



Mary's Notebook

February – March 2009

www.legionofmarytidewater.com

Issue 31

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Tidewater Curia Holding Acies on March 22nd

The Tidewater Curia is holding its annual Acies on March 22nd at 3:00pm at Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Virginia Beach. *(Continued on page 2)*

Prayers Needed

Prayer is, among other things, a school for hope. In a sense, even when no one listens to a person's needs, God still listens. If you or someone you care about are in need of prayers, e-mail webmaster@legionofmarytidewater.com - we'll add you to our prayer list. *(Continued on page 2)*

Special – VP Letter

Attached is a special letter from the Vice President of the Tidewater Curia of the Legion of Mary to all praesidia in the Tidewater Curia. Praesidia attached to the Tidewater Curia are asked to please read the letter, fill out the attached form, and give the completed form to our Curia VP. Readers of Mary's Notebook from other Curia are asked to not fill out and send to her the attached form. *(Continued on page 13)*

Divine Mysteries: GUIDELINES FOR LENT AND EASTER

The Office of Worship Diocese of Richmond has published the 2009 The annual observance of Lent, which helps to guide the faithful through these important parts of the liturgical year. Beginning now, with the document:

It is the special season for the ascent to the holy mountain of Easter. Through its twofold theme of repentance and baptism, the season of Lent disposes both the catechumens and the faithful to celebrate the paschal mystery. Catechumens are led to the sacraments of initiation by means of the rite of election, the scrutinies, and catechesis. The faithful, listening more intently to the word of God and devoting themselves to prayer, are prepared through a spirit of repentance to renew their baptismal promises. (CEREMONIAL OF BISHOPS CB, 249).

(Continued on page 5)

News and Events

Please Pray For:

Pope's Prayer Intentions

February

Pope Benedict's general prayer intention is: That the Pastors of the Church may always be docile to the action of the Holy Spirit in their teaching and in their service to God's people.

Pope Benedict's mission prayer intention is: That the Church in Africa may find adequate ways and means to promote reconciliation, justice and peace efficaciously, according to the indications of the Synod of the Bishops' Special Assembly for Africa.

March

Pope Benedict's general prayer intention is: That the role of women may be more appreciated and used to good advantage in every country in the world.

Pope Benedict's mission prayer intention is: That in the light of the letter addressed to them by Pope Benedict XVI, the Bishops, priests, consecrated persons, and lay faithful of the Catholic Church in the Peoples Republic of China may commit themselves to being the sign and instrument of unity, communion and peace.

Also Please Pray for:

Marie Beaupre, long-time active member. She is now under hospice care at her sister's.

Devotee from Dubia, who is praying for a job in Bahrain, through the intercession of Venerable Edel Quinn.

For the Tidewater Curia Acies being held at on March 22nd.

Acies March 22nd

The Acies, being held at 3:00pm on Sunday, March 22nd will be held at Star of the Sea Catholic Church, located at:

1404 Pacific Ave.

Virginia Beach, VA 23451

All active members of the Legion of Mary in praesidia attached to the Curia are required to attend. All auxiliary members are encouraged and invited to attend. Praesidia are encouraged to make contact with all their auxiliaries and inform them of the date and location of Acies, as well as to invite them to attend.

Child Protection Policy

A copy of the Legion of Mary Child Safeguarding Policy is now online at www.legionofmarytidewater.com/docs/Child.pdf. Legionaries working with children should familiarize themselves with both this policy and the policies of their local diocese and follow the requirements of both.

Handbook Study

Order of the Praesidium Meeting

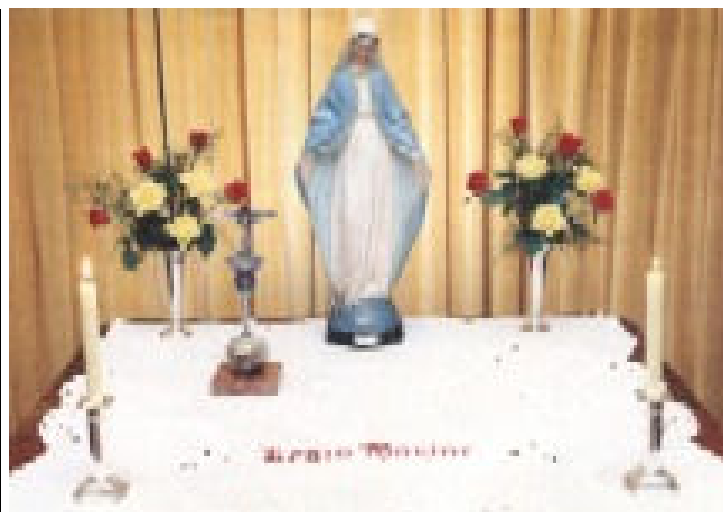
This is the first in a series that seeks to discuss the order chapter 18 of the Legion of Mary Handbook. We start with section 1:

“The setting of every meeting shall be uniform.”

This reminds the reader of the preliminary note of the Handbook, “So, if unprepared to work the system exactly as described in these pages, please do not start the Legion at all.” The first advice I can give any president is that no meeting should be called to order if the intent is not to run the meeting exactly as outlined in this chapter. The section continues:

“The members should sit around a table at one end of which for the purpose of the meeting a small temporary altar is erected. On a white cloth of sufficient size is placed a statue of the Immaculate Conception (in the attitude of the distribution of Graces), preferably about two feet (60 cm) high - flanked by two vases of flowers and two candlesticks with lighted candles. A little to the right of the statue, and a little in advance of it, should be set the vexillum, which is described in chp 27.

Photographs of the setting of the altar and of the vexillum”



“As the idea is that the statue represents the Queen present among her soldiers, the altar must not be separated from the meeting-table or so placed as to remove the statue outside the circle of the members.”

The set-up of the altar, and the exact positioning of every part of Mary’s throne is not a minor detail. Rather, the exact set-up of the Legion altar is the first note that begins the Legion meeting. It is the first thing members notice, and by correctly setting up the altar, a praesidium begins its meeting well. The section continues:

“Filial love towards our Heavenly Mother dictates that the equipment and the flowers should be as good as possible; the equipment is not a recurring item of expense. Possibly a benefactor or some other good fortune might put the praesidium in possession of silver vases and candlesticks. It should be regarded

as an honorable duty on the part of some legionary to keep the vexillum and the vases and candlesticks clean and bright, and duly provided with flowers and candles at the expense of the praesidium.”

On these issues it is needed to comment that some often raise the issue of the costs associated with providing fresh, beautiful, flowers. On this two things must be considered. First, if the issue is the quality of the flowers acquired, my suggestion is that the quality should be as good as possible. Money spent on the flowers is well worth it, as procurement of low-quality flowers, not only distracts from the veneration due to Our Lady, but also begins the meeting by setting the impression that one’s best is not due to Mother Mary, but that second-rate flowers, and second-rate effort are acceptable. If the issue, however, is one of waste then let it never be said that one working under the banner of Mary was wasteful! The Legion must be efficient and professional, overpaying for flowers, purchasing more than needed, or the purchase of exotic flowers does a disservice to the Legion and is at best an annoying distraction to the meeting, and at worse can introduce vainglory and pride into a humble Legion meeting. The section continues:

“If natural flowers are absolutely unobtainable it would be allowable to use artificial ones with some greenery added to provide the element of living nature. In climates where it is necessary to shield the flame of the candles, plain glass cups or globes, which will not conceal the candle itself, may be fitted on to the top of the candle.”

It is important to comment that “absolutely unobtainable” does not mean “slightly

inconvenient.” If a praesidium finds flowers to be “absolutely unobtainable” on a regular basis my suggestion is for that praesidium to contact their curia to ask if anyone in the curia knows how to obtain flowers. The section continues:

“The words "Legio Mariae" may be worked upon the cloth, but not the name of the praesidium. Points of unity, not of distinction, should be stressed.”

The very first sentence in this section says, “The setting of every meeting shall be uniform.” The praesidium meeting helps link the member of each praesidium to each other praesidium, and to every Legionary worldwide. Every military base in the United States raises upon their flag poll the same national flag every day. There are not variations for each base. Likewise, every praesidium must set-up the same altar for each meeting. The section concludes:

"In effect, Mary's mediation is intimately linked with her motherhood. It possesses a specifically maternal character, which distinguishes it from the mediation of the other creatures who in various and always subordinate ways share in the one mediation of Christ, although her own mediation is also a shared mediation. In fact, while it is true that 'no creature could ever be classed with the Incarnate Word and Redeemer', at the same time 'the unique mediation of the Redeemer does not exclude but rather gives rise among creatures to a manifold cooperation which is but a sharing in this unique source.' And thus 'the one goodness of God is in reality communicated diversely to his creatures'." (RMat 38)

By Christopher Miller

Divine Mysteries

GUIDELINES FOR LENT AND EASTER

By Office of Worship Diocese of Richmond
(Continued from page 1)



The following may be reproduced in parish bulletins to remind the faithful of the Church's regulations for fast and abstinence during Lent:

REGULATIONS FOR FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to

maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed.

Abstinence is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence no meat is allowed.

Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday are days of abstinence.

Note: If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, other suitable forms of self-denial are encouraged. Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should undertake these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS AND THE RITES THE

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

Because Lent is oriented toward the celebration of the sacraments of initiation at Easter, care must be taken to maintain this central focus. Honoring the most ancient of

customs, the baptism of infants normally should not take place during Lent except in the case of emergency or pastoral necessity. Infant baptisms during the Easter Season follow the traditional custom of the Church. As such, the celebration of confirmations and the reception of first communion are more appropriate during the Easter Season.

For RCIA catechumens only, the Rite of Election will be celebrated at St. Bede, Williamsburg, on February 28 at 10:00 am; at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, on February 28 at 2:00 pm; and at St. Mary, Blacksburg, on March 1, at 2:30 pm. Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo will call forth those preparing for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at Easter.

The Rite of Sending of the Catechumens for Election, including signing the Book of the Elect by the catechumens, should be celebrated in parishes beforehand. In addition, the Penitential Rite for baptized candidates preparing for Confirmation and Eucharist may be celebrated on the Second Sunday of Lent, March 8, 2009 (RCIA 459-472). The Scrutinies for the Elect (unbaptized) are celebrated on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent.

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

During Lent the faithful should be urged to take a greater and more fruitful share in the Lenten liturgy. It is very appropriate for the sacrament of reconciliation to be celebrated during Lent in a more solemn form, as described in the Rite of Penance (RP, 22-30. 48-59). The faithful should be clearly and positively encouraged to receive this sacrament during Lent. Schedules for confessions and communal celebrations should be arranged in

each parish and among parishes so that all may be served adequately. Ideally, the faithful should celebrate the sacrament of Penance before the Easter Triduum begins.

FUNERALS DURING THE SEASON OF LENT AND THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Good liturgical practice would suggest reflecting the liturgical season in the choice of music and scripture.

On the Sundays of Lent, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, a Funeral Mass may not be celebrated. It may be celebrated on the weekdays of Lent. On these days the body of the deceased may be brought into the church for Funeral Liturgy outside Mass using the Order of Christian Funerals, Part I Chapter 4. A Mass for the deceased should be offered as soon as is convenient after Easter Sunday (OCF 107-203).

MARRIAGES DURING THE SEASON OF LENT AND THE TRIDUUM

Marriages during the season of Lent should respect the penitential character of the season; that is, a marked moderation in festivity. No flowers are allowed in the sanctuary (CB 252).

The celebration of marriage (and the convalidation of marriage) is not permitted during the Easter Triduum (RM 11).

COMMUNION FOR THE SICK AND VIATICUM

Holy Communion may be brought to the sick on all days except Holy Saturday. On Holy Saturday, Holy Communion may be given only as Viaticum. Weekday liturgies of the Word

with Communion are not held on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday of the Triduum.

LENT AND THE WORSHIP ENVIRONMENT

During Lent the sanctuary should not be decorated with flowers (CB, no. 252). The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday), solemnities, and feasts are exceptions to this rule. On the Fourth Sunday of Lent, rose-colored vestments may be used (CB 252). The cross may be covered on Good Friday (CL 26 and Ordo), or even earlier, on the Monday after Laetare Sunday.

HOLY WATER AND BAPTISMAL FONTS

In the past, some parishes have emptied the baptismal font and other receptacles for holy water during the entire Lenten Season. While well intentioned, this does not reflect a sound liturgical theology or practice. The use of holy water as a sacramental is a primary symbol of our baptism and has long been encouraged by the Church for the devotion of the faithful. Liturgical norms indicate that the fonts may be emptied of holy water only at the beginning of the Triduum.

PARTICULAR LITURGIES DURING LENT, THE EASTER TRIDUUM, AND EASTER SEASON

Note. In those parishes that celebrate a Sunday liturgy in another language, every effort should be made so that the three principal Triduum liturgies (Mass of the Lord's Supper, Celebration of the Lord's Passion, and the Easter Vigil) are multi-lingual.

ASH WEDNESDAY - February 25, 2009

The blessing and distribution of ashes may take place at either a celebration of the Eucharist or at a Liturgy of the Word. This is not a holy day of obligation. The blessing and distribution of ashes follow the homily. The ordinary minister for blessing the ashes is a priest or deacon, while others (e.g. extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion) may assist with the distribution of ashes. There is no Act of Penitence (Penitential Rite) at the beginning of this liturgy.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION – April 5, 2009

On this day the Church remembers Christ's entrance into Jerusalem to accomplish his paschal mystery. The commemoration on this day with the blessing of palms and the procession is not an historical re-enactment of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem but a ritual action that marks our entry into Holy Week and the celebration of the Christian Passover.

Three forms are offered for the beginning of the liturgy on this day: the Procession, the Solemn Entrance, and the Simple Entrance. Masses beginning with either the solemn entrance or the procession omit the Act of Penitence (Penitential Rite).

The Passion proclaimed on this day is essential to the liturgy and cannot be omitted. It may be proclaimed using one or several readers. If read in sections, the priest should read the sections that include the words of Jesus.

CHRISM MASS - Monday, April 6, 2009

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on Monday, April 6, 2009, at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond. Parishes are to properly dispose of their old oils (by burning

or burying them in the ground) prior to the Chrism Mass (please do not bring them with you to the Cathedral). Parish representatives should bring 3 clearly marked containers to the designated spot before the liturgy, and retrieve them afterwards.

TRIDUUM LITURGIES HOLY THURSDAY - April 9, 2009

Lent ends with the beginning of the Mass of the Lord's Supper, which is the principal and only Mass of the day. The tabernacle is emptied before liturgy begins. Communion under both forms is the norm. Enough bread should be consecrated at this Mass for the liturgy of Good Friday as well.

The washing of the feet (mandatum) is an act of humility and service which inspires the community to do the same. The number of people need not be limited to twelve, and the feet of both men and women may be washed. (CIRCULAR LETTER, 51; USCCB BCL Newsletter, Feb. 1987)

It is appropriate that the oils blessed and consecrated at the Chrism Mass be carried in at the presentation of the gifts. The proper rubrics and prayers for the presentation of the oils are found in the Sacramentary Supplement or on the USCCB liturgy website.

Following the Prayer after Communion, the Blessed Sacrament is transferred to the place of reposition. The place of reposition should be decorated simply. Under no circumstances is the Blessed Sacrament to be exposed in a monstrance. The faithful should be encouraged to spend some time in adoration throughout the remainder of the evening. There is no adoration after midnight (CL 55, 56). Under no circumstances is it permitted to reserve the

Precious Blood for adoration on Holy Thursday and for distribution on Good Friday (Norms #30).

After Mass, the altar is stripped and the sanctuary is cleared of flowers and adornments. Votive candles should not be lit before the images of saints (CL 57).

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 10, 2009

The Liturgy of the Hours, particularly Morning Prayer, is strongly encouraged.

The Celebration of the Lord's Passion, the principal celebration of this day, is traditionally celebrated at 3:00 pm. For pastoral reasons, the Celebration of the Lord's Passion may be repeated. During the Veneration of the Cross, only one cross (preferably a bare cross, not a crucifix) must be used; using additional crosses diminishes the symbolism of the "one" cross as the symbol of victory and salvation. The order of this liturgy - Proclamation of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross, and Distribution of Holy Communion - is not to be altered.

"In no way should manifestations of popular piety, either by the time or manner in which they are convoked substitute for this solemn liturgical action. Nor should aspects of the various acts of piety be mixed with the Good Friday celebration, creating a hybrid."
(Fourteen Questions on the Paschal Triduum, USCCB) Other devotions, such as the Stations of the Cross, may be celebrated but should not compete with the principal liturgy of the day.

HOLY SATURDAY - April 11, 2009

The Liturgy of the Hours, particularly Morning Prayer, is strongly encouraged.

The Easter Vigil should begin at a time that allows for new fire to break the darkness of night. Sunset this year will occur at approximately 6:42 pm; therefore, so that it can begin in total darkness, the Easter Vigil should not be scheduled before 7:30 pm.

It is recommended that the Exsultet (Easter Proclamation) be sung by one who can do so with grace and beauty. At least three of the seven Old Testament readings should be used, including reading number three from Exodus. The Glory to God should be sung. Holy Communion under both kinds is the norm in the Diocese of Richmond.

Adults and children of catechetical age being baptized during the Easter Vigil are to be confirmed by the presiding priest at that time (RCIA 588). So too would those who are received into the full communion of the Catholic Church (RCIA 562-594), though the USCCB National Statutes for the Catechumenate #33 recommend that the reception into full communion not take place at the Easter Vigil, but at other occasions during the year. Delegation has been given by Bishop DiLorenzo to confirm those baptized uncatechized Catholics who have been part of the Christian initiation process and who will also receive First Eucharist with the others. Questions should be directed to the Office of Worship.

EASTER SUNDAY AND THE EASTER SEASON

The fifty days from Easter Sunday (April 12, 2009) to Pentecost (May 31, 2009), audibly and visually, are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day. The first eight days of the Easter Season make up the Octave of Easter

and are celebrated as solemnities of the Lord (CB 371, 373).

The Paschal Candle must be made of wax, never be artificial, be renewed each year, be only one in number, and be of sufficiently large size, so that it may evoke the truth that Christ is the light of the world (CL 82). The Easter candle is lighted for all liturgical celebrations of the season (CB 372). It is not to be extinguished after the Gospel on the solemnity of the Ascension or Pentecost.

At all Masses on Easter Sunday the Renewal of Baptismal Promises and its accompanying sprinkling rite replace the Creed. A Rite of Sprinkling may appropriately replace the more usual Act of Penitence (Penitential Rite) during the Easter Season, at the very least on the Sundays of Easter including Pentecost (Foreword GIRM).

The Ordo reminds us that the Easter Sequence is to be sung or recited before the Alleluia at all Masses on Easter Sunday and is optional during the days of the Octave.

The double Alleluia is added to the sung dismissal formulary during the octave of Easter.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY) – April 19, 2009

In a way similar to Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday) or the Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday), the Second Sunday of Easter bears the additional title of Divine Mercy Sunday. This is not a new solemnity or feast, nor does it celebrate a new or separate mystery of redemption, but rather, it leads into the continuing celebration of God's mercy during the Easter season. As the octave day of

Easter, the Lectionary readings and prayer texts highlight the mystery of divine compassion that underlies the Church's Easter faith.

The Easter Candle has pride of place in the liturgical environment. Other images of Christ (including the picture of Merciful Jesus associated with the Divine Mercy Chaplet) are not to replace or diminish the Easter Candle. Such displays may be set up in the devotional areas of the church, never in front of the altar or ambo.

While the overwhelming experience of God's divine mercy is the foundation of Holy Scripture and the teachings of the Church, the apparitions of Christ recorded by Saint Faustina remain in the category of private revelation. Members of the faithful may embrace this devotion and adopt its disciplines of prayer, and devotional prayer times may be arranged on that day, as one would the Stations of the Cross.

The solemn celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours for the Second Sunday of Easter has a special place that day. It is not necessary to celebrate an extra Mass, nor the Sacrament of Penance on that day. No added prayers such as the Divine Mercy chaplet should be joined to the celebration of Mass, but they may be prayed at another time.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD – Sunday, May 24, 2009

In the Province of Baltimore, the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord has been transferred to Sunday; therefore, for the Catholic churches in the Diocese of Richmond, the Seventh Sunday of Easter is always to be replaced by

the solemnity of the Ascension. For 2009, it will be celebrated on Sunday, May 24, 2009.

PENTECOST – May 31, 2009

Pentecost is celebrated on May 31, 2009. The Vigil of Pentecost, with its own prayers and readings, may be celebrated at the Saturday Evening Mass. The Sequence of Pentecost is sung or recited before the Alleluia at all Masses except when the vigil readings are used. After the last liturgy of Pentecost, the Easter candle is returned to its place near the baptismal font. It is not extinguished after the Gospel of either Ascension or Pentecost.

NEOPHYTE MASS - Sunday, May 31, 2009

A special Mass for Neophytes and other new Catholics will be celebrated at 2:00 pm at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, with Bishop Walter Sullivan presiding. All those who have become Catholics during the past 12 months, either through the Sacraments of Initiation or Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church, are invited to attend this liturgy in their honor.

REFERENCE ABBREVIATIONS

CB Ceremonial of Bishops

CL Circular Letter concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts (Congregation for Divine Worship, 1988)

GIRM General Instruction to the Roman Missal Norms for the Celebration and Distribution of Holy Communion under Both Kinds in the Dioceses of the United States of America

OCF Order of Christian Funerals

RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RM Rite of Marriage RP Rite of Penance

Legion Spirit

The Legion and Meetings

Concilium Allocutio January 2009

By Fr. Bede McGregor O.P.

Spiritual Director to the Legion of Mary



Today we celebrate the 1000th meeting of Concilium Legionis Mariae or more simply Concilium. Concilium is the supreme governing authority of the world wide Legion. It is Our Lady's instrument for guiding and serving, encouraging and affirming the world wide Legion and when necessary, correcting and

cajoling legionaries to a greater fidelity to the spirit of the Legion, to a truer devotion to Mary and a more authentic apostolic life. It would be impossible to count all the graces and learning experiences that Our Lady has given to Concilium and through it to the whole Legion world and indeed beyond it too. So today and always we thank God and Mary, the Mother of God for their loving Providence in regard to the Legion and renew our Legion Promise to continue to strive to be saints and lay apostles for the salvation of souls. We remember and pray for all our Legion members who have gone

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before us marked with the sign of faith and special devotion to Mary. The great history of their example inspires us for the future. It is wonderful that the Holy See should send us words of congratulations and encouragement to mark this significant milestone in our Legion history. The Legion thanks the Holy See for its gracious words and we hope that we can continue to live up to the expectations the Church puts before us.

Meetings play an indispensable part in the life of the Legion at every level. Perhaps today is a good time to take a look at our meetings as an important tool of our commitment to evangelization. It is by fidelity to our meetings that we grow in the spirit of the Legion. They are one of the most powerful means of faith formation and holiness of life. Faithful participation in our meetings can be the sign and instrument of a heroic devotion to Mary and her maternity of souls.

Let me just list some of the factors that make up our meetings and make them hubs of the lay apostolate.

We pray together: At the beginning of every meeting, in the middle and the end we pray in the presence of Mary and with her invoke the help of the Holy Spirit. It must at all costs be a Cenacle experience as in the first

Pentecost. 'All these were persevering with one mind in prayer, with the women and Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and with his brethren' (Acts 1:14). It is imperative to strive to put our hearts gently but firmly into our Legion prayers and avoid any merely routine or mechanical repetition of them. It is our prayer life that is the soul of our apostolate.

We plan together: We try together to discern the best possible way we can serve the purposes of Our Lady and the Church in our particular situations. We try to meet the most urgent, the deepest and most demanding needs of the parish or diocese or area in which we are located. We are always casting our eyes and heart with Mary over the world in which we live.

We act together: The Legion must never become simply a talk shop. We must not only think and plan with Mary but we must act with her and through her to implement what we have planned to do in her name. The only way to really become apostles is to actually and regularly engage in the apostolate. This is true for all members of the Legion and especially those who hold office in the higher councils of the Legion. The Legion is not for lone rangers or people who only want to work on their own. It is essentially a team effort, not simply doing our own thing but doing what the Legion has put before us at whatever level we are working at.

We report together: Accountability is a key work in every Legion apostolate. We report back to our fellow legionaries our experience

of Legion work. Thus we help to form each other and encourage and support each other. This is one of the great learning experiences of the Legion.

The fundamental spirit of every Legion meeting: Legionaries come from many different backgrounds, different opinions and convictions on so many political and social issues and on so many other topics, different temperaments and culture, different gifts and limitations but they also have many things in common. They all share the one Catholic Faith and a joyful commitment to the Magisterium of the Church. They all seek to love and serve Mary to the best of their abilities knowing that this is the most effective way of attaining a deep, personal relationship with the three persons of the Holy Trinity. But in my opinion what must certainly characterize the ethos of every Legion meeting, if it be truly a Legion meeting, is the explicit effort to always love and serve Our Lord in our fellow legionaries with the heart and mind of Mary. This is the spirit of our apostolate and it must be learned first in and through our Legion meetings. It is this spirit that will enable us to fruitfully and joyfully face the next thousand meetings of Concilium despite all the inevitable tensions, difficult decisions and sometimes pain that are part and parcel of every human family including our own great Legion family. Let us all once more thank God and Our Lady for the gift of our Legion membership and for the graces that come to us from our Legion meetings. Amen.

February 04th 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Legion of Mary,

All of us on the board the Tidewater Curia hope you and your loved ones had a blessed Christmas! First I would like to thank all of you for the hard work that you have been doing for our Blessed Mother, it's such a joy to have you in our Army, you sure make a difference, every one of you, we truly appreciate all you work. It is a new year and we have new goals to achieve that I would like to share with you! I also ask you to read this letter at your next Praesidium meeting.

“Jesus said to them, “Come after me; I will make you fishers of men.” Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.” Mark 1:17-18

Our first goal is: Start our Extension Team. We are asking you to consider joining our team. You will not be alone. The first line of chapter 31 of the handbook reads, “The duty of extension is neither for the higher councils alone, nor for the Curia officers alone. It is the duty of each member of the Curia. Nay, more, it is the DUTY of each individual legionary, and each one must be made to realize that fact and to account now and then for his stewardship.” Jesus asked the apostles to join Him, and He is asking you to do the same now. The extension team work you do is counted as your 2 hours work assignment for the week. You will be meeting new people, priests, and Catholic churches within Tidewater. In addition your efforts will be highly appreciated by the Blessed Mother, She needs you to spread her army of legionaries through out the world by first spreading it here in Tidewater

“A principal duty of the President shall be to attend the meetings of the Curia to which the praesidium is attached ...” Handbook, Chapter 34, pg. 212... “It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to attend the meetings of the Curia.” Handbook, Chapter 34, pg. 216 ... “The secretary shall attend the meetings of the Curia.” Handbook, Chapter 34, pg. 218 ... “The treasurer shall attend the meeting of the Curia.” Handbook, Chapter 34, pg.220

Our second goal is make our current Praesidia attached to our Curia even stronger. The only way of doing this is increasing the attendance of the officers to the meetings. Unfortunately our attendance is very low, down to 40%, it means that 23 members are coming to the meetings and another 33 are not showing up at all, not even bothering to call or tell us why they can not attend. We do appreciate those of you who come monthly and make every effort to be there. It is sad that many officers commit to the duty of an officer and they are not following this simple and primary duty. At the very least we would like to know why the absences are occurring. I ask you kindly to let me know why you can not attend a meeting, so that if prayers are needed we can ask for prayers, if there are other problems we can address them. Remember if you do not come and do not call you are absent, and that is not good for your Praesidium and for our Curia. (Include this if it is still the rule: Also remember that 3 consecutive absences will be reviewed by the board and your officership may be vacated.) Our goal for 2009 is to have a 60% attendance at our meetings

I will continue to make myself available to you. We would like all of the information about your officers to be updated so we can put together a current roster. Attached to this letter is the phone numbers, home addresses and email addresses from all the officers of the Curia, I am also sending you a form for you to fill out with important information such as your name, address, and workable phone numbers. We also need an email address. If you or any of the officers of your praesidium does not have an email address, please ask to one of the members if they would be willing to share their email address and later on share the information we will send to the rest of the praesidium. I understand that, for some of you the computer is not easy to use, but the fact is that it is cheaper (saves on postage), easier, faster and safer to get the forms, invitations, and other important things to attached Praesidia. Our communication needs to be improved. We are only asking you to fill out the forms and put it inside the envelope that we provided with a stamp on it!

I just want to let you all know how much I appreciate the chance of being a part of Mary's Legion, and having the pleasure of knowing you. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Thank you again for your faith and your willing to help others.

May God bless you and all your loved ones!
Sister Daniela Cristina Justice

Mother of Good Counsel Tidewater Curia

Richmond Diocese Parishes in Regions 1-4

Meets: 4th Sunday, 3:00 PM, St. Gregory the Great - Tobias Room Founded- 6/15/1975

Spiritual Director	Fr. Joseph Facura;
President	Richard Abresch Email address: president@legionofmarytidewater.com
Vice President	Daniela Cristina Justice Email address: vp@legionofmarytidewater.com
Secretary	Hilda J. Wilson Email address: secretary@legionofmarytidewater.com
Treasurer	Phillip Fave Email address: treasurer@legionofmarytidewater.com

If you or any of the officers of your praesidium needs to be excused for the next Curia meeting please contact the vice-president Sr. Daniela Justice.

Thanks

Praesidia in the Tidewater Curia only: Please take a moment to fill this form and send it back to us. If none of the officers has an email address ask for one of the members of the Praesidium to give us one.

Name of Praesidium: _____

Name of Parish: _____ **Established:** _____

Spiritual Director: _____

President: _____

Address: _____

Home phone number: _____ **Cell phone:** _____ **Work:** _____

Email Address: _____

Vice-President: _____

Address: _____

Home phone number: _____ **Cell phone:** _____ **Work:** _____

Email Address: _____

Secretary: _____

Address: _____

Home phone number: _____ **Cell phone:** _____ **Work:** _____

Email Address: _____

Treasurer: _____

Address: _____

Home phone number: _____ **Cell phone:** _____ **Work:** _____

Email Address: _____