! I've been looking for ways to get more involved."

Sarah: "We'd love to have you! It's a wonderful way to connect with others and make a real difference. Want to join us for our next meeting?"

Emma: "I'd love to! Count me in!"

Hard to get...

Sarah: "Hey, Emma, I've been part of this group called the Legion of Mary, and I think you'd really like it. It's all about serving others and growing in faith. Would you be open to giving it a try?"

Emma: "Hmm, I don't know, Sarah. I've got a lot on my plate right now."

Sarah: "I totally get it. It's not a huge time commitment, and it's a great way to connect with people who care about the same things. Plus, we'd love to have you, even if you just come to one meeting to see if it's a good fit."

Emma: "Well, when you put it that way... okay, I'll give it a shot."

Sarah: "Awesome! I think you'll enjoy it. We meet next Thursday; I'll send you the details!"

You don't need to push them

People respond to the invitation if they see in you the sincerity of your heart. You have something truly special, "a magical carpet ride to eternal life" - and you want to share it with them. It's about planting the seed. Let them know how much being part of the Legion has impacted your life.

HIGHLIGHT THE SIMPLICITY AND THE JOY OF THE LEGION APOSTOLATE

Weekly prayer, small acts of service—and how it brings you closer to both the Church and to God.

SO, GO FOR IT!!!

MAKE THE APPROACH - invite them, let the Spirit do the talking for you and let the Spirit do the rest. Worse thing that could happen to you is "NO, SORRY, I'M NOT INTERESTED." THEN GO TO THE NEXT PERSON!

You've got this!



DON'T FORGET TO SMILE!!!

CHAPTER 13 - SECTION 1: The Legion of Mary is open to all Catholics who: a. faithfully practice their religion; b. are animated by the desire to fulfill their role in the Church's apostolate through membership of the Legion c. are prepared to fulfill each and every duty which active membership of the Legion involves.

Written in different times and in a much simpler environment, this basic requirement covers the crucial statement of one's Catholic beliefs without the necessity of having to expound it any further in the Handbook. It was understood what "faithfully practice their religion" meant and implied.

Let us then answer this fundamental question what does "faithfully practice their religion" mean and require? Faithful practice of our religion is to live not only a Christ-like life but also in obedience to Him by a strong affirmation of the teaching of the Catholic Faith.

To affirm our faith is to assent to the truths of our Christian doctrines revealed to us by Christ and can be found in Holy Scriptures and the Sacred Tradition, safely guarded by the Church Magisterium. Any Catholic seeking admission to the ranks of the Legion must be a Catholic faithful to the dogmatic and doctrinal teachings of the Catholic Church.

Some Basic Catholic Beliefs

There are numerous and equally important Church dogmas and doctrines outlined in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, following are some of the fundamental doctrine and moral teachings that have become "hot-button" issues over the past decade that every Legionary and Legionary candidate must believe, affirm, assent, promote and practice to be a faithful and true Catholic.

Some Basic Catholic Beliefs We Must Believe

1. THE FUNDAMENTAL BELIEF THAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS THE ONE, HOLY AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH (Catechism of the Catholic Church, hereafter CCC paragraphs 748 – 962).

Some Basic Catholic Beliefs We Must Believe

2. THE AUTHORTITY OF THE MAGISTERIUM OF THE CHURCH AND THE POPE - ... "that the Roman Pontiff... enjoys this infallibility in virtue of his office when as supreme pastor and teacher of all the faithful... he proclaims by a definitive act a doctrine pertaining to faith and morals (CCC 891).

Some Basic Catholic Beliefs We Must Believe

3. THE DOCTRINE ON REAL PRESENCE – i.e., Jesus Christ is present Body, Soul and Divinity under the form of bread and wine.

4. THE DOCTRINE ON WORTHY RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION - "Anyone who desires to receive Christ in

Eucharistic communion must be in the state of grace. Anyone who is aware of having sinned mortally must not receive communion without having received absolution in the sacrament of penance. (CCC 1415).

5. THE DOCTRINE ON THE SACRAMENT PENANCE - "Individual and integral confession and absolution constitute the only ordinary means by which a member of the faithful conscious of grave sin is reconciled with God and the Church." (Code of Canon Law 960)

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6. THE DOCTRINE ON SUNDAY OBLIGATION (AND HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION) - "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass" (CCC 2280) ... "Those who deliberately fail this obligation commit a grave sin." (ccc 2281). They therefore must avail themselves of the sacrament of penance before presenting themselves for Holy Communion.

7. THE DOCTRINE ON THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT AND ON THE VOCATION TO CHASTITY (CCC 2337- 2365) - "Chastity means the successful integration of sexuality within the person and thus the inner unity of man in his bodily and spiritual being." (CCC 2337) ... "All the baptized are called to chastity. All Christ's faithful are called to lead a chaste life in keeping with their particular states of life. "(CCC 2348).

8. THE DOCTRINE ON THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE — (CCC 1601 – 1653; Code of Canon Law 1055, 1056 and 1057). "The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring;

this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament." (ccc 1601). The Church teaches that marriage is an institution, a covenant and between two baptized persons (as a sacrament)

that it is partnership of the whole life between a man and a woman of permanent and exclusive fidelity ordered to the procreation and education of offspring and the mutual good of the spouses (CCC 1601, Canon 1055, 1056, 1057).

THE DOCTRINE ON ARTIFICIAL REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY (CCC 2376) - The Church teaches of the grave evil of artificial reproductive technology and those techniques that entail the disassociation of husband and wife, by the intrusion of a person other than a couple (donation of sperm and ovum, surrogate uterus) are gravely immoral,"

... that these techniques infringe on the "child's right to be born of a father and a mother known to him and abound to each other in marriage. They betray the spouses' right to become a father and a mother only through each other. "(CCC 2376).

10. THE TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH ON FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP: "the five non-negotiable issues" as explained in the Faithful Citizenship Guide by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and further explained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and that to be a true Catholic, one cannot support anyone who supports these intrinsic acts of evil:

THE FIVE NON-NEGOTIABLE ISSUES

- · ABORTION (CCC 2258)
- EUTHANASIA (CCC 2277)
- · EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH
- · HUMAN CLONING
- · HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE

CHAPTER 13 – Section 2: "Persons who wish to join the Legion must apply for membership."

Section 3 - Candidates under 18 years of age can only be received in junior praesidia. (See Chapter 36).

Section 4 - No one shall be admitted as a candidate for membership of the Legion until the President of the praesidium, to which admission is sought, is after careful enquiry satisfied that the person seeking admission fulfills the conditions required.

Section 5 - A satisfactory probation of at least three months is required before the candidate can be enrolled in the ranks of the legionaries, but from the first the candidate can participate fully in the works of the Legion.

Section 6 – A copy of the Tessera shall be given to every candidate.

Section 7 – Formal admission consists essentially in the Legionary Promise, and the entry of the name of the candidate on the membership roll of the Praesidium. –