



What It Isn't

The One Day Congress is not a **Convention** in the American sense of the word. It is not intended to show off the Legion's great numbers as at Acies. A hotel or other elaborate facility is not a requisite. A School or Church with a cafeteria or lunch room and a large hall for discussions are sufficient. PLEASE READ THE HANDBOOK SECTION ON THE CONGRESS, PAGES 177-179.

It is not a **Conference** which is a two or three day affair held by the highest Council in an area to highlight an anniversary or the establishment of a Senatus, etc.

It is not a **Seminar** or **Workshop** where members are divided up into small groups, as at an Officer's meeting. The full body of members should be together for the whole day, especially in the discussion sessions. Please read the Handbook section on **PATRICIANS** (pages **260-272**), especially the paragraphs entitles "**SOME PATRICIAN PRINCIPLES**". The running of a One Day Congress is based on these principles.

It is not a **panel** or question and answer period, or a **lecture** by experts. The speakers should not be singled out (or chosen in the first place) because it is presumed they have "*all the answers.*" Ordinary local Legionaries should be asked to give the **short opening talks** at each session. This is a good opportunity to train your members, and since these talks are only intended to spur discussion, **they should not be more than ten minutes in length.** A closing address should be scheduled however, to be given by a visiting legionary, Spiritual Director, or one of the Council Officers, etc. Local Spiritual Directors or the Bishop could also be scheduled to speak at the luncheon or at the Church service.

It is not a **Forum** for the speakers of other movements and organizations.

It is **not** a **discussion** of **problems** - themes should be positive, idealistic, and Spiritual.

What It Is

The One Day Legion Congress is a day long discussion of the **Legion System, Devotions, Works, Principles, and Ideals**, divided into three or four sessions with an overall theme and sub-topics, which should be definite, related, and structured, so that the discussion and ideas build throughout the day.

Suggestions for a Successful One Day Legion of Mary Congress

1. Don't arrange the seating audience style. Use semi-circles of chairs around the small table with the Chairman, Speaker, Spiritual Director, and the Legion Altar. (in a long narrow room set up along the long wall.)

2. Don't put the tables on a stage or elevation - the idea is informal discussion from the **body**, not from the Chairman, Director, or Speaker.



3. Don't use a microphone - train the members to speak out to the body.

4. Don't let the members sit when making comments - each should stand, including the Chairman, as a contribution is made. Applause should either be given after each comment or eliminated altogether, except for times when it comes naturally.

5. Don't let the discussion get off track - don't let certain members monopolize the time - ask for all those who have not yet participated to do so.

6. Don't spend a lot of money. Keep the affair simple and as inexpensive (not cheap) as possible, so that **every** Legionary, regardless of means, can participate fully. Have the meal catered so that no Legionaries miss the Congress sessions.

7. Don't print an elaborate program - a simple folded card, printed on four sides, is more than adequate. Fifty dollars should be the maximum cost for a printed One Day Congress Program.

8. Don't offer a donation to the Council Officers who give talks at the congress not to any other Legionaries who participate. A visiting Legion notable is a different matter, and the Spiritual Director of your Curia can advise you on this. On the other hand, Legionaries who are asked to give a major address and who come from another Council should be exempt from the registration and luncheon fees.

9. Don't keep your One Day Congress a secret - invite all the Councils in the area, in plenty of time, even though it appears they may not attend. The handbook says "visitors from other areas may be invited to a Congress."

10. Have a special evening, the night before the Congress, for the benefit of Legionaries traveling a distance.

11. Don't hold a One Day Congress **without submitting plans and a copy of the program to the higher Council Officers well in advance**. Like any other official Legion meeting, the Congress is a tremendous source of spirit, grace, and enlightenment, provided it is run according to the System. This communication, plus the two sections of the Handbook mentioned above can not help but make your One Day Congress the success it is meant to be. As you know, it is the duty of the higher Councils to ensure the correct following of the system in it's area, and the Council Officers sincerely hope you will get in touch with them with your questions, doubts, suggestions, and complaints, regarding the One Day Council. They are most anxious to help in any way to make yours a success.