

## **What is the Legion of Mary?**

The Legion of Mary is a lay Catholic organisation whose members are giving service to the church on a voluntary basis in almost every country.

The object of the Legion of Mary which was founded in Dublin, Ireland on 7th September 1921, is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active co-operation in Mary's and the Churches work.

The unit of the Legion of Mary is called a **praesidium**, which holds a weekly meeting, where prayer is intermingled with reports and discussion. Persons who wish to join the Legion must apply for membership in a praesidium.

## **What work does the Legion of Mary undertake?**

Regular works for the Legion of Mary include door to door evangelization, nursing home visitation, prison ministry, teaching RCIA and other religious education classes, visiting new parishioners and parish families with newly baptized babies, crowd contact and distributing Catholic literature, bringing the Pilgrim Virgin statue of the Blessed Mother to houses to consecrate them, and Enthronements of homes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The Legion also periodically organizes events for Legion work, such a Peregrinatio Pro Christo, which is typically a one or two week Mission trip by legionaries from several parishes to another state or

even to another country. Another type of event is a Parish Evangelization Project, which is a one or two event by legionaries from several parishes to evangelize a nearby parish. The Legion also staffs a booth at county fairs to answer questions from people who may want to know more about the Catholic faith. All Legion works are approved by parish pastor or spiritual director and in all of its works, the Legion works in obedience to the bishops and the parish priests. Works are typically done in pairs so that legionaries can learn from each other and encourage each other in service to Our Lord.

## **How to become a member?**

Members become instruments of the Holy Spirit through a balanced program of prayer and service. Works include door-to-door evangelization, parishioner visitation, prison ministry, visitation of the sick or aged, crowd contact, religious education, visiting the newly baptized, Pilgrim Virgin Statue rotations, and meeting other spiritual needs of the parish community. Legionaries are under the guidance of a spiritual director named by the pastor. The Legion is, in essence, an extension of the heart and hands of the pastor.

## **How often do you meet in a week?**

Members meet once a week for prayer, planning and discussion in a family setting. Then they do two hours of definite work each week in pairs and under the guidance of their spiritual director.

The first step to becoming a member is to be a guest at a meeting of the Legion of Mary. If there is no Legion of Mary in your parish, you can participate

in a group in another parish until you can start one of your own with the assistance of other Legionaries and in cooperation with the pastor.

## **What are the types of Legion membership?**

Membership is divided into two categories: **Active** members and **Auxiliary** members.

Active members attend a Legion meeting once a week and perform works of service (typically about 2 hours a week).

Auxiliary members instead pray the rosary and the prayers of the Legion of Mary (the Tessera) for the intentions of the Blessed Mother and bolster the efforts of the active members through their prayers.

Higher grades of membership include praetorians, who are active members who also pray the Tessera daily, attend Mass daily, and daily recite an Office approved by the Church, and adjutorians, who are auxiliary members who attend Mass daily and daily recite an Office approved by the Church in addition to praying the rosary and the prayers of the Tessera daily.

## **Who is eligible to join the Legion of Mary?**

The Legion of Mary is open to all Catholics in good standing with a desire to serve Our Lord Jesus Christ through the intercession of his Blessed Mother Mary. Catholics 18 years of age or older can join adult praesidia whereas Catholics younger than 18 years of age can join junior Legion of Mary praesidia. Catholics who are interested in joining the Legion will start with a three or six month

probationary period before taking their **Legionary Promise** to become Legion members.

### **Does the Legion also have a youth membership?**

Yes. The Legion trains groups of young Legionaries, generally from eight to twelve years of age for Juniors, and from thirteen to eighteen years of age for Intermediates. These young Legionaries are the hope and joy of the Legion. They follow the Legion system, and in their way, do marvellous apostolic works.

### **How could I go about starting a Legion group in my parish?**

Most of the parishes in the Archdiocese of Singapore do have a praesidium. But you're welcome to assist us to set up a praesidium in some of the parishes that do not have the Legion yet. We suggest, you should first contact the officers of the praesidium, curia or other governing council. They will discuss with you the more practical and effective ways of recruiting members for your parish group. They will also send to you well-trained Legionaries who will teach your group the Legion system, and stay with them until they are ready to function on their own. From that point on, the local governing council will continue to keep close contact with your group via the monthly council meetings.

### **I would like to join the Legion of Mary. How can I find out if there is a praesidium (Legion group) near me?**

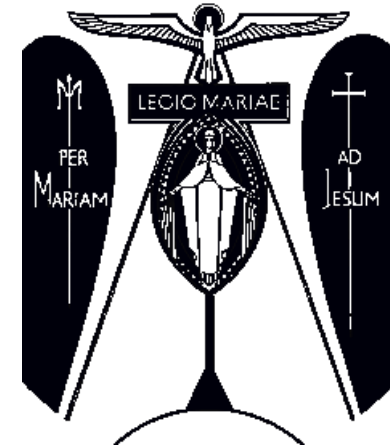
As we mentioned in the previous page, almost every parish and non-parish churches in the Archdiocese of Singapore has a praesidium. Please contact either your parish/church priest or your parish/church secretariat office to find out how you can contact a praesidium that is nearest to where you stay.

### **What type of person are you looking for to become a Legion member?**

Membership in the Legion does not require specific skills or advanced spirituality. The Legion can take an ordinary Catholic with the willingness to give the required time and to follow the Legion system, and develop him or her through the spirituality of the meetings and the experiences of the apostolate itself, into an excellent lay apostle. This development is definitely the work of the Holy Spirit who gives to those who give themselves to Him, through His Immaculate Bride.

*Source: the Legion of Mary Michigan Regia website (<http://www.legionofmarymichigan.org/FAQ.html>) and local sources from the Legion of Mary Singapore Senatus Council Directory.*

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# THE LEGION OF MARY

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

Find out some answers about the Legion of Mary in this simple brochure

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