

The Legion of Mary: A Great Tool in the Spiritual Enrichment, Eucharistic Devotion, and Evangelical Ministry of the Church.

*“As Christians, we must build our Lives on three pillars: **the Cross, the Eucharist, and the Virgin Mary.** The cross is the way God makes His sons (children); **the Eucharist nourishes our life;** and **Mary educates us to have a very strong faith.**” Robert Cardinal Sarah.*

INTRODUCTION: The Legion of Mary

Brief History:

On 7th September 1921, in Dublin, Ireland, Frank Duff founded the Legion of Mary, a lay Catholic organization focused on aiding the helpless and underprivileged of the society, while evangelizing the gospel, becoming the evangelical face of the church. The duties of the members (legionaries) involve voluntarily rendering services mostly spiritual works of mercy to the church. The smallest unit of the Legion of Mary in the parish called Praesidium exists in parishes worldwide with the full approval of the parish priest.

In 1932, during the Eucharistic Congress of Dublin, Frank Duff introduced the Legion of Mary to visiting foreign Bishops, this move caused the spread of the Legion of Mary over the world. Currently, there are over four million active members in about 200 countries worldwide. The church recognized the work of Frank Duff through the Legion of Mary and was invited as a lay observer during the Second Vatican Council by Pope Paul VI. He is currently undergoing the process of beatification due to his service to humanity under the umbrella of the Legion of Mary.

Membership and Legionary Works

This membership is open to all faithfully practicing Catholics. The object of the Legion of Mary is the Glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active participation in the church's work. Modeled after the “Roman Legion”, the Legion of Mary exemplifies true devotion to Mary as demonstrated by many saints of the church like the Patron Saint of the Legion, St Louis de Monfort. Popes Paul VI and John Paul II in their encyclicals “*Evangelii Nuntiandi*” and “*Redemptoris Missio*” respectively, emphasize the proclamation of the Word of God and Salvation through Jesus Christ as the core of the church’s mission. The Legion of Mary organization follows these prompts, incorporating in its activities the evangelical ministry of the church.

The Praesidium holds communal prayer meetings and members carry out assigned Legion works weekly with the permission and direction of the pastor. Members are encouraged to pray the Rosary & Catena Legionis daily, visit the Blessed Sacrament in Adoration, and attend Masses not just on Sundays and holy days of obligations, but daily as their life’s schedule permits.

In addition to prayers and evangelization, the Legion of Mary worldwide helps with:

- Promotion of Eucharistic adoration, the Holy Mass, Retreats & other devotions.
- The visitation of the sick, aged, newly Baptized & homebound
- Evangelical home-to-home visitation.
- Extraordinary ministry for hospitals, assisted living & homebound.
- Praying for the dead and assisting with parish funeral services
- Bible study & Religious education
- Prison Ministry
- Individual, Crowd contact & Book Barrow (distribution of Catholic literature)
- Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes
- Pilgrim Virgin statue rotation
- Assisting with the cleaning of the church (Junior Praesidium) and other parish activities as allowed by the pastor.

Answering the Archbishop's Call – 2024 Goal

The Legion of Mary in Portland Archdiocese has existed since 2003 and has 8 adult and 1 Junior Praesidia across 8 parishes. In a bid to answer Archbishop Alexander Sample's recent call to evangelization, the Legion of Mary requires more members and Praesidia across the parishes in Portland Archdiocese to effectively carry out its works of evangelization, drawing more Catholic faithful back to the fold and bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to the doorsteps of people under all cautious means and cooperation/direction of the church.

Request to the Archdiocese and Parishes

The Legion of Mary Curia, Portland Archdiocese seeks:

1. The acceptance of pastors of parishes where the Legion of Mary is not yet in existence to create awareness and presence. This will yield great benefits to the spirituality of the church.
2. The dissemination of information about the Legion of Mary through various parish channels:
 - Parish websites and bulletins
 - Announcements at Masses
 - Presentations to parishioners after Mass and at special events

For more information about the Legion of Mary, please, see the attached informational package and/or contact Our Lady of the Northwest Curia, Portland (pdxlegioncuria@gmail.com).

Conclusively, in one of the 2023 editions of the program "The Voice of the Shepherd", aired on Mater Die radio on Sundays from 7:30 to 8:00 AM, Archbishop Sample articulated the need for Catholics to be more involved in the evangelization of the gospel of Christ to the world. The Legion of Mary embodies this call and is eager (under the guidance of our Mother Mary and the direction of the pastors) to bring this call of evangelization to fruition.

Our Lady of the Northwest, *Pray for Us.*

St Louis Marie de Monfort, *Pray for Us.*